

The Reactor

New Orleans Section -
American Institute of
Chemical Engineers

Volume 18, Issue 2
February 2006

Chair's Corner



Anthony F. Fregosi
Chair, 2005-2006
New Orleans Section AIChE

February was to have been our sixth meeting of the year—but as we all know, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29th and changed our lives forever.

Not only have our various companies been affected, but many of our members were personally affected as well. Some of our members have had severe flooding or complete loss of their homes. Many of them are currently relocated to other cities and even to other states. I would like to personally

and on behalf of our section extend my prayers to all of our members and their families who have been impacted.

It is however, time to begin the process of moving forward and of recovering. I know this will be a long and difficult (even painful) process, but we will recover. The local section must also recover and that process of recovery has already begun. Michael Waguesspack (Middleberg, Riddle & Gianna), our Vice-Chair and Program Chair, despite being displaced to Baton Rouge, has been working on re-establishing our meeting program for the remainder of the year. Please look to this newsletter and to periodic e-mails regarding our programming as it is finalized.

We also have two individuals who have expressed an interest in joining the section. Doris Grego and Ken-

neth Fountain both with DuPont Performance Elastomers L.L.C. Please be sure to welcome them when you see them at a future meeting.

Courtney Frawley (Monsanto) has been asked to work on establishing a "Young Professional" group within the section. Rachel Wiggins (Albert Garaudy Consulting Engineers) and I are working on establishing outreach programs connected with E-Week activities. Please read future newsletters or contact me if you would like more information about any of our programs.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve as an officer, committee, etc., please contact either myself or any of our officers or company contacts.

I hope to see you at a future meeting.

Inside this issue:

<i>Officers & Company Contacts</i>	2
<i>Editor's Soap Box</i>	2
<i>Articles</i>	3-6
<i>Humor</i>	7
<i>Announcements</i>	8
<i>Section Ads</i>	9

Proposed Future Meeting Programs: (subject to change)

- **March 23, 2006**
Dan Borne of the LA Chemical Association (Joint Mtg. with Baton Rouge Section)
- **April 4, 2006**
Dept. of ChE—Tulane University—Freshman Panel Discussion and Meet the Faculty (See details on Pg. 9)
- **May 2006**
Valero — St. Charles Refinery

Joint Mtg. with LES—Corps of Engineers

The February meeting will be held jointly with the Louisiana Engineering Society. Our speaker will be Col. Wagenaar of the Army Corps of Engineers — New Orleans District.

The meeting will be held at the Plimsoll Club in the World Trade Center (WTC) building in downtown New

Orleans.

See: http://www.plimsollclub.com/images/im_map-dir.gif
For directions.

One AIChE attendee will win a ticket to the 6th Annual Tulane Engineering Forum—a \$200 value!

Meeting Schedule
Cost: \$40.00/person

6:30 — 7:00 P.M.	Social
7:00 — 7:30	Dinner
7:30 — 8:30	Speaker
8:30 — 8:45	Meeting
8:45 P.M.	Adjourn



Section Officers

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

“Please Contact Jim Dean at 576-7174 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 2005-2006

Anthony Fregosi—Cytec Industries, Inc.—431-6598	Chair
Michael Waguespack—Middleberg, Riddle & Gianna—207-7340	Vice-Chair & Program Chair
Rachel Wiggins, P.E.—Albert-Garaudy and Associates—846-6581	Secretary
Dr. John Prindle, P.E.—Tulane University—865-5774	Treasurer
Dr. Paul Fanning, P.E. (Relocated to West Virginia)	Immediate Past Chair
Bill Boutall—Wink—243-4539	Membership Chair & Director
Jim Dean, P.E.— Entergy—576-7174	Finance Chair & Director
Ron Ondechek —237-2085	Education Outreach Chair
Anthony Fregosi—Cytec Industries, Inc.—431-6598	Newsletter Editor
Dr. Brian Mitchell—Tulane University—862-8257	Web Master

Company Contacts

Albert-Garaudy and Associates— Rachel Wiggins 846-6581	Nalco/Exxon—Joy Usener 1-800-366-2526 (Ext. 1285)
Chevron Chemical—Christopher Day 391-6584	Occidental Chem.—Linda Bergeron 783-7365
Cytec Industries—Anthony Fregosi 431-6598	Petro-Marine Eng.— Contact Needed
DEQ (B.R.)—Freddie Touro 225-219-3122	Shell Chemical— Contact Needed
Entergy—Jim Dean 576-7174	Tulane Univ.—Dr. Brian Mitchell 862-8257
EDG, Inc.—Leon Barnett 455-0858	UCC/DOW— Courtney D. Frawley 985-783-4303
ExxonMobile—Tom Doolin 281-6154	URS (Walk)—Jay Hendrickson 599-4926
KBC Advanced Tech.—Don Hoppens 837-9228	W.H. Linder—Herb Roussel, P.E. 835-2577 (Ext. 3143)
Monsanto, Luling—Ralph Zamora 785-4580	Wink Engineering—Bill Boutall 246-7924

Editor's Soap Box

Certainly the last couple of months have been like no others any of us can remember. Unfortunately, some of our officers, members and their families are still going through difficulties as they attempt to put their lives back in order. Our heart goes out to them and we offer them our help in any way we can be of assistance.

