



Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends,

Warm regards from the Chemical Engineering Department at Texas Tech University. This past August, I had the honor to join the Department as the Whitacre Department Chair. It has been exciting to work with premier faculty, outstanding students, fantastic staff, and highly engaged alumni. Our path for excellence in engineering, discovery, and innovation is stronger every day. With our holistic approach of seamless integrated research, academics, entrepreneurship, and innovation, we are leaders in the University's quest to be globally renown and one of the top public institutions in the nation. This year we continued our record in undergraduate students' graduation, had records in PhD student's enrollment, our faculty received significant research awards from multiple funding agencies, and together "faculty, undergraduate and graduate students" we continue making an impact in research and innovation. Enjoy the newsletter for our exciting news, including the following achievements:

- The \$ 1.2 M Morrow Energy Pilot Plant had been installed and will provide an industrial size distillation system for the unit operation laboratory.
- Texas Tech AIChE Student chapter was awarded 2018-2019 AIChE Outstanding Student Chapter Award
- Undergraduate and graduate students received recognition for their excellence, including undergraduate student Emil Khusnatdinov receiving the AIChE 2018-2019 Donald F. Othmer Sophomore Academic Excellence Award and Ph.D. student Alex Zapata winning the North American Thermal Analysis Society best student poster
- Eighty-one B.S. students graduated in May 2019! Kudos to these new alumni!
- Record of 85 PhD students enrolled in our department
- Our faculty receives grants from multiple agencies such as the National Science Foundation (including prestigious CAREER award to Dr. Sheima Khatib), National Institute of Health, US Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, AIChE RAPID, American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, and Department of Defense, among others

- Faculty were recognized by a number of awards including AAAS Fellow (Dr. Chau-Chyun Chen), AIChE Fellow (Dr. Greg McKenna), International Award from the Society of Plastics Engineers (Dr. Sindee Simon), and several internal teaching and research awards (Priay Gill, Drs. Kathib and Lacerda).
- Our department continues to grow, we have multiple faculty positions available at all levels

Dr. Gerri Botte,

Professor and Whitacre Department Chair

Student News

Texas Tech AIChE Student chapter awarded the 2018-2019 AIChE Outstanding Student Chapter

Chapters are selected that exhibit outstanding participation by students and faculty, enthusiasm, professionalism and involvement in the university and community. Congratulations!



Faculty News

Welcome Prof. Gerardine (Gerri) G. Botte, our new Chemical Engineering Department Chair.

She is a visionary and a recognized leader in electrochemical science and technology. Dr. Botte has over 21 years of experience in the development of electrochemical processes and advanced water treatment systems. She has served in leadership roles for the Electrochemical Society and is currently the Chair of the Electrochemical Processes Engineering and Technology Division of the International Society of Electrochemistry. She is also the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Applied Electrochemistry.



In 2014, she was named a Fellow of the Electrochemical Society for her contributions and innovation in electrochemical processes and engineering. She became a Chapter Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2012. In 2010, she was named a Fellow of the World Technology Network for her contributions on the development of sustainable and environmental technologies. Previous to Texas Tech, Dr. Botte was University Distinguished Professor and Russ Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Ohio University, the founder and Director of Ohio University's Center for Electrochemical Engineering Research (CEER), and the founder and Director of the Consortium for Electrochemical Processes and Technology (CEProTECH) -an Industry University Cooperative Research Center. Dr. Botte has 189 publications including peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and 58 granted patents. Dr. Botte and members of her research group are working on the foundation of applying electrochemical engineering principles for advanced and sustainable manufacturing, process intensification, food/energy/water sustainability, and nanomaterials with expertise in electro-synthesis, batteries, electrolyzers, sensors, fuel cells, mathematical modeling, and electro-catalysis. Dr. Botte is passionate about engineering education and entrepreneurship. She and her family moved to Lubbock in August 2019. Her oldest daughter's is a Red Raider (first year student) and her youngest is a sophomore at Lubbock High. We welcome Dr. Botte and her family to the Texas Tech Family!