

The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 13, Issue 1, September 2000

First Meeting of the 2000-2001 Year

Welcome to the 2000-2001 year of the New Orleans Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

As is the tradition, the first meeting will be a social at which members will be able to renew friendships and find out what happened over the summer recess.

Our social will be held at Dixie Brewery on Tulane Avenue near Carrollton. We will be treated to a tour of the brewery and then a social over pizza and beer.

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

Meeting September 12, 2000 at Dixie Brewing - Tulane & Carrollton New Orleans, LA

Cost is Free for paid section members.

5:00 - 5:30 P.M.	Check-In
5:30 - 6:00	Brewery Tour
6:00 - 6:15	Section Announcement
6:15 - 7:30	Social
7:30 P.M.	Planned Social Ends

Future and Proposed Meetings

- October 10** - "Refinery Optimization"
- November 14** - "Engineering Applications for the Web".
- January 9** - Bliss Higgins, DEQ., "Regulatory Issues"
- February 20** - Dr. Kim O'Connor, Tulane, "BioTech Overview"
- March 13** - "OxyChem Plant Tour"
- April 10** - Mario Diva, Hyprotech, "Dynamic Modeling"

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

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Chairman's Corner

As the recently elected Chair of the New Orleans Local AIChE Section I am very aware that I am responsible for serving the Local Section members. I wish to solicit input from each of the members so that I can effectively serve the membership. On a national level AIChE has a very effective Catalyst program to lobby congressional leaders. This program has not yet become available for state and local levels. Earlier in the year Tom Doolin, one of our newer members, contacted me regarding potential legislation that would impose a tax for using crude oil in Louisiana. He asked for the Local Section's help in lobbying against this onerous legislation. We didn't have a good system in place to effectively enlist assistance from the entire Local Section membership. We did however contact all the Catalyst Members within the Local Section and ask for them to contact their state representatives to lobby against the legislation.

(See "Chairman" on page 3)

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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-Garudy** **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:

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.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>	<u>Contact Needed</u>
<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>	<u>Contact Needed</u>
<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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Editor's Soap Box

The start of a new section year is upon us. *The Reactor* is chocked full of information. I hope you will agree.

Greg Tragitt, Chairman and Keith Henderson, Vice-Chairman for this year both attended the officer's conference and have returned with plenty of ideas. Please be sure to read Greg's comments under the "Chairman's Corner", if you have not already done so.

As we begin this new year, the section officers invites member input for programming or services. The section leadership will consider ideas that will make your membership more valuable. Please remember that the section is here to serve you.

Speaking of service, if you have a desire to become more involved with the workings of the section, please note the openings for company contacts. If you are interested in becoming a company contact, please give Jim Dean a call (His number appears on Page 2). If you would like to serve the section in some other capacity, please contact the chairman, Greg Tragitt.

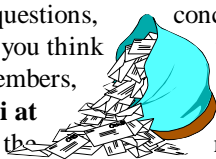
Formation of the General Arrangements Committee for the 2002 Spring National Meeting to be held in New Orleans has begun. If you think you might be interested in serving on this important planning committee, please contact me. It may seem early, but time will pass very quickly.

Finally, please note the special insert promoting the Engineering Forum being sponsored by Tulane University.

We look forward to seeing you at a future meeting or section event.

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 the newsletter.



(Continued from page 1)

Chairman

Although we had some impact; a better-organized effort would have been more effective. Because Tom demonstrated the need for a better system to involve the entire Local Section membership in state and local political issues, the Local Section will be working to improve this system. Linda Bergeron, the Local Section Past Chair, has agreed to continue in a leadership role to help achieve progress in achieving this goal. Tom Doolin and other members are encouraged to work with Linda in this effort.

I attended the AIChE Officers' Conference in Washington DC in June. During the Conference I had the pleasure of going to Senator Breaux's Office with Keith Henderson, our Local Section Vice-Chair, and Darlene Schuster, AIChE's Manager of Government Relations. During this visit we lobbied for legislation that would allow AIChE to offer health insurance under federal law like labor unions. Presently AIChE must comply with state and local laws because they are not given the same legal status as labor unions. I discovered that participation in the political process could be both fun and effective. This experience reinforces the need to support Linda in her efforts to build a system like Catalyst for the state and local levels.

Sincerely,

Greg Tragitt

Chairman, 2000-2001
New Orleans Section AIChE

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Please join in welcoming a new member to our section. Eric MacKender, recently graduated from Oregon State University, has located in the New Orleans Area.

Eric is a former AIChE Student Chapter President and a national member. (Sounds like a potential officer of the section!) He is currently a design engineer at Chevron Corporation. Eric says his interests include running and anything outdoors.

