

The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 13, Issue 6, March 2001

Sixth Meeting of the 2000-2001 Year

Our sixth meeting will be a tour of Occidental Chemical's Taft Plant.

Please plan to arrive at the plant's "Cajun Cottage" no later than 5:00 p.m. (See enclosed map) Tours will be conducted at 5:15, 5:25 and 5:35 p.m.

Dinner will follow the tours at Esperanza's. (Directions will be given after the tours).

See Page 3 for additional details.

It is important that a head count be provided to Esperanza's, so please **call Brian Mitchell at 862-8257 {Tulane University}** or your Company Contact by March 9th to reserve a place.

Meeting March 13, 2001 at OxyChem—Taft Plant 266 Highway 3142 Hahnville, LA.

Cost is \$25/person.

5:00 P.M.	Arrive at "Cajun Cottage" —Oxychem Plant
5:15, 5:25 and 5:35	Tours of Plant
After Tours	Dinner at Esperanza's
~7:30 - 7:35	Meeting
~7:35 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

Future and Proposed Meetings

April 10 - Mario Diva, Hyprotech, "Dynamic Modeling"

April 10 - Election of Officers

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

The New Orleans Local Section will be electing Officers in the April Meeting. I would like to encourage our Local Section members to consider serving the Local Section as an Officer. I can provide input from my experience during the last four years as persuasion.

I was not interested in becoming an Officer four years ago. My schedule was sufficiently full without accepting another commitment. Because the Local Section asked me to become a candidate for Treasurer I reluctantly agreed. I discovered that I was receiving more from being an Officer than I was giving. I became more closely involved with the Local Section and developed closer friendships as a result. I also gained great satisfaction from providing service to an organization that indicated that they needed me although I can't claim that I provided a substantial contribution.

(See "Chairman" on page 7)

The Reactor

New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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>Steimle & Associates</i> Dr. Steve Steimle	831-2574
<i>Tulane University</i> Dr. Brian Mitchell	862-8257
<i>Union Carbide</i> Larry Mercier	783-4780
<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

Editor's Soap Box

The current section year is quickly drawing to a close. Soon it will be time to elect a treasurer who will go on to become section chairmen be serving in the successive offices. As said so well by Greg in his article (Page 1), you will gain much from serving as an officer of the section, and you will not be doing it alone.

Please consider becoming an officer—contact Greg with any questions.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout for this month's meeting. The section leadership, in keeping with bringing a variety of activities to the membership, have planned a plant tour. Come out and learn more about one of our local plants by taking the tour of the Occidental Taft Plant.

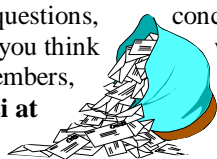
Have you ever considered making a presentation at one of the AIChE national meetings? This is another avenue for you to gain contacts in the chemical engineering profession and increase your "worth". Making presentations at such meetings is one of the best ways to gain recognition in your field of work.

Don't forget the section supports an outreach effort to the next generation of chemical engineers by the volunteer efforts of its members in the Tulane Mentoring program. If you are interested to becoming a mentor to up and coming chemical engineers, please contact Brian.

Are you in need of financial planning tools? AIChE national offers a full range of financial products. Several articles have appeared in past issues of this newsletter explaining some of the offerings. For full details, please contact AIChE at 1-800-98-AIChE and ask for the financial benefits kit.

Anthony J. Fregosi, Editor

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



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For more info contact Marvin Haydel at
Phone: **(504) 727-9770**
Fax: **(504) 674-0955**
Email: **marvin@leghornlearning.com**
Web: **www.leghornlearning.com**

OxyChem Taft Plant Tour

Please be sure to arrive at the "Cajun Cottage" no later than 5:00 p.m. There will be a 10 minute safety orientation prior to the tours beginning. The tour vans are being provided by Tulane. In the event anyone would like to park their car at Tulane, Brian says to be at Tulane before 4:00 p.m., which is when they are going to leave. Contact Brian for details.

(See "Tour" on page 6)

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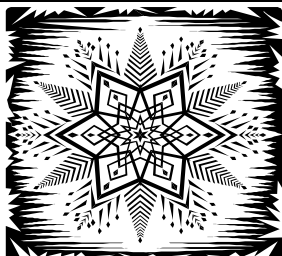
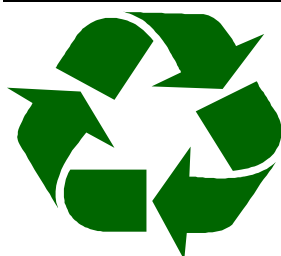
New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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.



