

The Reactor

New Orleans Section
American Institute of
Chemical Engineers

Volume 21, Issue 2

December 2010

AICHE Section—New Orleans Hornets Game

The New Orleans Section is trying something new for December—attending a New Orleans Hornets Game December 1st.

There will not be a formal meeting with speaker for this event. Instead, the section will enjoy seating in the “Hugo Party Area”, pizza, popcorn, sodas and cake! Cost is \$32.50 per person and is open to anyone—students, members, member spouses, co-workers, friends even friends of friends.

We have seating for 50 and we do not have nearly that many signed up as of yet—so there is plenty of space.

On page 10 is the “signup” form. Just fill it out and mail it directly to the Hornets (address is on the form). Make checks payable to the “New Orleans Hornets”. Disregard the deadline shown on the form—you still have time to signup.

As of this writing, the Hornets are 8-0, the best start in franchise history and the only un-defeated team in the NBA.

We invite you to support this new event for the section and enjoy a night of fellowship, networking and good old fashion fun!



Company Contacts Needed

We are requesting that if anyone is interested in serving as a company contact in their organization on behalf of our section—to please contact either Linda or Bill Boutall.

The “duties” of the company contact is to promote section activities within their organization—such as notifying others about upcoming meetings, etc. You are also asked to “encourage” your colleagues, especially new “young professionals” to check out our activities and come join us.

Please see the next page for our current list of company contacts.

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Proposed Future Meeting Programs: (subject to change)

- Jan. 13th — TBA
- Jan. 20—21st — Joint Engineering Society Conference (See Page 12)
- Feb. 8th — TBA
- Mar. 17th — TBA
- Apr. 12th — TBA
- May 12th — TBA

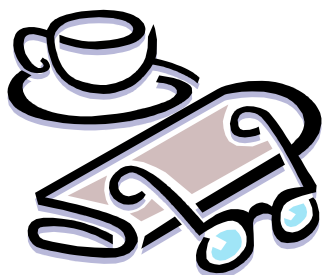


Section Officers

“Anyone wishing information regarding becoming an officer, should contact the Section Chairman”

“Please Contact Bill Boutall at 904-8665 if you would like to become a company contact – or to report any changes”

We are in need of several new company contacts.



Anthony F. Fregosi
Editor

“Send comments to
Anthony.Fregosi@cytec.com”

New Orleans Section Officers 2010-2011

Linda Bergeron , P.E.— Occidental Chem—linda_bergeron@oxy.com	Chair
Gimena Gordillo—Wink —gsgordillo@winkinc.com	Vice-Chair & Program Chair
James V. Alford II —Monsanto—james.v.alford@monsanto.com	Secretary
Byron McCaughey—Rubicon—byron_f_mccaughey@huntsman.com	Treasurer
Anthony Fregosi—Cytec Industries, Inc.—anthony.fregosi@cytec.com	Immediate Past Chair
Bill Boutall—Wink Companies—wcboutall@winkinc.com	Membership Chair & Director
Jim Dean, P.E.— Entergy—jdean1@entergy.com	Finance Chair & Director
Courtney Mumbower—Dow—cmumbower@dow.com	Education and YPAB Chair
Anthony Fregosi—Cytec Industries, Inc.—anthony.fregosi@cytec.com	Newsletter Editor
Juan Lopez—Sigma Engineers—juan.lopez@sigmaec.com	Web Master

Company Contacts

Sigma—Rachel Wiggins	504-355-3852	Nalco/Exxon—	<u>Contact Needed</u>
Chevron—Christopher Day	504-391-6584	Occidental —Linda Bergeron	985-783-7365
Cytec—Anthony Fregosi	504-431-6598	Petro-Marine Eng.—	<u>Contact Needed</u>
DEQ (B.R.)—Freddie Touro	225-219-3122	Shell-Upstream Americas — Stephen Kerns	<u>Stephen.Kerns@shell.com</u>
Entergy—Jim Dean	504-576-7174	Tulane Univ.—Dr. John Prindle	504-865-5774
EDG, Inc.— Wayne Page	504-934-2166	DOW—Courtney Mumbower	985-783-4303
ExxonMobil—Kate Hinsley	504-281-6372	URS (Walk)—Jay Hendrickson	504-599-4926
KBC.—Don Hoppens	504-837-9228	W.H. Linder—	<u>Contact Needed</u>
Monsanto—Aileen Girardot	985-785-3827	Wink Companies—Bill Boutall	504-904-8665