As an organization, the section has also been trying to put itself back together. Our Vice-Chair/Program Chair, despite personnel difficulties has been able to salvage several of our planned meetings for this year. Hopefully you will be able to be with us to share what will be very interesting and timely programming.

In addition to our traditional

meetings, we are working on e-week outreach efforts and the establishment of a young professionals advisory group.

We have had two recent inquires into membership — so we hope the section will be getting some “new blood” — which is important to any organizations long term health.



Article of the Month — “The Joy of Toys”

Old-Time Toy Story

By: Margaret Hill

Try to place the following toys in order of their invention: crayons, plastic doll, Teddy bear. If you put the plastic doll either second or last in the list, you need to guess again. Kids were playing with plastic toys at least 10 years before either Teddy bears or crayons were introduced, both of which came on the market in 1903.

The plastic of that age was celluloid, a now almost obsolete material. But, from the late 1800s until the 1930s and '40s, celluloid was used in making all kinds of everyday consumer items, including toys. To see some examples, visit eBay's Web site and run a search for “celluloid toy”—a couple of hundred should pop up. You can also see them at the National Plastics Center and Museum in Leominster, MA, where museum historian and author, Keith Lauer, displays his large collection.

Among the toys you will see on eBay are still-popular figures such as Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, and Pluto, although they obviously had a different “look” 60, 70, 80 years ago. Two of Keith Lauer's favorites are his Jackie Coogan and Becky Thatcher figures. And then there is Lauer's “little boy throwing dice” figure, about which he says, “That toy sold for five to ten cents when it was made. One of them sold on eBay not too long ago for \$340—I wish I had more of them.”

Beyond their intrinsic charm and value as collectibles, celluloid toys represent an important era in the history of plastics. Celluloid was the original granddaddy plastic. Although other plastic substances had been developed prior to celluloid, celluloid was the first to be successfully used in commercial manufacturing. Processes developed in celluloid manufacturing were the forerunners and models that helped shape the modern plastic industry.

The history of celluloid itself is described on a variety of Web sites and in printed sources, including Lauer's book, *Celluloid Collector's Reference and Value Guide*, co-written with Julie Robinson. (A list of sources appear below.) According to these sources, a hefty cash prize inspired the invention of celluloid.

It was 1863 when the billiard ball company, Phelan and Collander, offered \$10,000 to anyone who could produce a suitable synthetic substitute for the ivory then used in billiard ball manufacture. Apparently, the combination of dwindling ivory supplies and problems associated with making balls from ivory drove the firm to look for a cheaper, more efficient alternative.

John Wesley Hyatt, a printer from Albany, NY, was motivated by the announcement to experiment with a substance called collodion, a solution of nitrocellulose in ethanol, which dried as a hard film. It was used to protect minor skin cuts and injuries that printers often experienced in their work. Hyatt was convinced that he could find a way to make nitrocellulose behave like ivory.

By 1869, Hyatt had indeed found a way to convert nitrocellulose into a smooth, hard, ivory like material. His breakthrough involved mixing camphor with nitrocellulose, heating the mixture, and then putting the mix under pressure. The result was celluloid.

(See Joy on the next page)

Joy

Hyatt wasted no time in applying for several patents to cover his invention and his methods for working it into useful consumer products. He and his brother, Isaiah, established the Celluloid Manufacturing Company in 1871 and began producing denture plates, combs, knife handles, piano keys, and other items that traditionally had been made with ivory, tortoise shell, or animal horn. Ironically, Hyatt never was able to apply his celluloid as a material for making billiard balls of the quality demanded by the billiards industry, and so he never won the \$10,000 award.

Celluloid did go on to win other fame. By the 1890s, when Hyatt's patents expired, other companies began moving into celluloid production. According to Keith Lauer, toy making was pretty quickly adopted by some of them, using a blow-molding process for that purpose.

Blow-molding involved sandwiching two sheets of celluloid in between the two pieces of a two-part mold. Hot air was then forced through a needle inserted between the sheets, causing the celluloid to flatten against the walls of the mold. A heat-sealed seam joined the two celluloid pieces together and the shape was complete; painted details were then added. Lauer notes that one indication that a toy is made from celluloid is the telltale seam.