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, Cytec Industries 10800 River Road Westwego LA 70094**

Other Meetings

2001

AIChE Management Conference - Scottsdale, AZ.
March 7 - 9

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
<u>Income</u>	
Dues/LES Proceeds	
Section Allowance/Misc. Bank Credits	
Meals	240
Total	\$ 240
<u>Expenses</u>	
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

SIGNS OF THE 2000's:

1. You try to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail your buddy who works at the desk next to you.
5. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South America, but you haven't spoken to your next door neighbor yet this year.
6. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have e-mail addresses.
7. You hear most of your jokes via email instead of in person.
8. When you go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
9. When you make phone calls from home, you accidentally insert a "9" to get an outside line.
10. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
11. Your company's welcome sign is attached with Velcro.
12. You have your resume on a diskette.
13. Your biggest loss from a system crash was when you lost all of your best jokes.
14. Your supervisor doesn't have the ability to do your job.
15. Contractors outnumber permanent staff and are more likely to get long-service awards.
16. Board members salaries are higher than all the Third World countries annual budgets combined.
17. It's dark when you drive to and from work, even in the summer.
18. You know exactly how many days you've got left until you retire.
19. You see a good looking, smart person and you know it must be a visitor.
20. Free food left over from meetings is your staple diet.
21. You're already late on the assignment you just got.
22. There's no money in the budget for the five permanent staff your department is short of, but they can afford four full-time management consultants advising your boss's boss on strategy.
23. Vacation time is something you roll over to next year.
24. Every week another brown collection envelope comes around because someone you DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WORKED THERE is leaving.
25. Your relatives and family describe your job as "works with computers".
26. The only reason you recognize your kids is because their pictures are on your desktop.

AND THE CLINCHERS ARE..,

27. You read this entire list, and kept nodding and smiling.
28. As you read this list, you think about forwarding it to your "friends you send jokes to" e-mail group.
29. You got this email from a friend that never talks to you anymore, except to send you jokes from the net.

[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.cytex.com]

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

(Continued from page 3)

Tour

Dinner after the tours will be at Esperanza's Restaurant which is near the plant.

The menu is as follows:

Tossed Green Salad
Seafood Stuffed Red Snapper
Roasted Pork Loin
Garlic Potatoes, Rice Pilaf
Steamed Broccoli, Corn
Dessert Table
Coffee / Iced Tea

Price will be \$25/person.

We need to provide a headcount to the restaurant before the meeting, so be sure to call in to Brian or your company contact by Friday, March 9th. After, that, you may not be guaranteed a dinner.

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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New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

(Continued from page 1)

Chairman

By being involved in a leadership role in the Local Section I also became very involved in the National Organization after attending an AIChE Officers' Conference. This Conference greatly expanded my friendships and contacts. I also accepted the role as Vice Chair for the Local Section Committee and have attended an additional Officers' Conference and two National Meetings. I am now Chair for the New Orleans Local Section and Chair for the Local Section Committee. I have found great satisfaction in these positions. My involvement in AIChE leadership has helped me realize the significant value of friendship, accomplishment and service.

I can also attest to the significant assistance that I have received from current and past Officers. Whenever I have been unable to meet a commitment, there has always been somebody available to fulfill my obligation. I have also received considerable valuable advice from current and past Officers. This advice has helped me make better decisions and provide better service to the Local Section. This same assistance will be available to the new candidates for Local Section Officers.

Sincerely,

Greg Tragitt

Chairman, 2000-2001

New Orleans Section AIChE

Professional & Technical Training

It is more important than ever to remain current in the Chemical Engineering Profession. AIChE provides an extensive number of courses to help the chemical engineer on the job stay up with the latest developments.

Here are just a few of the topics available.

ChE Essentials

- Distillation in Practice
- Industrial Fluid Mixing

Election Notice

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



The section is seeking candidates 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.

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@kbcac.com**.

Process Safety

- Consequence Assessment and Mitigation
- Fundamentals of Process Safety

To register for any AIChE Course: **1-800-242-4363**
or **www.aiche.org/education**