Editor's Soap Box

The section is making great strides forward in new programming and the laying down of plans for future events. The current slate of officers have infused the leadership with new ideas and energy.

I too have gotten a new opportunity to learn and contribute to our Institute. I have been accepted to serve

on one of the three AIChE “Operating Councils” — the Career and Education Operating Council also known as CEOC.

In following issues of the newsletter, I will more fully explain what the operating councils are and what they do.

In the mean time, my serving on CEOC means that our sections members, have a greater voice in Institute planning as I will be seeking your thoughts

on issues as they come before CEOC as it is appropriate to do so.

I would encourage you to seek greater involvement in our local section — by volunteering your time to help with future events and programming—or even to seek a leadership role by serving as a section officer.

As always, I look forward to working with you.



AIChE Membership Guide

Note: Access to the on-line membership guide requires a member logon username and password—supplied to those who have paid their national dues.

Newly redesigned, the [AIChE Membership Guide](#) is now available in an easy to read digital format online, 24/7, allowing you to quickly access information on key member benefits such as Career Services, ChemE on Demand, the AIChE eLibrary, CEP magazine, and more.

The digital format allows you to:

- Flip through pages like a printed brochure
- Link directly to AIChE web pages
- Zoom in and out
- Add your own notes
- Bookmark pages
- Search by keyword(s)
- View multiple pages at once
- Print one or range of pages
- Access at your convenience

If you have any questions or comments about how to use the digital Membership Guide, please contact us at customerservice@aiche.org or at 1.800.242.4363 (US) or 203.702.7660 (outside US).

Safety Brief—Continued

(Continued from “Safety Brief“ page 8)

He said the occupants — a father and mother, their two children and two dogs — escaped without injury after the explosion that occurred just before 6 a.m.

Robin Nowlin, 45, who lives across the street, said the home was engulfed in flames in within 2 minutes of a blast that sounded like “a cannon was going off.”

“There was a big boom and in no time flames went up on the side of the house near the garage and it just worked its way through the house,” Nowlin said.

“It was a devastating sight.”

Wood said the investigation is continuing and the property may be dug up on Monday.

Morgan Twp. firefighters were on the scene until around 3 p.m. Crews returned about 6:30 p.m. when the fire reignited.

(See “Safety Brief” on page 6)

News from AIChE Smart Brief

US chems, plastics shed jobs as overall Oct employment improves

05 November 2010 16:07 [Source: ICIS news]

HOUSTON (ICIS)--The US chemicals and plastics sectors shed jobs in October, the US [Labor Department](#) said on Friday, even as total non-farm employment moved higher and unemployment held steady.

Employment in chemical manufacturing dropped to a seasonally-adjusted 776,000 positions in October, down 0.3% from 778,000 [in September](#).

Meanwhile, jobs in the plastics and rubber products sector fell to a seasonally-adjusted 632,100, off 0.3% from 634,000 in September.

The chemicals and plastics declines went against the broader trend. Overall, US non-farm employment [rose by 151,000 jobs](#) in October while the unemployment rate held at 9.6%.

As such, the American Chemistry Council ([ACC](#)) said the report was welcome news, even considering the month-over-month drops for the industry.

“The report, coupled with the other reports lately, suggests the momentum of the [economic] recovery may be improving,” the group said.

Employment in temporary help services, health care and retail trade - specifically, for automobile dealers and in electronics and appliance stores - showed the strongest month-over-month growth, according to the Labor Department.

The overall increase of 151,000 jobs exceeded analyst expectations, but US President Barack Obama said the unemployment rate remained “unacceptably high”.

