

The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 13, Issue 7, April 2001

Last (Seventh) Meeting of the 2000-2001 Year

Our final meeting of this section year features Mario Diva of Hyprotech. Mario will be speaking to us about "Dynamic Modeling".

In addition to our guest speaker, we will be conducting elections for next year's treasurer.

Please come out to hear Mario and to have your vote count for our elections.

Starting next year, Dr. Brian Mitchell will be our program chairman. As such he will be looking for suggestions for program topics.

Please call **Brian Mitchell at 862-8257 {Tulane University}** or your Company Contact to reserve a place.

Meeting April 26, 2001 at Steak & Ale 3870 Veterans Blvd. Metairie, LA

Cost is \$15/person.

5:00 -- 6:00 P.M.	Social Hour
6:00 — 6:45	Dinner
6:45 — 7:30	Speaker, Mario Diva
7:30 — 7:35	Meeting & Elections
7:35 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

Future and Proposed Meetings

If you have a suggestion, please call **Keith Henderson at 846-6407 {Albert-Garaudy & Associates}** All meetings are subject to change, please read future newsletters for updates.

Please note that starting next year Dr. Brian Mitchell will assume the programming duties for the Section. As such, he will be looking for feedback as to what you would like for future meeting topics or activities. Please see Brian's contact information on Page 2.

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Chairman's Corner

It is a distinct honor to name E. Jasper Westbrook as the 2000 – 2001 New Orleans Local Section Engineer of the Year. Mr. Westbrook is a Fellow and a valued Member of the Local Section. He has been Chair of the New Orleans Local Section as well as General Arrangements Chairman for the 1988 AIChE Annual Meeting. He is CEO and Consulting Principal with Applied Compliance Technology (ACT). He has been affiliated with URS/Walk Haydel for most of his career in New Orleans. Mr. Westbrook was born in Baton Rouge. He earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from LSU. He and his wife Lucille currently reside in Metairie.

Jasper is always available to support the Local Section and its Members. He has had a distinguished career in Chemical Engineering and is highly respected by the membership. If you don't already know Mr. Westbrook I encourage you to become acquainted with him. He is generous in transferring

(See "Chairman" on page 5)

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A.I.Ch.E. New Orleans Section - Local Officers

Chairman

Greg Tragitt **KBC** **837-9228**

Vice-Chairman

Keith Henderson **Albert-Garaudy** **846-6407**

Secretary

Dr. Brian Mitchell **Tulane** **862-8257**

Treasurer

Robert Sharshan **XXXX** **467-8339**

Membership Chair & Director

Bill Boutall **Wink** **243-4539**

Finance Chair & Director

Open **Open** **Open**

Professional Development

Dr. J.B. Phillips **Eng. Dev. Inst.** **825-7046**

Newsletter Editor

Anthony Fregosi **Cytec, Ind.** **431-6598**

Several positions are open within the section for those who would like to take on a leadership role within the section. Please contact, the Section Chair or Vice-Chair listed above if interested in serving.

A.I.Ch.E. on the Internet

Visit the New Orleans Section Home page at: www.tulane.edu/~bmitche/aiche/aiche.html

Also check out the National AIChE Home page at: www.aiche.org

Anyone interested in this activity, please contact

Dr. Brian Mitchell (AIChE Webmaster) at 862-8257, brian@che.che.tulane.edu or Anthony Fregosi, Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cytec.com

If your company does not have a contact, please contact **Jim Dean at 576-7174**

Company contacts act as a contact for AIChE inside their own company.

New Members are always welcome at A.I.Ch.E. **New Orleans**, local dues are only \$12 per year and includes this newsletter.

Please call **Bill Boutall at 243-4539**

COMPANY CONTACT LIST

These people are aware of our activities. If you think you have missed a newsletter, activity date etc., please contact them.