He also explains about the demise of celluloid toys. With the invention of injection molding in the 1930s, Lauer says, companies moved on to materials that were better suited to this process; celluloid was not. Besides, he says, celluloid is flammable—it wasn't a safe product to make or to keep in one's home. So, the grandfather of plastics was retired. The only items still made out of celluloid these days are ping-pong balls.

As for Phelan and Collander's \$10,000 prize, it's likely that no one ever collected the award. It was bakelite, invented by John Baekeland in 1907, that eventually became the long sought-after substitute for ivory in billiard ball manufacture. Today's billiard balls are made of phenolic resins that are based on the original bakelite.

Still, a big cash award may yet land in someone's hands as the result of John Wesley Hyatt's celluloid invention—when the “little boy throwing dice” sells on eBay for \$10,000.

Resources with historical information about plastics:

The National Plastics Center and Museum

The American Plastics Council

The Society of the Plastics Industry

The Plastics Historical Society

Keith Lauer and Julie Robinson. 1999. *Celluloid Collectors Reference and Value Guide*. Collector Books, Paducah, KY.

Jeffrey L. Meikle. 1995. *American Plastic: A Cultural History*, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ.

Robert Douglas Friedel. 1983. *Pioneer Plastic: The Making and Selling of Celluloid*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.



Local Section News and Events

Important Dates for Local Sections

February 19-25, 2006 National Engineers Week

April 23 - 27, 2006 AIChE Spring National Meeting, Orlando, FL

March 31, 2006 ProjectConnect Grant Deadline

June 2-4, 2006 2006 Leadership Development Conference, hosted by the South Texas Section

AIChE 2006 Spring National Meeting

Don't miss AIChE's [2006 Spring National Meeting](#), April 23-27, 2006, in Orlando, FL. [Register online today](#) or call 1-800-242-4363.

Local Sections Committee Meeting, Monday, April 24, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm EST

Come to this luncheon meeting and share your ideas about local section activities and programming, and discover how the Local Sections Committee is improving communications and providing resources to local section leaders. An agenda will be posted in the near future.

Volunteer Leadership Recognition Reception, Monday, April 24, 7:00 - 9:00 pm EST

If you are a registered attendee of the 2006 Spring Meeting, we invite you, in recognition of your leadership contributions, to the Volunteer Leadership Recognition Reception. Meet and greet your fellow volunteers and leaders of AIChE's Board of Directors, local sections, divisions/forums, committees, and operating councils. RSVP to anets@aiche.org by April 4, 2006.

Congratulations! December 2005 ProjectConnect Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the December 2005 ProjectConnect Grant Recipients and the strong applications they submitted: Charleston, National Capital, Baton Rouge, Coastal Bend, and the Pittsburgh Local Sections! Read more about the activities supported by the [John J. McKetta ProjectConnect Grants](#). Apply for the next round of ProjectConnect Grants by **March 31, 2006**.

For more information about how to apply online, or to download an application visit <https://www.aiche.org/apps/mag/sections/pcgrant.asp>

SAVE THE DATE! -- 2006 Leadership Development Conference, June 2-4, 2006, Houston, TX, Hosted by the South Texas Section

Save the date and get ready for a great weekend of networking, information sharing, and fun. Keep your eyes open for more information and conference schedule on the AIChE website.

National Engineers' Week - Outreach and Education Opportunities for Local Sections -

Please let us know your local section's planned activities at localsections@aiche.org and/or share your ideas on the [topica.com](#) local sections discussion board. As you know, National Engineers' Week is the time to reach out to our local communities and celebrate the many contributions engineers' make to the quality of our lives. For more information about how to get your section involved in these programs please visit the Engineers' Week Web site -- <http://www.eweek.org/>

Member Benefits and Information

Volunteerism – Best Practices

The CEOC (Career and Education Operating Council) has developed a packet as a means to help AIChE leaders build and maintain a solid volunteer base. This package was developed from information obtained at the Volunteer Participation Workshop held at the 2002 Leadership Development Conference, the discussions of the 2001 Critical Issues Task Force, and the experience of our members as part of a comprehensive review. The document offers a list of Best Practices which can be converted to concrete specific actions that will have an impact and can be adapted to the needs of any organization.

JETS – Junior Engineering Technical Society National Engineering Design Challenge Competition

The first annual JWOD/JETS NEDC Finals Competition will take place February 17, 2006, in Washington DC. Come see how the top five teams of high school students from across the country will present their working prototypes that will help a person with disabilities enter or advance in the workplace, before a panel of experts. For more information, please contact Gina Ord at gord@jets.org or visit <http://www.jets.org/programs/nedc.cfm>

Local Section Winter/Spring Meetings Speakers

Have you seen a dynamic speaker lately? At a local section meeting or elsewhere? If so, please share the speaker information with AIChE National at localsections@aiche.org

Salary Wizard – courtesy of Salary.com

Check out the new salary wizard for the most current salary statistics and career resources. Please visit at <http://aiche.salary.com>

Grogan Advisory Services

Is the financial services firm for all AIChE members. Grogan welcomes the opportunity to speak to your members about any topic of interest, including Retirement; Long Term Care; Health Insurances; College Funding; Caring for Parents; Investment Analysis. Contact Anette Ngijol at anets@aiche.org for more information and to schedule your presentation with Grogan Advisory Services.