US recession unemployment peaked at 10.1% in October 2009 and has been “essentially unchanged” since May, the Labor Department said.

In downstream chemical sectors, manufacturing shed 7,000 jobs month over month while construction added 5,000 positions.

[Lyondell Basell: The Chemical Comeback Story of 2010](#)

by [Tony D'Altorio](#), *Investment U* Research
Thursday, November 4, 2010

If you want a good comeback story, check out Chemical firm **Lyondell Basell** (NYSE: [LYB](#)).

The world's third largest chemical manufacturer, it came about when Lyondell and Basell merged in December 2007. But things went wrong right from the start...

Swamped with \$24 billion in debt from mergers and acquisitions, management tried buying even more. Yapping about growth, they just added to their debt burden.

Additionally, prior management never truly integrated the two companies. So Lyondell and Basell still operated separately.

(See “AIChE Smart Brief” on page 5)



AIChE Smart Brief

Enter: [commodity price volatility](#), the global debt crisis and the economic downturn. And by January 2009, it was filing for Chapter 11.

Notably, it continued expanding even as it filed for bankruptcy.

These days, it has come full circle, with a recent listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

Even better, the Rotterdam-based company produces the world's largest amount of polypropylene and polypropylene compounds. And it's also a top global producer of ethylene, propylene and polyethylene.

All told, this company looks like a solid buy.

A New Sheriff in Town

Things finally began looking up for Lyondell Basell in May 2009, when Jim Gallogly became CEO. Previously, he headed exploration and production at **ConocoPhillips** (NYSE: [COP](#)), and had 29 years of experience running big assets.

Once in, Gallogly immediately went about pulling Lyondell Basell out of bankruptcy. It only took him until April 30, 2010, to do just that.

That was not easy to achieve.

- He had to fight off an unsolicited \$14.5 billion takeover bid by Reliance Industries earlier this year.
- He set benchmarks for the company's various chemical and refining facilities.
- He focused on obtaining the same cost structure, performance, emission levels, efficiencies and headcount as comparable facilities.
- And he cut \$1 billion in fixed costs savings and reduced the workforce by 3,000.

Finally, Gallogly realized the synergies from the 2007 merger by running it as one.

Of course, the Chapter 11 protection from creditors certainly helped. Among other debt and cost reductions, it enabled the company to convert \$18 billion of debt into equity.

In the end, Lyondell Basell eliminated \$1.7 billion per year in interest payments. With the \$1 billion in fixed costs savings, that amounted to \$2.7 billion in savings per year.

As conditions continue to improve in the industry, the company will explore selling non-core assets. And the [new CEO assures](#) it won't be making any acquisitions any time soon.

Timing Is Everything

Mr. Gallogly is seeking further savings today. By spending \$1 billion over the next five years, he hopes to improve energy efficiency across Lyondell Basell's 59 manufacturing sites in 18 countries.

With 75% of its products tied to energy, it needs to reduce those costs. Fortunately, the CEO has made good so far in this area.

The U.S. natural gas boom is certainly helping the company, with its 23 manufacturing sites in North America. Lyondell Basell is enjoying a glut of American shale gas and expensive crude oil right now.

For example, take ethylene, a basic petrochemical used in many plastics, which can be produced from gas-derived ethane or oil

(See "AIChE Smart Brief" page 6)

Upcoming National AIChE Mtgs.

International Conference on Biomolecular Engineering
Grand Hyatt San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
January 16-19, 2011

[Spring Meeting](#)

Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL
March 13-17, 2011

[Offshore Technology Conference \(OTC\) 2011](#)

Reliant Park
Houston, TX
May 2-5, 2011

[56th Annual Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium](#)

Sheraton Montreal Hotel
Montreal, QC
September 11-15, 2011

Safety Brief — Continued

(Continued from "Safety Brief" page 3)

By the time firefighters arrived — 9 minutes after they were dispatched — there was nothing they could do, said Wood, who added that the house went up like it was “gas-soaked.” One of the children in the home said his bed was blown 10 feet in the air. The boy said it felt “like an earthquake,” Wood said. “I don’t care if we were parked down the street or if we were here for a 50-year reunion,” he said. “It would have been the same outcome.”

