



MARYLAND SECTION
NEWSLETTER:
OCTOBER 2008



Fall is here! School is back in session and we are working with the AIChE student section at Johns Hopkins University to plan a Chemical and Biological Engineering Student Networking Forum for our Wednesday, October 22 evening meeting at JHU.

We are still in need of a few panelists for the evening. I would like to encourage you to consider joining our panel discussion group and take the opportunity to pass on your work experiences to our future chemical and biological engineers.

I recently participated in a similar panel discussion, this was the first panel discussion where I sat on the panel (as opposed to an audience member), and I found the experience to be very rewarding and encouraging. I would encourage you to consider volunteering to participate and share some of your process knowledge and work life experiences.

If you are willing to participate and would like more information, please contact either myself or Ms. Barb Roeper at: AICHE.MD@gmail.com or by phone at 410-771-4950.

-Curt Miller, Maryland Section Chairman

You don't have to be a panelist or a student to contribute to this month's student panel meeting. All AIChE Maryland Section members are invited to attend, provide some insight for the next batch of the area's locally-educated chemical and biochemical engineers, and see how they are learning today — and how they view the profession.

Attendee Costs: \$25 at the door or \$20 in advance (see page 3 of this newsletter to see a new way to reduce your monthly meeting dues by pre-registering!)

NEXT SECTION MEETING
STUDENT FORUM
Thurs., Oct. 22 @ 5:30 pm
Johns Hopkins University
Charles Commons Ballroom
33rd Street between St. Paul and North
Charles Streets
RSVP to aiche-md@gmail.com





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**LOOKING BACK:
SEPTEMBER MEETING
SUMMARY**

**UPCOMING
SCHEDULE**

On September 17, 2008, our local Maryland Section kicked off the first event of the 2008 – 2009 season with a big success. 18 members came out to join the tour at the BP Solar Frederick plant. This is probably our first time to hold an event on the western side of Baltimore. It was great to meet some of the new AIChE faces from the Frederick area.



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- October 22 – JHU Student Forum (@ JHU)
- AIChE National Meeting — November 16th-21st in Philadelphia, PA
- November 19 – AIChE 100 year Celebration (@ ESB)
- December 17 – Section Meeting
- January 21 – Section Meeting

With help from Debbie Burgan (Administration) and Dr. Jean Posbic (Director, Technical Services) at BP, three tour guides (Dr. Posbic, Katherine Robertson and Kenneth Hammontree) took us to many parts of the manufacturing areas. We were all amazed by their latest manufacturing technology to enable their operating personnel to be able to produce solar panel products at such a high speed with high quality to compete in the world market.

After the tour, Dr. Jean Posbic gave us a great talk about this business. It included the history of the solar panel technology, cost comparison of solar energy and electricity, samples of “green” buildings and the future trending of this market. In all, this business is booming as evidenced by their expansion project under construction on the plant campus. His advice to us: change is coming.

Following the tour, we all sat down, enjoyed dinner and chatted with our AIChE colleagues from all types of businesses. We all had a great time and are looking forward to the next exciting event.

-Steve Lui, Maryland Section Member at Large

Note: For those who were unable to attend but were interested in the tour, Dr. Posbic was kind enough to provide us with a copy of his MS PowerPoint presentation. To receive a copy, send a request to the email address listed below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: aiche.md@gmail.com

Website: www.aiche-md.org OR www.aiche.org/maryland (coming soon!)



TREASURER'S ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW MEETING RESERVATION PROCEDURE

RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

HERE'S WHY:

When our meeting will involve advance ordering and/or purchase of food for each attendee, we will require that the reservation be paid for in advance. Once we have guaranteed a certain number of people for the food portion of the meeting, we have to pay for that number regardless of whether they show up or not. We price our meetings to break even, hence, when someone makes a reservation and does not show up or offer to pay for their missed meeting, the Section loses money. We do not think it is fair that dues money should go to paying shortfalls that occur when members do not meet their commitment by failing to attend the meeting for which they made a reservation. The deadline date for meetings of this nature is the date by which we have to commit to a guarantee for the

If you already have a PayPal account that has been verified, you can make payment with your checking account using your PayPal account. If you do not already have a PayPal account, then you will have to use a credit card.

Alternatively, when our new website is operational (which will be shortly), you will be able to go to our website to make your reservation and pay for it at the same time. When PayPal notifies us of your payment, your reservation will be made.

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO PAY IN ADVANCE?

YES, the email you will receive in response to your RSVP will give you the option of sending a check for payment and will provide you the appropriate mailing address. However, the check must be received by the reservation deadline.

WILL I BE ABLE TO CANCEL?

YES, you will be able to cancel up to the deadline date by which your meeting reservation must be made. As long as we have not included you in the guarantee we made, your reservation is "cancel-able". After that, the die is cast!

WHAT ABOUT A REFUND FOR A TIMELY CANCELLATION?

You will have a choice of applying that payment to the next meeting or asking for a refund, which will be sent to you by check. We will not be able to refund it directly back to your credit card, if that is how you made your payment through PayPal.

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE THAT I CAN ATTEND THE MEETING?

If you show up at the meeting without an advance reservation, you will be required to pay the "at the door" meeting cost which will be \$5 more than the advance reservation cost.

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meal.

Just so you know, we are among the last of the major engineering societies which are members of the Engineering Society of Baltimore to implement these procedures for meetings. Unfortunately, it has become necessary to stem the trickle of losses from the treasury due to unpaid reservations. For example, with our September meeting, we ordered food on the Monday just before the meeting, according to the RSVPs we had received. Five of these people did not show up. The treasury simply cannot sustain losses of this nature for long.

HERE'S HOW:

We have set up a PayPal account so that you may pay for your reservation online. When you make a reservation by email, the Treasurer will be notified and will send you an email requesting payment for your reservation. The email will have the link you will need to make payment through PayPal.

The Maryland Section of AIChE is always looking for meeting ideas, places to for plant tours, and speakers. If you have an idea for a meeting topic, or can offer your place of work for a plant tour, or would like to speak at an AIChE Local Section meeting, please contact Chairman Curtis Miller at aiche-md@gmail.com.