<i>Company/Person</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Chevron Chemical</i> Christopher Day	391-6584
<i>Cytec Industries</i> Anthony Fregosi	431-6598
<i>DEQ Baton Rouge</i> Freddie Touro	225-765-0202
<i>Entergy</i> Jim Dean	576-7174
<i>EDG, Inc.</i> Leon Barnett	445-0858
<i>KBC Advanced Technology</i> Don Hoppens	837-9228
<i>Monsanto - Luling</i> Mike Valentine	785-4511
<i>Nalco/Exxon</i> Joy Usener	1-800-366-2526 Ext. 1285
<i>Occidental Chemical</i> Linda Bergeron	783-7365
<i>Petro- Marine Engineering, Inc.</i> Robert Brown	364-4257
<i>Shell Chemical</i>	<u>Contact Needed</u>
<i>Tulane University</i> Dr. Brian Mitchell	862-8257
<i>Union Carbide</i> Larry Mercier	783-4780
<i>URS (Formally Walk, Haydel & Assoc.)</i> Jasper Westbrook	586-8111
<i>W. H. Linder & Associates, Inc.</i> Herb Roussel, P.E.	835-2577 Ext. 3143
<i>Wink Engineering, Inc.</i> Bill Boutall	246-7924

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Editor's Soap Box

This will be the last newsletter for this section year. You might want to take a good look at this issue, because it is the last time you will see this format.

Starting next section year (beginning in August) you will see a new look to *The Reactor*. We have had the current format for a long time and it has served us well.

I hope the new format will offer several new improvements. Hopefully the new format will be easier to read. Stories will begin and end on the same page. New fonts will give the newsletter a more modern style. I hope to include some pictures throughout the year of some of the section meetings and activities.

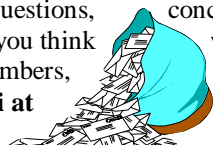
Most if not all of the current features will be carried over to the new look. If you have any suggestions for content or features, please do not hesitate to give me a call and let me know your ideas.

I have served as newsletter editor for the past five years and have tried to make the newsletter a valuable benefit of local membership. However after doing something for a period of time, you can lose the ability to give the customer what they need or want. I do not want that to happen with this newsletter.

I have enjoyed serving as the newsletter editor and wish to continue to do so, but I also would like to be sure that you — the reader find value in this newsletter.

Thank you for the chance to serve. I look forward to working with the section hopefully for many year to come.

Anthony J. Fregosi, Editor

If you have any questions, information that you think interest to the members, **Anthony Fregosi** at have it placed in  concerns or would be of please contact **431-6598** to the newsletter.

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Phone: **(504) 727-9770**
Fax: **(504) 674-0955**
Email: **marvin@leghornlearning.com**
Web: **www.leghornlearning.com**

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Call for Volunteers

Would you like to become more involved in AIChE?

The General Arrangements Committee for the 2002 Spring National Meeting to be held in New Orleans is being formed. You may think that it is too early to be thinking about a meeting in 2002, but that is not the case. It takes many months of planning to successfully host a national meeting. The Baton Rouge and New Orleans Sections have hosted this meeting several times. The two sections have a proud tradition of well organized meeting planning to uphold.

There will be several committees from which to choose to serve. If you are interested in becoming involved in this most rewarding activity, please contact **Anthony Fregosi at (504) 431-6598** or email at **Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cytex.com** for further information.

Would you like help tracking your PE Credits?

Please talk to Bob Sharshan if you would like an accounting of your attendance at this past year's meeting for which the section has offered PDHs.

Newsletter Advertisement Charges

Size	\$/Issue	\$/Year	
		9 Issues	
Business Card (2" x 3.3")	\$ 16.00	\$	100.00
1/4 page (5" x 3.5)	\$ 40.00	\$	250.00
1/2 page (10" x 7.5")	\$ 80.00	\$	500.00
Full Page (10" x 7.5")	\$ 160.00	\$	1000.00

To order an advertisement, send the original of the advertisement (e.g. business card) and a check made out to "AIChE" New Orleans Section to **Anthony Fregosi, Cytex Industries 10800 River Road Westwego LA 70094**

Other Meetings

2001

AIChE Spring National Meeting & Annual Ethylene Producers' Conference - Houston, TX.

April 22 - 26

33rd Annual Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference (ECC) - Scottsdale, AZ.