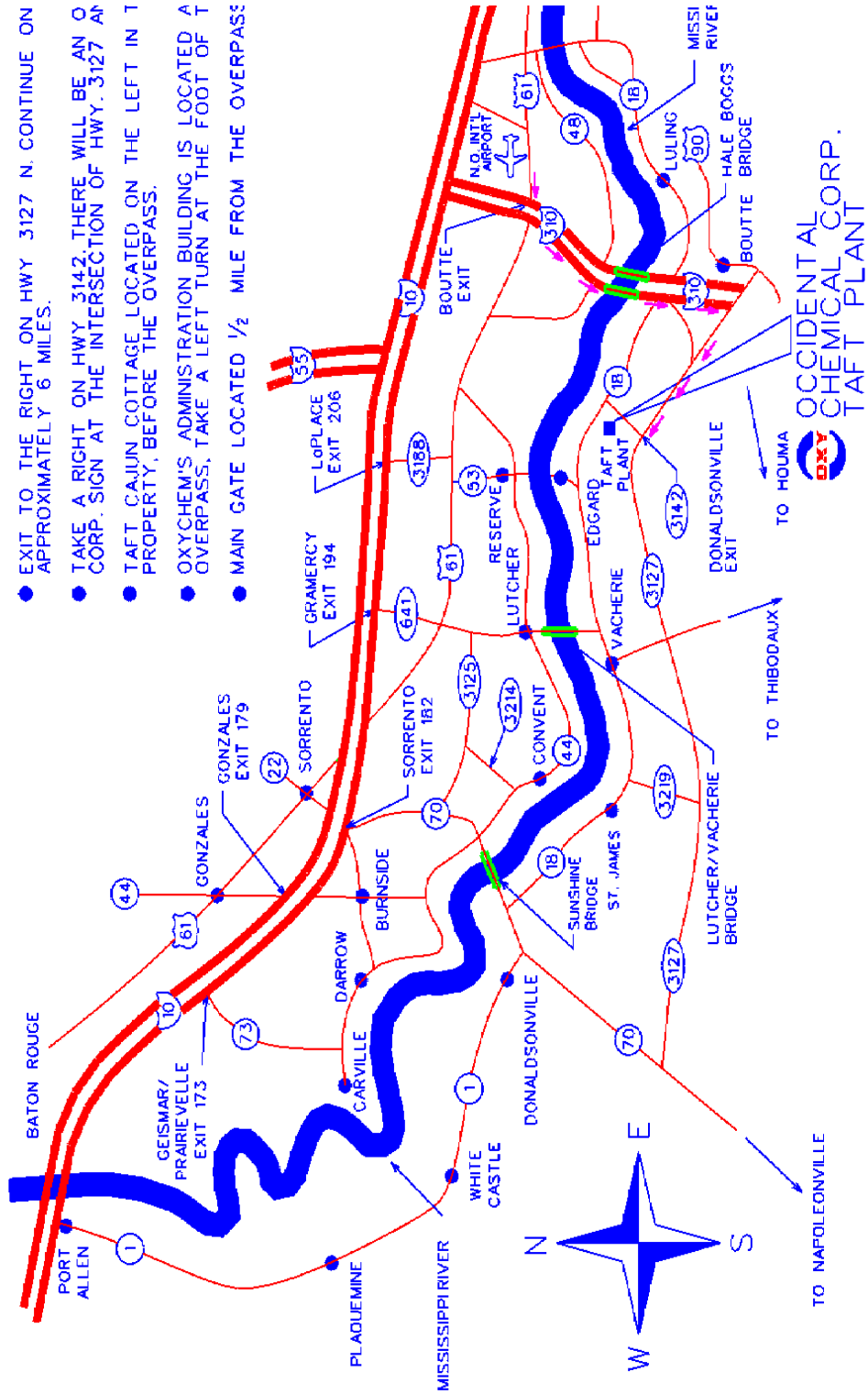
Look What's Coming!

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!

NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO TAFT PLANT

- FROM THE AIRPORT TAKE A RIGHT ON HWY 61 (NOF)
- DRIVE 3 MILES TO THE I-310 INTERCHANGE (BOUTTE)
- TAKE I-310 SOUTH TOWARD BOUTTE/BATON ROUGE. BOUTTE SOUTH EXIT TO GET ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE, TO HWY 3127 N (DONALDSONVILLE E)
- DRIVE ABOUT 6 MILES. ON I-310, WHICH INCLUDES THE RIVER BRIDGE, TO HWY 3127 N (DONALDSONVILLE E) APPROXIMATELY 6 MILES.
- TAKE A RIGHT ON HWY 3142, THERE WILL BE AN OXYCHEM CORP. SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF HWY 3127 AND HWY 3142.
- TAFT CAJUN COTTAGE LOCATED ON THE LEFT IN THE PROPERTY, BEFORE THE OVERPASS.
- OXYCHEM'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IS LOCATED AT THE OVERPASS, TAKE A LEFT TURN AT THE FOOT OF THE OVERPASS.
- MAIN GATE LOCATED 1/2 MILE FROM THE OVERPASS.



The Reactor



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New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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To:

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: March 13, 2001
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: OxyChem Taft Plant
266 Highway 3142
Hahnville, LA



“No problem can stand the assault of sustained thinking”

— Voltaire