Matt and Lisa Breitenstein are listed as the owners of the 2,614-square-foot home valued at \$236,000 built in 1991, according to the Butler County Auditor’s Office.

He said debris from the house was thrown 200 feet from the house. He said glass was seen on a neighbor’s roof and a set of French doors were found 25 feet away.

Firefighters from Reily and Crosby townships and the city of Harrison also responded. The American Red Cross was on scene, and the occupants were assisted at a neighbor’s home.

A woman who has lived on Buck Ridge Drive for about six years said the blast awoke the entire neighborhood. The woman said she and other neighbors are amazed that other homes on the street were not affected and are thankful the family escaped unharmed. “It’s absolutely a miracle. It’s something I’ll never forget.”

Staff Writers Hannah Poturalski and Eric Robinette contributed to this report.

AIChE Smart Brief —Continued

-derived naphtha. From the mid-1980s through 2003, neither really had an advantage; U.S. firms relied more on natural gas and European firms on oil.

The boom and bust in U.S. [natural gas prices](#) initially made producers here uncompetitive. But ethane-reliant U.S. chemical companies like Lyondell Basell now have margins of 14-15 cents a pound, compared with about zero for naphtha-dependent European plants.

So Lyondell’s 20% higher revenue and ensuing profit in the third quarter comes as no surprise.

A year earlier, it recorded a loss. And while the industry usually suffers in the fourth quarter, Gallogly commented on conditions holding “reasonably well during October.”

Lyondell Basell is well positioned for the next few years before the next ethylene cycle peak. And more importantly, natural gas prices — which hit a record \$13.69 per million BTU in July 2008 — shouldn’t be spiking to double-digit levels again anytime soon.

That gives the company just one more thing to bank on... and investors one more reason to bank on it.



Church Humor — Boudreaux—Life told by Graphics (Part II)



“Laughter is the best Medicine.”

Did you know that churches in Las Vegas accept gambling chips

This may come as a surprise, but there are more Catholic Churches in Vegas than casinos.

Not surprisingly, some worshippers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the basket is passed.

Since they get chips from many different casinos, the churches have combined to devise a way to collect the offerings.

The different churches send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan monastery for sorting and then then the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in.

This is done by the chip monks.

4 Worms Church Sermon!

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol- Dead

The second worm in cigarette smoke- Dead

Third worm in chocolate syrup - Dead

Fourth worm in good clean soil- Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation - What did you learn from this demonstration???