Be sure to introduce yourself to Eric at future meetings. Welcome Eric MacKender.

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Section Bids Farewell

The section has gained a new member, but at the same time it is losing a long time member. Such is the dynamic of membership.

The section is losing long time and very active member Tom Brumfield. Tom works for Shell Chemical at the NORCO facility. He works in the Capacity Utilization and Profitability Improvement Department. Tom is transferring to Houston where he will support activities for several of Shell's facilities.

Tom, a member since 1982 has served the section as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chair and in 1995 as Chairman. In 1996 he served as the General Arrangements Committee Vice-Chairman for the Spring National Meeting held that year. Tom served as Chairman of the GAC for the 1998 Spring National Meeting.

In 1996 Tom was awarded the Section's Engineer of the Year Award.

Please join the section in thanking him for his many years of service and in wishing him, his wife Sally, daughter Stephanie and son Phillip all the best.

By the way, Tom has a great house for sale! Anyone know of someone looking for a house?

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

2000

45th Safety in Ammonia Plants & Related Facilities Symposium - Tucson, AZ.

September 11 - 14

32nd Annual Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference (ECC) - Colorado Springs, CO

September 28 - 29

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

October 3 - 6

AICHE Annual Meeting - Los Angeles, CA.

November 12 - 17

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

N. O. Section Finances 1999-2000 (As of June 13, 2000)

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,006
Income	
Dues/LES Proceeds	\$ 2,812
Section Allowance/Misc. Bank credits	241
<u>Meals</u>	<u>2,024</u>
Total	\$ 5,077
Expenses	
Meals	\$ 2,027
Newsletter	2,067
UNO Science Fair Registration	325
<u>Awards & Plaques/Bank Charges</u>	<u>230</u>
Total	\$ 4,649
Ending Balance	\$ 5,434
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 428
Meeting Costs Gain/(Loss) YTD	\$ (3.39)

Humor

Don't Call 911 For This

You know how important it is to train workers on your company's emergency response plan — even if they never have to use it.

Here's an example of an emergency plan that may have required a little extra explanation.

A Fresno pilot radioed a control tower that his small airplane needed to make an emergency landing.

He landed the two-seater in a field. He and his passenger were okay.

But we're not sure this really counts as an "emergency situation."

Although the pilot initially blamed the emergency landing on a rise in the engine's temperature, once he was on land he told a different story. Turns out, both he and his passenger had to go to the bathroom.

Didn't anyone remind them to take care of that beforehand?

Attention, Everyone!

When it comes to safety training, of course you try to keep your workers so captivated they aren't distracted from your safety message.

Well, one Vancouver, Canada, lecturer seems to have the secret to keeping people focused.

During his presentation on the topic of life after death, one member of the audience accidentally kicked the chair of the person sitting in front of him.

Apparently angered by the distraction, the person turned around and stabbed the kicker with a small knife.

The nuisance dealt with, the stabber returned his attention to the speaker, while the victim left to get help and call the police.

No one else in the audience noticed a thing.

That must have been one heck of an interesting presentation!

[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]

Institute Begins Planning for Centennial Celebration

As AIChE's 100th anniversary approaches (the Institute was founded in 1908), the Board of Directors has started making plans for celebrating this milestone.

The Board approved the following resolution concerning plans to mark AIChE's 100th year.

Commemoration of the AIChE Centennial

By resolution of the AIChE Board of Directors, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers hereby initiates a Centennial Commemoration, a series of activities culminating in a Centennial Celebration during the week of November 9, 2008.

A Centennial theme will be chosen. The prior celebratory initiatives and culminating celebration will focus on the pivotal intellectual and economic forces acting on the profession throughout its history and the impacts of technology and society on one another. The Celebration will pay homage to the past, honor current contributors, and contemplate future directions for the profession.

The Celebration will be held during its Annual Meeting in 2008 in an appropriate city. The Centennial Commemoration initiatives will be developed under a special Centennial Celebration Committee appointed by the Board and will include representation from the Board of Directors, Operating Councils, staff and History Committee. The Centennial is the culmination of an effort that began in 1905, when, according to 75 Years of Progress: A History of AIChE from 1908 to 1983, "Richard Meade, founder of The Chemical Engineer, asked in an editorial 'Why not the American Society of Chemical Engineers'...He estimated that there were already 500 chemical engineers in the United States." AIChE began its split from the American Chemical Society in 1908 with two directives: one, it had to minimize direct conflict with ACS; and two, it had to clearly define what chemical engineering was and justify the profession as an independent discipline.

AIChE's Board of Directors welcomes the support of membership in the planning and implementation of the centennial celebration. For more information on how you can participate, please contact **Fiona Brennan**, assistant to AIChE's executive director, at **212/591-7333**; e-mail **fiob@aiche.org**.