September 6 - 7

46th Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium - Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

September 17 - 20

The 6th World Congress of Chemical Engineering - Melbourne, Australia.

September 23 - 27

AIChE Annual Meeting: "Exchanging Ideas for Innovation" - Los Angeles, CA.

November 12 - 17

N. O. Section Finances 2000-2001 (As of February 20, 2001)

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,369
Income	
Dues/LES Proceeds	
Section Allowance/Misc. Bank Credits	
Meals	240
Total	\$ 240
Expenses	
Meals	\$ 229
Newsletter	
UNO Science Fair Registration	
Awards & Plaques/Bank Charges	
Total	\$ 229
Ending Balance	\$ 6,380
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 11
Meeting Costs Gain/(Loss) YTD	\$ (179)

Humor

Nice Work If You Can Get It

With all the different hard safety directors wear, we'll bet you often wish you could take a long vacation. How about 14 months?

That's the kind of break Ed Buckingham got when the powers-that-be at the Colorado Department of Public Safety decided to bump him out of office for a new hire. They placed him on administrative leave until new duties were assigned.

But while the ex-chief of staff no longer helps protect the masses, he has continued collecting his \$7,387/month paycheck for more than a year.

And although department officials have finally decided to look into the case, no one has bothered to cancel the checks.

Don't think this displaced safety guru has left safety protection in the dust, along with his job duties.

During his several scuba-diving trips to the Caribbean in his "free time", we hear he always made sure to wear his protective wet suit.

[Ed—If you have any material for this column you would like to share, please send it to me. My email address is Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com]

Chemical Engineers on Capitol Hill

AIChE has co-sponsored two congressional educational events on Capitol Hill. "Attracting Scientists and Engineers to Government Service," presented in early February, focused on the challenges facing a new administration in finding the right people to serve the public. Recent work has suggested that there are particular barriers to recruiting scientist and engineers into senior government positions. David Goldston, of the House Science Committee, and Mary Good, president of the AAAS were featured speakers.

"Genomes & Nanotechnology and Environmental Research" was a panel discussion held on March 1,

(Continued from page 1)

Chairman

his significant wisdom to those demonstrating an interest. For younger engineers this transfer of knowledge is one of the true values available as a member of AIChE.

I have previously discussed initiatives for AIChE to attract recent graduates as members and maintain their membership. I believe this is a very important priority for the survival of AIChE. As we attempt to attract recent graduates, we must not overlook the contribution and value of the members that have provided many years of service to AIChE. The New Orleans Local Section is very fortunate to have many dedicated members. We have several Fellows within our membership. To become a Fellow a Member must provide significant service to the Institute and to the Chemical Engineering profession. This significant service is what really holds AIChE together.

Sincerely,

Greg Tragitt

Chairman, 2000-2001

New Orleans Section AIChE

on cutting edge interdisciplinary environmental research, co-sponsored with ASME, ASCE, and AAESP. AIChE members, Gil Lee, Purdue University, John Carberry, DuPont, and Jerald Schnoor, University of Iowa, were panel participants.

AIChE co-sponsored a reception for the new House Science Committee chairman, Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY). The Tappan Zee Section chair, Peter Belmonte attended and met with Mr. Boehlert; Belmonte stated, "We are working with Mr. Boehlert to arrange a time for him to speak at a local section meeting this fall." At the reception, AIChE's communications director, Scott Hamilton, discussed the possibilities of public outreach cooperation with the new

("Engineers on Hill" on page 7)

Tulane Institute for Macromolecular Engineering and Sciences (TIMES)

TIMES is planning to offer a second, two-day course on the chemistry and properties of polymeric materials. The first course, held in December, 1999, generated a great deal of interest, and based on comments received from those participants, TIMES is modifying the program to include the following:

Polymer synthesis (2.5 hrs)
Characterization (2 hrs)
Thermodynamics (1 hr)
Rheology (1 hr)
Polymer processing (3 hrs)
Group Discussion (1.5 hrs)

The course will be taught by both academic and industrial practitioners. We anticipate the cost to be \$750. This would include lunches, coffee breaks and one dinner. Travel and accommodations are the responsibility of the participants. The course will be offered in late spring, 2001, provided we have a minimum of twelve participants. Participants will receive a certificate of completion of twelve professional development credit hours. If you are interested in attending this two-day course, please contact:

Prof. Daniel Dekee
Dept. of Chemical Engineering
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 865-5620
ddekee@tulane.edu

Local Section Makes Science Fair Awards

Once again the Local Section has participated in judging one of the local Science Fairs.