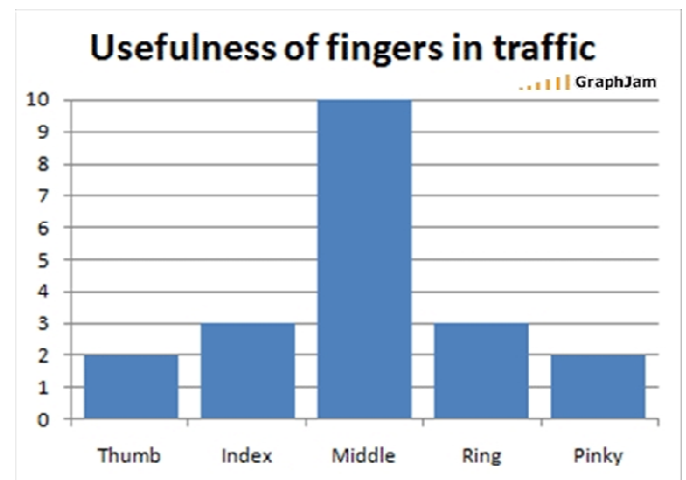
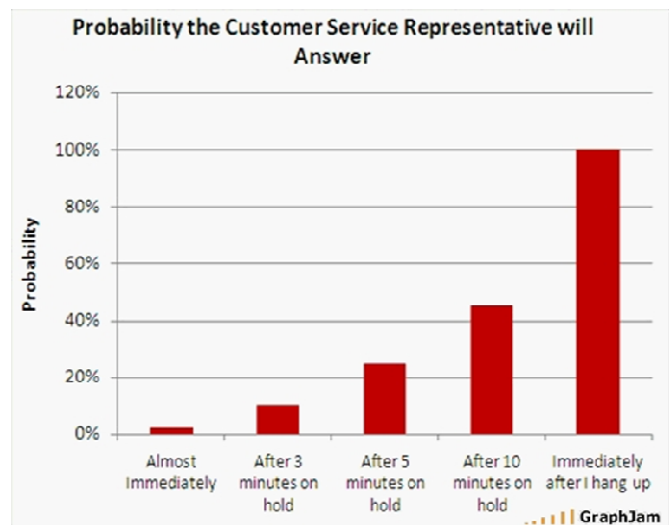
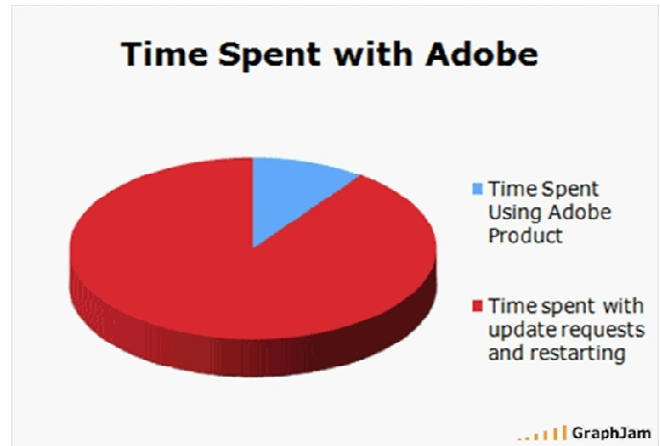
Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said,

'As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!'

That pretty much ended the service.

(See “Humor” on page 10)

Finally, visual evidence of what we've thought was correct all along—Life told by Graphics.



Safety Brief**Tesoro Refinery Sulphuric Acid Spill Contained**
Created by Brian Shields on 11/12/2010 12:46:00 PM

MARTINEZ (KRON) -- An acid spill at Tesoro's Golden Eagle Refinery on Friday has now been contained, plant officials say. Friday's incident came at the same plant where a power outage Wednesday prompted a shelter-in-place order for people in North Concord and surrounding areas.

No such order was issued on Friday. Officials say 84 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked from a tank into a concrete basin. This caused no off-site problems, officials say. The acid leaked from a pipe coming from a tank.

A vacuum truck is sucking the excess acid back up.

Officials say there's no connection between this spill and Wednesday's power outage which pumped black smoke into the air and led to the shelter-in-place order.

There are no reports of injuries connected to either incident.

(Copyright 2010, KRON 4, All rights reserved.)

Disaster engulfs home but four people and two pets escape the house without injury.

By Nick Graham, Tiffany Y. Latta and Rick McCrabb, Staff Writers Updated 2:01 AM Friday, November 5, 2010

MORGAN TWP. — Morgan Twp. Fire Chief J.R. Wood said it's "a miracle" no one was injured in a propane explosion that leveled a two-story house Thursday morning.

Wood said the fire may have started in the basement of the house at 3941 Buck Ridge Drive.

(See "Safety Brief" on page 3)



\$18/year

New Members Are Always Welcome

If you would like to become a member of the section, please contact the Membership Chairman listed on Page 2.

