

The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 12, Issue 5, February 2000

Fifth Meeting of the 1999-2000 Year

Mike Benbow will be our speaker for the month of February. Mike will be speaking about "Ethics in Engineering".

This is a very important concept for engineers. We are confronted almost daily with decisions on which ethics come to bear.

The profession takes ethics seriously, even requiring a test on ethics as part of the issuance of a P.E.

Please come out and hear this very important topic.

Please call Keith Henderson at 846-6407 {Albert-Garudy} or your Company Contact before the meeting to reserve a place if possible.

Meeting February 15, 2000 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 - 7:00	Meeting
7:00 - 7:30	Speaker, Mike Benbow
7:30 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

Future and Proposed Meetings

March 23** - LIGO Plant Trip, Livingston, LA

** Please note the change in date from the last newsletter

April 11 - Jim Dean, Entergy
"New P.E. Exam"

**Recognition of New Orleans Local Section Fellows
Presentation of Engineer of the Year
Local Section Elections**

If you have a suggestion, please call Greg Tragitt at 837-9228. All meetings are subject to change, please read future newsletters for updates.

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Institute Continues Expansion of Offerings At Spring National Meeting

Even though AIChE has just finished reviewing the success (and the challenges) from the recent Annual Meeting, the Spring National Meeting is just around the corner.

AIChE's first Spring National Meeting of the Millennium, "Advancing New Technologies in Industry," will take place from March 5 to March 9 at the Hilton Atlanta & Towers in Atlanta, Georgia. Members who are still assimilating their new knowledge and extended professional contacts from the 1999 Annual Meeting will have another exciting opportunity to build on their expertise and expand their network.

The meeting promises to be the largest Spring Meeting ever for the Institute for several reasons.

(See Spring Meeting on page 3)

The Reactor

New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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

Chairman

Linda Bergeron **OxyChem** **783-7365**

Vice-Chairman

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

Secretary

Keith Henderson **Albert-Garudy** **846-6407**

Treasurer

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

Membership Chair & Director

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

Finance Chair & Director

Tom Brumfield **Shell** **465-7125**

Professional Development

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

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:

URL:<http://www.tulane.edu/~bmitche/aiche.html>

Also check out the National AIChE Home page at:

URL:<http://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.cytotec.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>	Contact Needed
<i>Cytec Industries</i> Anthony Fregosi	431-6598
<i>DEQ Baton Rouge</i> Freddie Touro	504-765-0199
<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. 1556
<i>Occidental Chemical</i> Linda Bergeron	783-7365
<i>Petro- Marine Engineering, Inc.</i> Robert Brown	364-4257
<i>Shell Chemical</i> Tom Brumfield	465-7125
<i>Steimle & Associates</i> Dr. Steve Steimle	831-2574
<i>Tulane University</i> Dr. Brian Mitchell	862-8257
<i>Union Carbide</i>	Contact Needed
<i>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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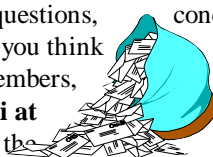
Spring Meeting

- The success of the Institute's on-site vendor displays such as AICHEXhibit '99 ensures their continuance at future meetings. Spring Showcase 2000 will comprise tabletop exhibits, each aligned with one of the record 15 topical conferences at the meeting. Between the exhibits and conferences, all of chemical engineering's subspecialties will be accounted for, making the meeting valuable to members working in both traditional and non-traditional fields.
- AICHE's Professional and Technical Training Program hits the ground running with courses that will span eleven days and run both during and after the meeting.
- The topical conferences will have several new features to attract attendees and increase representation of all industries. "Process Innovation and Technology Transfer" will help engineers bridge the gap between innovative research and successful marketing of a product by focusing on the successful applications and transfer of new technologies. "Vehicular Fuel Performance" will target one of today's hot topics as engineers continue to work toward fuels that simultaneously reduce pollution and improve the performance of vehicles.

Joe Cramer, AICHE's director of technical programming, told AICHEXtra that "The Spring National Meeting has really been building in intensity for the past several years. We have been increasing the number of topics we cover, the industries we reach out to, and the breadth of our offerings.

(See Spring Meeting on page 4)

If you have any questions, information that you think interest to the members, **Anthony Fregosi** at **431-6598** to have it placed in the



concerns or would be of please contact **431-6598** to newsletter.

Editor's Soap Box

Elections for the section are fast approaching. The section is seeking a Treasurer for the upcoming year. If you have thought about serving the section as an officer, but have questions, I encourage you to contact Linda or Greg. Both would be very happy to discuss the duties of the position and the time requirements.

