

The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia Elections for the 2009-10 Season Executive Committee will be held on April 16, 2009

Candidates:

Chair-elect: Luis Murillo, Dion Vlachos

Treasurer: Istvan Halasz, Stephen Harris

Directors: Joseph Fedeyko, Frank Herkes, Wei Huang, Haiming Liu,
Bjorn Moden, Rod Reber, Elizabeth Ross-Medgaarden

Biographical sketches of the candidates:

Chair-elect:

Luis Murillo – Luis E. Murillo earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Universidad del Valle, in Colombia. He worked for the Colombian Petroleum Company (ECOPETROL) as a Process Engineer. Before receiving a M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez he worked on a project sponsored by DuPont Electronics (2001). He received a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from University of Delaware, Newark in 2008. His Ph.D. work was under the supervision of Prof. Jingguang Chen where he investigated the hydrogenation activity and selectivity on bimetallic surfaces. Luis joined DuPont at the Experimental Station (Wilmington, DE) in 2007 as an R&D Engineer in DuPont Clean Technologies where he is working in process development & scale-up of a new hydrotreating technology.

Dion Vlachos – Dr. Vlachos is Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware. He is currently the Director of the Center for Catalytic Science and Technology. His main research thrust is multiscale modeling and simulation along with their application to catalysis and portable microchemical devices for power generation, reforming of renewables and alternative fuels, catalyst informatics, microreactors, and process intensification.

Treasurer:

Istvan Halasz – Born, educated, and started teaching/research carrier in Hungary. Obtained Ph. D. from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Has 12 years academic and 21 years industrial research experience, mainly related to product and process development for petrochemical and fine chemical industry, materials characterization, heterogeneous catalysis, and solid state chemistry. Author of 101 papers, 9 patents, and 60 conference presentations. ACS and North American Catalysis Society member since 1990. Held various board positions at CCP including chair.

Stephen Harris – Stephen Harris received a BS in chemistry from Muhlenberg College and a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry from the University of Rochester. His interests are in process design and optimization. He has been Treasurer, Arrangements Chair, and Membership Director for the CCP.

Directors:

Joseph Fedeyko – Joe is currently a Staff Scientist at Johnson Matthey Inc., Emission Control Technologies where he develops catalysts for the selective catalytic reduction of NO_x. He graduated in 2001 from Lehigh University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and in 2006 from the University of Delaware with a Ph. D. in Chemical Engineering under the advisement of Raul Lobo. He's been a member of the Philadelphia Catalysis Club for the past 7 years serving as the Program Chair during the '07 – '08 season and Poster Session Director during the '08 – '09 season.

Frank Herkes – Frank has 35 years of catalysis and process development experience in the manufacture, and commercialization of amines, alcohols and esters while employed in DuPont Specialty products. He is the author of 32 US patents and 19 publications, and has edited 1 book. Frank was Chairman of the 17th Conference on Organic Catalysis in 1998 and spent the 6 years on the Executive Board of the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society (ORCS). Frank is a member of the Philadelphia Catalysis Society having served as treasurer on two occasions and the arrangements chairman. On May 22, 2003 Frank was presented The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia award for his outstanding contributions to the field of catalysis. Frank also received the Russell E. Maltz award in 2006 from the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society for outstanding service to the society.

Wei Huang – Wei Huang is a Research Scientist at Gas Production & Hydrogen Energy Applications Group, DELAWARE RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY CENTER (DRTC) USA, Air Liquide.

Wei Huang obtained her Ph.D degree from Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Delaware. She was co-advised by Prof. Jingguang G. Chen and Prof. Raul F. Lobo. Her expertise is catalyst design and synthesis, characterization by various techniques and pilot plant design and construction. After graduate from UD, she joined Air Liquide in Oct. 2007 as a Research Scientist. Currently, she works on several projects related to H₂ and CO production and energy application.

Haiming Liu – Haiming Liu is currently a Research Scientist at Arkema Inc. His research is in characterization of organic and inorganic materials including polymers, small molecules, and catalysts, primarily using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy. He received his B. S. in chemistry from University of Science and Technology of China and Ph. D. in chemistry from State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2001. He worked as a post-doc at University of Pennsylvania prior to joining Arkema in 2002. He has been a member of the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia since 2001, served as Arrangement Chair and Membership Director in the past, and is at present the Sponsorship Director as well as company representative for Arkema.

Bjorn Moden – Bjorn Moden is currently a Research Engineer at Zeolyst International at the PQ Corporation R&D center in Conshohocken, PA, where he is working on zeolite development for environmental applications. He received his Ph. D. in Chemical Engineering from University of California, Berkeley under the direction of Enrique Iglesia in 2006 and his undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm in 2000. Bjorn has been the Secretary of the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia since 2007.

Rod Reber – TBA

Elizabeth Ross-Medgaarden – Elizabeth Ross-Medgaarden is a Research Scientist with LyondellBasell Industries working in the Process R&D department. She joined LyondellBasell directly after receiving her PhD in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University under the direction of Israel Wachs in September 2007 and Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Lafayette College in 2002. Elizabeth's heterogeneous catalysis background includes catalyst synthesis on nano-metal oxide supports and development of new active site models for acid catalysts, by applying reaction and optical spectroscopy techniques. Elizabeth has been a member of ACS and AIChE since 2000 and a member of the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia for the past 6 years. She is the current Director of Membership.