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Officer and Board Candidates Announced

A group of esteemed Institute members have been put forward as candidates for election to the AIChE Board of Directors. The Institute's Nominating Committee has approved two candidates for Vice President, two for Secretary, and eight for Director. The committee, chaired by immediate Past President Gerhard Frohlich, is a cross-section of members from all levels of the Institute. The committee provided the slate after a thorough review of all potential candidates.

The 2000 Election Slate

Vice President Candidates

Bill Byers, CH2M Hill
Sid Sapakie, General Mills

Secretary Candidates

John Chen, Lehigh University
Steve Weiner, Pacific Northwest National Lab

Director Candidates

Nirmal Chatterjee, Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Chen-Hwa Chiu, Texaco
Barbara Glasscock, California State Polytechnic University
Dennis Hendershot, Rohm & Haas Company
Edgar Hernandez, Edgar Hernandez Patino & Assocs.
Jim Hill, Iowa State University
Peter Pujado, UOP
Mike Shuler, Cornell University
Robert A. Katin, Robert A. Katin PE Company

Profiles of the Vice President and Secretary candidates appeared in the June issue of *AICHEXtra*, followed by profiles of candidates for director in July. The August issue includes messages from each of the candidates indicating their vision for helping the Institute serve its members and the profession.

Institute rules prohibit the section from endorsing any particular candidate. Please support the candidate of your choice.

Remember it is your institute - Don't forget to vote!

Institute Meeting Members' Needs Where They Work

AIChE has committed itself to serving chemical engineers working in all industries. This effort is two-fold. By making sure that AIChE is at the forefront of all new technological developments, and keeping doors open for chemical engineers from every sector of the industry, the Institute is able to meet members' diverse personal and professional needs.

One example is in technical programming. As employment trends continue to shift, and chemical engineers become more involved in non-traditional fields such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, and microreactions, AIChE's programming has shifted accordingly.

This month's *AICHEXtra* features the committee that has driven AIChE's forays into new technological specialties. The aim of the Research and New Technology Committee is straightforward: follow the trends and ask the question "What are chemical engineers doing in today's workforce?" After the committee identifies a potential innovation, they reach out to the experts in the field, who then bring AIChE members the wealth of information needed to stay updated on the latest industrial advances. See page 2 for more details on this innovative committee.

The Institute also recognizes that there are many factors that go into success on the job. AIChE's Minority Affairs and Women's Initiatives committees were formed to help under represented groups create a professional network and expand their career horizons.

The Institute has now gone one step further with the creation of a Diversity Task Force. The task force, under the direction of the Societal Impact Operating Council, will examine the current state of the profession to see how AIChE can ensure that every source of talent within the chemical engineering arena is cultivated. At the heart of this is AIChE's desire to serve all chemical engineers.

Glenn Taylor, AIChE's executive director, pointed to the Research and New Technology Committee and the task force as ways for the Institute to continue reaching out to chemical engineers. "In today's global business climate, our members are perpetually adding abilities to their skill

(See "Meeting Members Needs" on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Meeting Members' Needs

sets. They do this so they can remain competitive and abreast of the latest chemical engineering innovations.

“To keep up with our membership, and help them maximize their potential, we are doing the same thing. When our Research and New Technology Committee adds a new topic to our already comprehensive technical programming, we are making sure that no technology—and, as a result, no chemical engineer—is left wanting. Similarly, when we put together a task force to study a situation that’s important not just to the profession but to society in general, we are accounting for all the factors that go into a successful career,” Taylor said.

AIChE president Bruce Finlayson also stressed the Institute’s professional and technical training program as a benefit to all members regardless of their field of specialty.

“Last month’s *AICHEXtra* had a comprehensive listing of our courses. It’s astounding not only for the variety of courses, but for the quality of the courses. What’s more, we ask our members what they need to learn before the class begins. That way, we can address their specific needs. This is of significant benefit to both our members and their employers,” Finlayson said.

As chemical engineers continue to branch out into new areas of discovery, the Institute is committed to leading the way with expansion of its offerings—coverage of new technologies, and the opening of doors for all chemical engineers. The Institute is again proving immensely helpful by assisting all chemical engineers in the attainment of their career goals, while simultaneously advancing the profession.

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.cyttec.com** for further information.

2000 TULANE ENGINEERING FORUM

Please see the insert for information about the Engineering Forum being sponsored by Tulane University. Cost of registration is \$125 for Tulane alumni and \$200 for the general public.

You may also visit the forum website at: www.eecs.tulane.edu/TEF2000.



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

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: September 12, 2000
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Place: Dixie Brewery
Tulane & Carrollton
New Orleans, LA***



“Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration”

— Thomas Alva Edison