

# The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 12, Issue 2, October 1999

## Second Meeting of the 1999-2000 Year

For our October meeting, Glen Irvin, Ph.D. candidate at Tulane University will be our speaker. Glen's topic will be, "Quality Control at Mesoscale Levels".

Glen has recently been awarded the ACS Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Graduate Student Award in Applied Chemistry & Engineering, as well as the Surface and Colloid Division poster board competition at the most recent ACS meeting in New Orleans.

He has already accepted an offer from Kodak to work at their research center in Rochester, NY.

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

## Meeting October 19, 1999 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, Glen Irvin
7:30 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

**Future and Proposed Meetings**

**November 23\*\*** - Norm Lieberman, Process Improvement Engineering,  
**Note Date Change** "High Quality Process Engineering"  
 (See Page 6)

**December** - No meeting due to the holidays

**January 18** - TBA  
**February 15** - TBA  
**March 14** - TBA  
**April 11** - Elections, Topic TBA

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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## Chair's Corner

Thank you for electing me to be the Chair of the New Orleans Section of AIChE for 1999-2000. I look forward to a good year that hopefully will be enriching for each of us. We have an excellent group of Officers this year: Greg Tragitt, Vice Chair; Keith Henderson, Secretary; and Brian Mitchell, Treasurer.

In addition to our regular dinner meetings, several important items were accomplished last year under the leadership of Chair Anthony Fregosi.

- \* The Section Bylaws were revised and approved by Council
- \* Our Section won the Catalyst Grassroots Award for 1999 for substantially increasing the number of members participating in the Catalyst grassroots advocacy program

(See Chair 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](mailto:brian@che.che.tulane.edu) or**

**Anthony Fregosi, [Anthony\\_Fregosi@fo.cytotec.com](mailto: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>
<b><i>Chevron Chemical</i></b>	Contact Needed
<b><i>Cytec Industries</i></b> Anthony Fregosi	431-6598
<b><i>DEQ Baton Rouge</i></b> Freddie Touro	504-765-0199
<b><i>Energy</i></b> Jim Dean	576-7174
<b><i>EPG, Inc.</i></b> Leon Barnet	445-0858
<b><i>KBC Advanced Technology</i></b> Don Hoppens	837-9228
<b><i>Monsanto - Luling</i></b> Mike Valentine	785-4511
<b><i>Nalco/Exxon</i></b> Joy Usener	1-800-366-2526 Ext. 1556
<b><i>Occidental Chemical</i></b> Linda Bergeron	783-7365
<b><i>Petro- Marine Engineering, Inc.</i></b> Robert Brown	364-4257
<b><i>Shell Chemical</i></b> Tom Brumfield	465-7125
<b><i>Steimle &amp; Associates</i></b> Dr. Steve Steimle	831-2574
<b><i>Tulane University</i></b> Dr. Brian Mitchell	862-8257
<b><i>Union Carbide</i></b>	Contact Needed
<b><i>Walk, Haydel &amp; Assoc.</i></b> Jasper Westbrook	586-8111
<b><i>Wink Engineering, Inc.</i></b> Bill Boutall	246-7924

# The Reactor

Volume 12 Issue 2, October 1999

*New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

(Continued from page 1)

## Chair

- \* The Section history was written and submitted to National for use at the Miami Annual Meeting in 1998.

Much was accomplished, but there is still plenty of work to keep us busy in the coming year.

The section goals planned for 1999-2000 are:

- \* Develop a closer relationship with the Tulane University AIChE student chapter.
- \* Form a Professional Development Committee to help provide for continuing education and approval of Professional Development hours.
- \* Start planning for the National meetings to be held in New Orleans in the next couple of years.
- \* Complete and publish a membership directory for the Section.

If you have a particular interest and would like to work on any of these, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

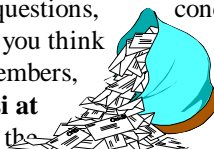
*Linda Bergeron*

Chairman, 1999-2000  
New Orleans Section



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

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



## Editor's Soap Box

The section is off to a fast start—and this will only be the second meeting of the year!

This month's speaker, from Tulane, begins what we hope will be a closer association with the school and its chemical engineering department.

Dr. J.B. Phillips, a past chairman of the section and long time active member has accepted the role of chairman for Professional Development activities. Please look for notices in upcoming newsletters of future professional development offerings. Also, if anyone has in suggestions or requests for professional development, please contact J.B. His phone number may be found on Page 2 under the list of officers.

Next month we feel we have an outstanding speaker that you will not want to miss. Norm Leiberman will be speaking to the section on quality process engineering. While the date is not the most ideal, we feel the effort to come out and hear Norm's presentation will be well worth the effort.

Work is already on-going on two of the four section goals that Linda has stated for this section year (For a list of the goals, please see her article starting on Page 1). There is still plenty of work to be done. If you would like to become more active and obtain leadership skills not easily obtained elsewhere, please contact Linda. Her phone number is listed on Page 2 under the officer list.