Greg has arranged a very interesting program for next month. A plant trip to the LIGO site in Livingston, LA. I cannot recall the section going on a plant visit, so this is an exciting change to our normal dinner meeting. In addition to the plant tour, a catered dinner will be provided. We will be sending out further information in next month's newsletter.

The mentoring program for the Tulane Chemical Engineering School was kicked off January 19th at the school. Garnett Bedenbaugh recently retired from Shell and Dr. Brian Mitchell, Chemical Engineering Professor at Tulane and current Section Treasurer, are coordinating this first ever program for our section.

The program is aimed at connecting the Freshman class in Chemical Engineering (the Engineering 101 course Brian teaches) with an upperclassman and a mentor. Currently we have six individuals that have signed up to be mentors. Currently they are: Greg Tragitt, KBC; Steve Alexander, MECO; Kelle Hankton, Sonya Vial and Garnett, Shell and Anthony Fregosi, Cytec.

Garnett had the following to say about the first meeting in a follow-up email to the participants; "Judging from the volume of conversation in the various groups at our kick-off meeting, I think we have the potential of an outstanding program."

If you would like to volunteer for this program, please contact Garnett Bedenbaugh at **(504) 345-1566** or **garnettb2@aol.com** or Dr. Brian Mitchell at **(504) 862-8257** or **brian@che.che.tulane.edu**.

Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Anthony F. Fregosi, Editor

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Spring Meeting

“The end result is that we have created a meeting that serves chemical engineers as they navigate their way through today’s profession—a profession going through exciting changes where it seems like new possibilities are emerging every day. AIChE’s meetings are committed to staying cutting-edge and at the same time being a steadying influence that chemical engineers can depend upon,” Cramer concluded.

For more information on AIChE's Spring National Meeting in Atlanta, visit the AIChEWeb at www.aiche.org/meeting/spring.



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

Newsletter Advertisement Charges

Size	\$/Issue	9 Issues \$/Year
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

2000

Spring National Meeting - Atlanta, GA
March 5 - 9, 2000 (NEW DATES)

45th Safety in Ammonia Plants & Related Facilities
Symposium - Tucson, AZ
September 11 - 14, 2000

CCPS Conference 2000: Process Safety
Incidents—Investigation Technology, Case Histories, and
Lessons Learned - Orlando, FL
September 19 - 22, 2000

Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference (ECC)
- Colorado Springs, CO
September 28 - 29, 2000

AIChE Annual Meeting - Los Angeles, CA
November 12 - 17, 2000

2001

The 6th World Congress of Chemical Engineering -
Melbourne, Australia
September 23 - 27, 2001

N. O. Section Finances 1999-2000 (As of January 19, 2000)

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,120
Income	
Dues/LES Proceeds	\$ 2,328
Section Allowance/Award/Misc.	10
Meals	860
Total	\$ 3,198
Expenses	
Meals	\$ 820
Newsletter	702
UNO Science Fair Registration	25
Fees, Checks	55
Total	\$ 1,602
Ending Balance	\$ 6,716
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 1,596

Humor

You might be a chemical engineer if....

- Your work clothes are almost as old as you are.
- ... and so is your car.
- You think of the Carnot cycle everytime you turn on your AC unit.
- When you look at objects in the distance and think of mean free path.
- You explain surface tension to your 10 year old when they ask why you are adding oil to boiling spaghetti.
- You have a clock with inverted numbers that runs counterclock wise in your office and you prefer it that way.
- You make your own shampoo!

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the definition of an engineer?

A: Someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.

Q: When does a person decide to become an engineer?

A: When he realizes he doesn't have the charisma to be an undertaker.

Q: What do engineers use for birth control?

A: Their personalities.

Q: How can you tell an extroverted engineer?

A: When she talks to you, she looks at your shoes instead of her own.

Q: Why did the engineers cross the road?

A: Because they looked in the file and that's what they did last year.

Q: How do you drive an engineer completely insane?

A: Tie him to a chair, stand in front of him, and fold up a road map the wrong way.

[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]

White House Issues Memorandum on Off-Site Consequence Analysis Information

President Clinton issued a memorandum concerning the authority to regulate public access to consequence analysis information.

The memorandum was released on January 27th. The three parts each delegated a different aspect of hazard analysis to a different authority.

The three parts stated the following:

1. The Attorney General has the responsibility to assess the increased risk of terrorist and other criminal activity associated with the posting of consequence analysis information on the Internet.
2. The Environmental Protection Agency is charges with assessing the incentives created by public disclosure of off-site hazard analysis information for reduction in the risk of accidental releases.
3. The Attorney General, in concert with the Administrator of the EPA, has the authority to regulate the distribution of off-site consequence analysis information. These regulations are reviewed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Congressional Staff Gives AIChE Members Insight Into Workings of Capitol Hill

As the 1999 Congressional session came to a close in Washington, DC, two Congressional staff members visited the East Tennessee Section.