Newsletter Advertisement Charges

Size	\$/Issue	\$/Year 9 Issues
Business Card	\$ 16	\$ 100
1/4 page	\$ 40	\$ 250
1/2 page	\$ 80	\$ 500
Full Page	\$ 160	\$1000

To order an advertisement, Please contact **Anthony Fregosi**, Anthony.Fregosi@cytec.com

**Job Search And Employment Tips (Part II)** — by Glen Williams, Director of E-Home Fellowship, Co.

If you don't have a job, make finding a job, your job. Many people who are out of work wait until their severance pay runs out, their unemployment insurance runs out or their savings run out...then start looking. Finding a job takes time, sometimes years. What are you waiting for? Here are some tips to finding work:

1. Polish and tailor your resume.
2. Expand your effort. Many people search a few hours a week for work. Once they've checked one or two leads or filed an application...they're done for the week. If you don't have a job, make finding a job, your job...full time! Run down every lead. Ask for more leads everywhere you go. If they don't have a job, ask if you can leave a resume anyway. Ask if they know of anyone else in their business you could approach...their suppliers, their competitors. Ask all your friends and family and all their friends and family. Ask all your past employers and co-workers.
3. Expand your interview skills.
4. Expand your follow-up. A thank you letter is great, but what do you do afterwards? How about calling and asking a week later how they are coming? If it's a real good opportunity, how about visiting a week after the interview? Even if they don't see you, they'll hear you tried to see them. That may be all it takes to tip the scale in your direction. I was hired as an "on-call" employee once, but I wanted a full time, permanent position. So, I showed up in the personnel office at the beginning of each business day. I got work every day and, within a month, I was their next full-time employee. Look for ways you can show initiative and stand out.
5. Expand your marketable skills. The demands of the business world are ever more complex, yet most people expect to earn more money and benefits on the skill set they developed decades ago in high school or college. Want to earn more? Offer more! Go back to college or improve your business skills.
6. Expand your field. Sometimes people have a great skill set but are unwilling to apply those skills to a different field. If you're stuck in a dead end field or one that leaves you unemployed, maybe it's time to look elsewhere. They just aren't buying many buggy whips since they started buying cars.
7. Expand your territory. Many people limit their income potential because they refuse to relocate from an area where there is little opportunity. Be willing to move for a good opportunity.
8. Expand your value. Be willing to take a lesser position or even work some time for free to get your foot in the door so you can show them your skill and initiative.

Note: Once you get the job you want, don't stop looking for work. There is nothing wrong with finishing your duties early and asking the boss for more work. There is nothing wrong with starting early, working through break, or staying late. Once management figures out who they can count on, you can start counting on a raise or a promotion. It amazes me how many people do average work (show up on time, do what they are assigned to do, get along with other employees) and expect above average pay. If you want to be paid more, do more than what they're paying you for.

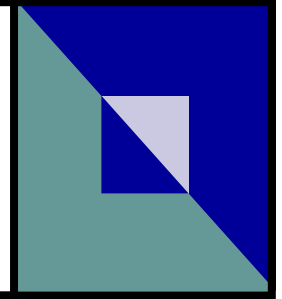
Self-Employment, Creating Your Own Job:

Don't be afraid of this. Sometimes you can make more money and be far more satisfied working for yourself than you can working for someone else. If you're adequately skilled, don't be afraid of examining the possibility of starting your own business. Did you know if you live near a city of 500,000 or more, have a car and internet access, you can make \$ 2,000 a month part time, purchasing and listing used books on the Internet? You can make over \$ 8,000 a month in your own espresso drive-thru at a good location. It saddens me to see so many people with outstanding skills and ambition bouncing their heads against a glass ceiling because they are considered a threat by their bosses. If you're willing to develop the additional skills needed, the Internet is the next great frontier of business opportunity for anyone who wants more than a 9-5.

Employment Tips Conclusion:

No matter where you are in your job search...out of work, looking for a career transition or just looking to add some money to your income...finding employment is hard work and full of rejection. If you're like me, you can use a little help staying in the game until you find the right opportunity, and then knowing and acting on that opportunity.

New Orleans Hornets Game December 1, 2010



American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Don't miss your chance to see CP3 and the Hornets as they take on the Charlotte Bobcats for a night full of excitement and entertainment!

NEW ORLEANS ARENA
December 1, 2010 at 7PM

Ticket package includes seating in the Hugo Party Area, pizza, popcorn, sodas, and cake!