It is also not too early to start thinking about nominations for Treasurer for the 2000-2001 year. If you or someone you know is interested, please talk to Linda or Greg Tragitt (again, Greg's number is on Page 2).

Finally, please take note of the announcements for several upcoming classes and seminars. Most of these events offer Professional Development Hours (PDHs). As most of you are aware, it is now a requirement to obtain a set number of PDHs to maintain your P.E. licence. Obtaining PDHs is your responsibility.

Please join us at a future meeting—and be part of the excitement that is Chemical Engineering!

*Anthony F. Fregosi, Editor*

# The Reactor

## LOCAL SECTION MEMBER MAKES THE *New York Times*

One of our very own members was featured in the *New York Times*....**Bill Bilkovitch**, member of the Tallahassee Local Section, was hired as a consultant on a unique collaborative project entitled the Michigan Source Reduction Initiative. Dow Chemical and the New York-based environmental policy group, Natural Resources Defense Council, are normally seen as rivals, but recently put their differences aside and their heads together to come up with some ingenious pollution prevention and toxic waste prevention strategies. Bill acted as the middleman between the corporate giant and the environmental group. He was largely responsible for turning the dynamic tension into productive energy, which gave rise to clever discoveries.

One of Dow's major pollution problems involved butadiene, a chemical used to make rubber and resins. After conducting through research, Bill found that Dow could cut the amount of butadiene lost to incineration if a supplier would refrigerate the chemical before shipping.

*(See Member Makes Times on page 5)*

### Newsletter Advertisement Charges

	\$/Year	
Size	\$/Issue	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

#### 1999

AICHE Annual Meeting - Dallas, TX.

**October 31- November 5, 1999**

#### 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**

### N. O. Section Finances 1998-1999 (As of March 9, 1999)

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 4,471
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Dues/Newsletter Ads	\$ 2,294
Section Allowance	
Meals	1,005
Total	\$ 3,299
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Meals	\$ 936
Newsletter	880
Awards	100
Supplies & Postage	14
Community	25
Total	\$ 1,955
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 5,815
<b><u>Net Gain/(Loss)</u></b>	\$ 1,344

## Local Humor

Flying Cajun Airlines

Pierre and Boudreaux was flying Cajun Airlines. Boudreaux was flying da plane and Pierre was in da back foolin wit da cargo equipment an stuff.

Da plane hit some turbulence an started bouncing around an Boudreaux got knock unconscious. Then da plane started drifin. Pierre him come run up to da front an Boudreaux was sprawl out over da steerin wheel.

Well, Pierre don't know notin bout flyin an he start to get panaky. He grab da microphone and holla "May Day! May Day! Dis is Cajun Air Line 10210. Boudreaux, him knock unconscious an I don know nutin about flyin dis plane!"

"Dis is da control tower," someone answer. "Don you worry about nutin. We gona splain how fo you to land dis plane, step by step ah gar-on-tee! Jus leave aryingta us. Fus, how high are you an what's you position?"

Pierre thought a minute, den say, "I'm five ten an I'm all da way to da front of da plane."

"No! No!" answer da tower. "What's you altitude an where's you location?"

Pierre say, "Man ah got a po attitude, an I'm from Thibodeaux!"

"No! No! No!" came an exasperated voice. "Ah needs to know how many feet you got off da ground an how you plane's in relation to da airport!"

Pierre start to panic by dis time. He say, "Countin Boudreaux's an mine we got four feet off da ground an I don't believe dis plane's related to you airport!"

A long pause—"We needs to know who you next of kin is an where to send da flowers!"

[Ed—In the coming months, look for more—"You might be a chemical engineer if.....", and Tech. Humor. Also 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.cytec.com]

## Tulane Short Course

October 9 and 10, 1999; the Tulane Institute for Macromolecular Engineering and Science plans to offer a two day short course on the Chemistry and Properties of Polymeric Materials. In particular, we plan to address topics such as:

- Polymerization
- Molecular Weight Distribution and Determination
- Thermodynamics
- Kinetic Theory
- Processing
- Structure Property Relations
- Rheology
- Membranes

We estimate the cost including lunches, coffee breaks and one dinner, to be \$400.00. Travel and accommodations are the responsibility of the participants.

The course will be offered, provided we have a minimum of ten participants. Participants will receive a certificate of completion of twelve professional development credit hours.

For further information contact:

Professor Daniel DeKee  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
(504) 865-5620; fax, (504) 865-6744 or e-mail at [ddekee@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu](mailto:ddekee@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu).

