HAPPY 100° BIRTHDAY

TENHO SIHVONEN CONNABLE
Professor George Granger Brown (1925-1957)

From all of us in ChE, we wish you the very best on your centennial birthday, and thank you for the opportunity to reconnect with you after all these years. It’s alumni like you who remind us of why we do what we do.

Sharon C. Glotzer
Anthony C. Lembke Department Chair of Chemical Engineering
John Werner Cahn Distinguished University Professor of Engineering
Stuart W. Churchill Collegiate Professor of Chemical Engineering
1918 In 1918, Dorothy Hall Brophy becomes the first woman to receive a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan. She went on to complete a Ph.D.

1920 By 1920-21, more than 100 U-M sophomores choose chemical engineering as their field of specialization.

1922 The first student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) is established on the Michigan campus.

1923 G.G. Brown organizes the first U-M graduate course in the field of thermodynamics.

1924 Chemical Engineering moves to the newly constructed East Engineering Building.

1931 Professors Badger and McCabe publish Elements of Chemical Engineering, which soon becomes the most widely used text in the field.

1934 U-M’s Department of Chemical Engineering is ranked by the American Council on Education as one of the top three “most distinguished” programs in the nation.

1935 The College creates two separate programs in chemical engineering and metallurgy. By 1935, 20 percent of all graduate students in the United States working toward a master’s degree in chemical engineering and 13 percent of those studying for the doctorate are enrolled at the University of Michigan.

1942 Tenho Sihvonen Connable receives her B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering.

1948 The Department celebrates its 50th Anniversary. In its 50 years, the department had enrolled a total of 3,876 undergraduate students and granted 2,151 bachelor’s degrees; in the Graduate School, 940 higher degrees had been granted.

1949 Graduate student enrollment reaches a peak of 235 students.

1950 The landmark text, Unit Operations, a collaborative U-M work prepared under the leadership of Professor G.G. Brown, is published.

The book is promptly adopted by 115 institutions, including almost all the departments of chemical engineering in the United States.

1952 In the 20-year period from 1932 to 1952, 137 doctoral degrees are granted in chemical or metallurgical engineering.

1954 At the U-M campus, Professor Katz leads the first national conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. By this year, chemical and metallurgical engineering staff had authored seventeen books and more than seven hundred publications.

1957 The G.G. Brown Building opens, offering new, large-scale laboratory facilities.

1959-63 A project begins on the use of computers in engineering education, funded by the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation — the largest project in U-M’s chemical engineering history.

1971 After a liaison of 36 years, the combined Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering Department separates into two: Chemical Engineering and Materials and Metallurgical Engineering. The Department of Chemical Engineering has 17 full-time faculty members and an enrollment of 170 undergraduates and 55 graduate students.

1979 A growing Department of Chemical Engineering numbers 23 full-time faculty members, and Emeritus Professor Donald Katz. 12 Research laboratories supporting a broad range of graduate studies were available.

1982 The department moves to the newly constructed H.H. Dow Building on North Campus, built through a $5.5 million combined donation from the Dow Foundation and the Towsley Foundation — one of the largest gifts in the history of the University of Michigan.

1983 Donald L. Katz receives the National Medal of Science from President Reagan.

1987 The department establishes its first graduate scholarship that is supported by annual donations from alumni/alumnae.

1993 The department helps to establish a graduate program at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

2000 Under the direction of Henry Wang, the department establishes a pharmaceutical engineering program.

2003 Ronald G. Larson is elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2003 “for elucidating the flow properties of complex fluids at the molecular and continuum levels through theory and experiment.”

2005 Ralph T. Yang is elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2005 “for advancing the fundamental understanding of surface chemical-reaction mechanisms and for the design and invention of new catalysts.”

2010 Major research areas include catalysis and reactions, biomolecular engineering, cellular engineering, computing and simulation, nanotechnology, materials, polymers and complex fluids, sustainable energy, and microfabricated systems.

2012 Ten faculty members have been appointed to endowed or collegiate professorships; most have been named in the last decade. Many of the professorships are named in honor of distinguished faculty and alumni including Donald L. Katz, G.G. Brown, James R. Street, Richard E. Balzhiser and Stuart W. Churchill.

Mark A. Barteau joins the faculty of the department as a professor and is also named the director of the University of Michigan Energy Institute. He was elected to the NAE in 2005 “for advancing the fundamental understanding of surface chemical-reaction mechanisms and for the design and invention of new catalysts.”

2013 Enrollment in ChE 230 climbs to a new record of 211. Due to the recent large class sizes, the first five ChE courses in the curriculum are taught in the auditorium of the Chrysler Center.

2014 Sharon Glotzer is inducted into the 2014 class of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

2017 Sharon Glotzer is appointed the first female chair of the department.

2019 Sharon C. Glotzer, the Anthony C. Lembke Department Chair of Chemical Engineering, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), the nation’s most prestigious engineering association.