This year's award winners are:

Tyrus Agee

From: John Ehert High School

Project: "What is the effect of temperature on the fermentation of ethanol?"

Scott Knowles and Gabe Ewing

From: Ben Franklin High School

Project: "The Effect of Different Alcohols used as Propellants on the Distance Traveled by a Projectile"

The board of directors approved increasing the total amount of prizes awarded in order for both Scott and Gabe to receive \$50 each.

53rd Career Fair

AICHE's 53rd Career Fair is set to take place at the upcoming Spring National Meeting in Houston, Tx., this April.

This is the Institute's premier hiring event. If you are out of work, or seeking to relocate, this is the event in which to participate. You do not need to be present to participate.

Visit www.aiche.org/careerservices for details.



**AIChE.....
Serving Chemical
Engineers
Who Serve the World**

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Engineers on Hill

EPA administrator, Christy Todd Whitman. Peter Lederman, chair of the Engineers and Scientists Joint Committee on Pensions, and Sandra Dudley, chair of the AIChE Government Relations Committee Task Force on Retirement Security Issues, led a group of engineers in meeting with legislators on February 21. The engineers discussed the importance of legislation to improve the portability of benefits, increased contribution limits, and need for simplicity in retirement savings vehicles with staff from eight congressional offices.

People News Sought

AIChE's Communications Department is seeking news about members. Have you recently landed a new job? Received a promotion? Begun your own consulting business?

Maybe you're working on an interesting project that deserves some recognition. Or you work with school kids, helping them to realize the wonders in science in math.

We'd love to hear from you. Simply email: communications@aiche.org

AIChE Web Resources

AIChE Portable Document Format (PDF) Library - AIChE has adopted this technology for printable/faxable forms, reference manuals, and specification sheets.

Use our Link Library to find AIChE affiliates, partners, other chemical engineering resources.

Conference Developers, these Manuals and Guidelines were compiled to assist you in performing your role in AIChE Conference planning.

Now available on-line, CEP's Software Directory allows full search capabilities by company, title, category, and computer platform for over 1,600 titles from 400 companies.

AIChE provides Local Sections, Divisions/Forums, and Student Chapter leaders with training, orientation, and resources that help them present valuable and rewarding opportunities to the audience we serve.

Election Notice

It is time once again to start thinking about the approaching elections.



The section has a candidate for the office of Treasurer. The current officers will each advance to the next office.

Requirements for treasurer are:
Willingness to serve, Ability to

attend the meetings, Acceptance of being on the officer ladder for successive positions - Secretary, Vice-Chairman, Chairman, Immediate Past Chair.

As Treasurer, you shall be charged with the collection and disbursement of funds as authorized by the Executive Committee. At the first Section meeting of each fiscal year he/she shall present a financial report.

In addition, per National and Section Bylaws, all officers must be members of the national organization.

The elections will be held at the April 10th meeting.

Please attend our April meeting so that you may meet our candidate, Tom Doolin, for treasurer and offer your support.

If you have any questions or would like to be considered for treasurer, please contact **Greg Tragitt**, Chairman at **837-9228** or e-mail **gtragitt@kbc.com**.

Look What's Coming!

Future issues of the *The Reactor* will feature articles on several topics of interest.

Along with our regular sections on Humor, Meeting updates and more!

The Reactor



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New Orleans Section, Winner of:

1995 “Randall D. Sheeline Award”, for excellence in public relations activities.

1999 “Catalyst Grassroots Award”, for support of the grassroots advocacy program.

Meeting Notice!

Date: April 26, 2001
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: Steak & Ale
3870 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie, LA



“There is something that is much more scarce, something rarer than ability. — It is the ability to recognize ability.”

— Robert Half