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*(Continued from page 4)*

## Member Makes Times

Overall, Dow's investment of about \$3.1 million to make changes is expected to save it nearly \$5.4 million a year. Although companies and environmental groups have worked together in the past on pollution prevention, the depth and length of this partnership is said to be contributing to a new era of cooperation. According to Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,

*(See Times on page 7)*

## **You will not want to Miss November's Meeting**

Norman Lieberman of Process Improvement Engineering is to be our speaker for the November meeting. The meeting is to be held **November 23rd**. Please note the change in date from that previously published.

The title of Norman's talk will be "*High Quality Process Engineering*".

**Norman P. Lieberman** is a chemical engineer with 35 years of experience in process design and plant operators supervision. An independent consultant, he troubleshoots oil refinery and chemical plant process problems and prepares revamp designs.

Mr. Lieberman has taught more than 300 technical seminars on process equipment. He has also authored several books:

*"Troubleshooting Refinery Processes"* (PennWell)

*"Troubleshooting Process Operations"* (PennWell)

*"Troubleshooting Natural Gas Processing"* (PennWell)

*"Process Design for Reliable Operations"* (Gulf)

*"A Working Guide to Process Equipment"* (McGraw Hill)

You may visit Norm's web site at: [www.lieberman-eng.com](http://www.lieberman-eng.com)

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### **SET THE DATE:**

February 3 - 4, 2000

### **THE LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY WILL BE HOSTING THE 4TH ANNUAL JOINT ENGINEERING SOCIETIES CONFERENCE**

Event function include:

Meetings - Seminars

Exhibitors - Banquet

### **The Place: Hotel Acadiana; Lafayette, LA**

Contact **Brenda W. Gajan** at (225) 924-2021 for more information on this event. Vendor booth space will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

**This event can provide up to 10 Professional Development Hours (PDHs)**

# ***The Reactor***

## **AICHE Baton Rouge Section Sponsored Control Valve Class**

The Baton Rouge Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers will offer a day long class on "Control Valve Selection and Sizing". Mr. Kelly O'Neill from Flowserve's (formerly Valtek) home office in Utah has graciously offered to come in and teach the class. AIChE has approved seven (7) PDH credits to be earned toward continued registration as a Professional Engineer.

This class will be held at the Best Western Richmond Suites in Baton Rouge on Friday, October 29, 1999 from 8 to 5 with an hour for lunch and several breaks. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. The cost of the course is \$50 for members of any engineering society or ISA and is \$55 for non-members.

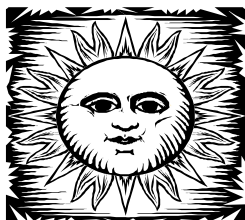
In order to reserve a spot in the class, send a check for the full amount made out to AIChE – Baton Rouge Section to:

J. L. Dalferes P.E.  
1358 Wellington Drive  
Baton Rouge, La., 70815

A map showing the hotel location and more information will be sent in your confirmation letter. If you are interested, please sign up early, as attendance will be limited and on a first come first served basis (80 max.). The fee will be refundable if the cancellation request is received in the mail by September 29th which will also be the last sign up date.

Out of towners may reserve rooms at a special rate beginning at \$84 by calling the hotel at **1-800-332-2582**. The address is **5668 Hilton Avenue**, near I-10 at College Drive. Be sure to state that you will be attending the class to receive the special rate.

Visit: [www.che.lsu.edu/braiche/index.htm](http://www.che.lsu.edu/braiche/index.htm) for more information.



## **LSU ChE gets \$10 Million Grant**

AIChE Fellow Gordon A. Cain and his wife Mary have donated \$10 million to the LSU Chemical Engineering Department, the largest private donation in the university's history. Cain is a prominent alumnus of the department.

Cain has been active in the chemical engineering profession for more than 60 years and has received several awards for his contributions to AIChE, including the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division award, and the John Fritz Medal for Notable Scientific or Industrial Achievement. He currently serves as an honorary trustee of the AIChE Foundation. Cain founded the Sterling Group and has been vice president of Conoco.

The Chemical Engineering Department will use the gift, together with \$5.2 million matching funds from the state of Louisiana, to fund five endowed chairs, several professorships, scholarships, and modernization of the undergraduate laboratories. In gratitude for the extraordinary gift, the LSU Board of Supervisors has renamed the department the "Gordon A. and Mary Cain Department of Chemical Engineering". Gordon's wife Mary has been director of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

*(Continued from page 5)*

### **Times**

"This partnership will almost certainly become a model nationally among companies looking to improve the environment and improve their bottom line."

Dow is already working with Bill to duplicate the Midland experiment at its larger petrochemical complex in Freeport, Texas. Way to go Bill!!

## **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, American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

Anthony F. Fregosi  
Cytec Industries  
10800 River Road  
Westwego, LA 70094

## **Dated Material Do Not Delay**

**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: October 19, 1999  
Time: 5:00 P.M.  
Place: Steak & Ale  
3870 Veterans Blvd.  
Metairie, LA***



**“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty  
of their dreams.”**

— Eleanor Roosevelt