The purpose of the visit was to explain to chemical engineers the role they can play in shaping public policy. The technology-related issues that Congress is

(See Congressional Staff on page 7)

51st AIChE Career Fair

The next career fair will be held in conjunction with the upcoming Spring National Meeting in Atlanta, GA, March 6th and 7th.

Institute members and hiring organizations can benefit greatly from the fair planned by the AIChE Career Services Department.

Members attending the fair are encouraged to submit their resume into our new on-line Career Fair Resume Database accessible to participating employers only. Early resume submission will allow employers to review member credentials prior to the fair.

On-site interviews will be conducted with qualified candidates. Those unable to attend the fair should submit their resume.

For details visit www.aiche.org/careerservices. For information, call (212) 591-7670 or email, herbs@aiiche.org.

Also, please encourage employers with openings for chemical engineers to contact Herb Scheftel at (212) 591-7670 or email at herbs@aiiche.org.

March 23rd Meeting

The section meeting on March 23rd will be a plant tour of the LIGO site in Livingston, LA.

The tour is scheduled for 6 p.m. followed by a catered dinner on site starting at 7:30 p.m.

In order to insure the proper arrangements are made, you must call in your reservation to attend no later than **Friday, March 17th**.

Please call Keith Henderson at (504) 846-6407 before noon on March 17, 2000 to make your reservation.

More details will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter.



April 11th Meeting

This meeting will see the section elect a Treasurer for the upcoming 2000-2001 year.

We will also have Jim Dean as our speaker.

Additionally, we will recognize all the New Orleans' Section Fellows (the list is growing).

The presentation of the New Orleans Section, Engineer of the Year will be made.

As you can see, this night is shaping up to be very full and interesting.

Please mark you calendar now to attend this last meeting of the 1999-2000 year.

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Congressional Staff

currently dealing with were also covered. Sandra Dudley, a member of AIChE's government relations committee, developed the program.

According to David Denton, the incoming chair of the East Tennessee Section, "This was one of the better meetings our local section has ever held. I came away from the meeting with a much better understanding of how our legislative system works, of the current technology-related issues facing Congress, and of the importance of our personal involvement through communication with our legislators."

Carolyn Nguyen, a Brookings Fellow working in Senator Bill Frist's (R-TN) office, made a formal presentation to the section. Nguyen, a PhD electrical engineer, has been sponsored to work in the Senator's office by the Brookings Institute for the past two years. She reviewed the Federal Government's national technology effort and Congressional support of technology-related issues. She was accompanied at the meeting by Floyd DesChamps, a member of the professional staff from the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. DesChamps participated in the question and answer session.

Mark Templeton, a member of the programming committee of the East Tennessee session, indicated that "The most interesting thing about the program was the insight it gave me into the role engineers can play in influencing government policy. Engineers can act from the inside as Congressional staffers and externally as advocates through the Catalyst program. Senators, Representatives, and Congressional committees do have technically competent staffers who can understand and explain the impact of technology issues to them."

John Aycok, the outgoing section chair, said "It was interesting to hear how federal policy is established and the critical importance of input from the engineering community to help provide direction and feedback based on those of us who will be most

impacted by the decisions in Washington."

For more information on how to arrange a Congressional staff visit to a local section, or more information on AIChE's government relations activities on behalf of chemical engineers, please contact Darlene Schuster, AIChE's manager of government relations, at **202/962-8694**.

Biotechnology Company Figures Out How to Mass-Produce Cancer Cure Found in Nature

Biotechnologists at Kosan Biosciences in Hayward, California have discovered a method for mass-producing a compound that was previously only available in nature.

The compounds, which are known as epothilones, are produced from a bacterium found in soil. Mass production in the lab had eluded researchers up to now. Kosan has stated that they can now produce large amount of the substances by genetically engineering another bacteria.

Daniel Santi, one of the founders and chairman of Kosan, said in a statement "It should not take long now to develop our strain into one that produces the amounts of epothilone needed for clinical trials."

Epothilones have been considered the next advance in cancer treatment. Currently, the state-of-the-art drug is Taxol, produced by Bristol-Myers-Squibb. Taxol, while being particularly powerful against ovarian cancer, has many problems associated with it. It does not dissolve in water, meaning that doctors must administer the treatment with other compounds that have side effects. Many forms of cancer are also resistant to Taxol.

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!

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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: February 15, 2000
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: Steak & Ale
3870 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie, LA



“Accept the challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory”

— General George S. Patton