VS



Location	# of Tickets	Price	Total
Press Box		\$32.50	\$
		Total Amount	\$

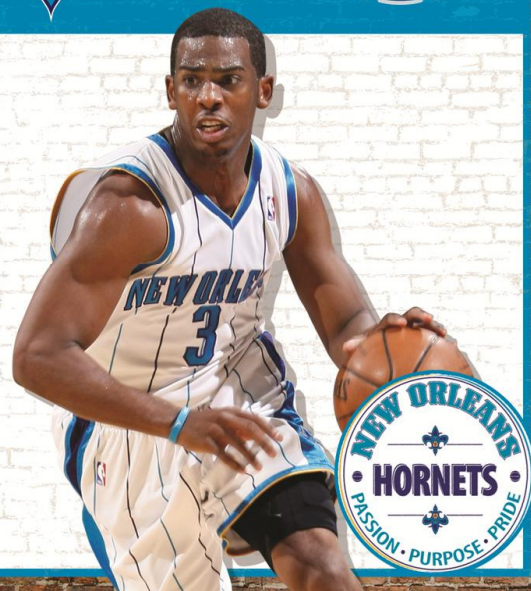
**Deadline: November 10, 2010*

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: _____
 Payment: VISA _____ MC _____ AmEx _____ DISC _____ Check/Cash _____
 CC #: _____ Exp: _____
 Signature: _____ CC Verification #: _____

To purchase tickets return this form with payment to:
 New Orleans Hornets, Attn: David Kees, 1250 Poydras St. 19th Floor
 New Orleans, LA 70113 or fax to 1-866-236-0584.

QUESTIONS?
 Contact David Kees with the New Orleans Hornets at 504-593-4748 or
 David.Kees@hornets.com

Make checks payable to the New Orleans Hornets



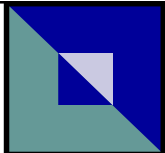
Humor—Continued

Down in Lafourche Parish in Louisiana, Boudreaux gets a job with BP helping with the Oil spill cleanup. He reports for work and is told to speak to a supervisor about his assignment.

He finds the man and asks, "What it is, I supposed to do?"

The supervisor tells him to go to the animal shelter and clean the pelicans.

Two hours later, Boudreaux comes up to the supervisor and says, "Okay, dey all cleaned. You want me to cook some rice to go wif em?"



New Orleans Section
American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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Serving Chemical Engineers....Who
Serve the World

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://www.aiche.org/NewOrleans>



Quote of the
Month

"In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a congress."

-- John Adams

Event Notice!

Date: December 1, 2010
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: New Orleans Arena
1501 Girod St.
New Orleans, LA

See: Page 10 for event form.



Quantum

Technical Services, Inc.

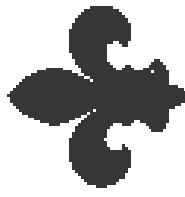
1.877.461.7200

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1995 "Randall D. Sheeline Award", for excellence in public relations activities.
1999 "Catalyst Grassroots Award", for support of the grassroots advocacy program.
2001 "Marx Isaac's Award", for excellence of a small local section newsletter.*



Top 5 Reasons for attending the 15th Annual Joint Engineering Societies Conference

- Earn up to 12 professional development hours during the 2 day event
- Interaction with fellow engineers from ACEC, ASAE, ASCE, ASME, AICHE, IEEE, IES, LES, LEF, LSPE, and SPE
- 4 simultaneous tracks with multi-discipline engineering related topics including Ethics Seminar
- Celebrate the accomplishments of fellow engineers at the Awards Luncheon
- Financially support technical organizations through your presence at this conference

For complete program and registration information see www.lcs-state.org.
Attendance limited to first 300 – early registration deadline is January 8th.

January 20 & 21, 2011 in Lafayette at the Holiday Inn Lafayette,
2032 N.E. Evangeline Thruway, hosted by the Louisiana Engineering Society.



**Louisiana
Engineering Society**