AMA benefits offer tools for career enhancement

To help you build leadership skills for career enrichment and advancement, AIChE has arranged special savings with the American Management Association - the world's leading provider of management and professional education. AMA offers you more than 200 practical seminars a year in 35 cities coast to coast. Just a few examples demonstrate the breadth of AMA offerings: Fundamentals of Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers; Management Skills for New Managers; and Senior Project Management. To get started, visit <http://www.amanet.org/alliances/AIChE> and use the reference code, "AMA-AIChE." Or you can call toll free 1-877-765-3634.

Local Section Leaders - Group Auto and Homeowners Insurance

AIChE has partnered with Liberty Mutual to offer your members a group discount on auto and homeowners insurance. Are you taking advantage of this partnership? Call Kimberly Shughart, National Account Manager, to discuss Liberty Mutual's sponsorship of events, advertising and promotions in your newsletters and also arranging for a Liberty Mutual representative to explain this money-saving benefit to your members. Kimberly can be reached at (800) 746-7421 or at <mailto:kimberly.shughart@libertymutual.com> Check out the new Group Life, Health and Small Insurance Group Plans website at www.aicheinsurance.com - more tools to evaluate insurance plans to manage your financial health

AIChE Professional Liability Insurance Program

Good news! In line with favorable plan performance, first year minimum fee rates have fallen, subject to underwriter approval. Visit <https://acs-aiche.haysaffinity.com/> for more information and to apply for your AIChE Professional Liability insurance program - manage risk and protect your professional and personal financial interests as chemical engineer and consultant.

Discount on UPS for AIChE members

The AIChE UPS partnership is expanded to offer broader options to get discounted shipping services (and a new website, too): Register for your AIChE UPS discount today at <http://www.aiche.org/MemberCenter/UPS.aspx> Questions? Please contact us at localsections@aiche.org

Humor — “Jokes and Quotes Du Jour and Points to Ponder”



“Laughter is the best Medicine.”

A man walks into the doctor’s office with a pelican on his head: “You need immediate help!” said the doctor. “I certainly do!” squawked the pelican. “Get this man off my butt”

“Marriage is a lottery in which men stake their liberty, and women their happiness.” —MME. DE Rieux

Points to Ponder

- Can you cry underwater?
- If money doesn’t grow on trees, than why do banks have branches?
- Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- What disease did

cured ham actually have?

- How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- Why are you IN a movie, but you’re ON TV?
- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, “I think I’ll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out!”
- Can a hearse carrying a customer drive in the carpool lane?”

Hairdresser: Sir, do you find split hair to be a problem?

Customer: I certainly do, mine split over ten years ago!

“You’d be surprised at how much it costs to look this cheap.”—Dolly Parton

Q: What are you when you are surrounded by ten Dolly Partons?

A: Booby Trapped!

“Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.”—Groucho Marx

Client: What are your fees?

Lawyer: I charge \$100 to answer 3 questions.

Client: That’s rather steep, isn’t it?

Lawyer: Yes, what’s your last question?

“I hate housework. You make the beds, you do the dishes, and six months later you have to start all over again.”—Joan Rivers

We live in a new age....**First Kid:** I found some contraceptives on the patio.

Second Kid: What’s a patio?

“All the money raised tonight will be going towards an old people’s charity. It may not actually get there, but it *will* be going towards it.”

Sergeant: Private, you failed to show up for camouflage class!

Private: But, how can you be so sure, sir?

“All America has to do to get in bad all over the world is just to start out on what we think is a Good Samaritan mission.”

LAGNIAPPE

Bumper Sticker Seen: I’d much rather work in New York than Los Angeles. For a start, you get paid three hours earlier!

4 out of 5 doctors say... If your parents didn’t have children, the chances are you won’t either!

Bumper Sticker Seen: Nobody is sicker than the man who is sick on his day off!

Thought for the day—Everyone wants to have good judgment. Good judgment comes from bad experiences. Experience comes from bad judgment!

Thought for the day—If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?



Announcements

2006 Spring National Meeting

The latest innovations and workable solutions

April 23 – 27, 2006 — Disney's Dolphin Hotel — Orlando, FL

The 2006 AIChE Spring National Meeting will examine the innovations transforming your industry and offer workable solutions to the challenges you face. With 14 topical conferences, that include the Global Congress on Process Safety (CCPS, the Loss Prevention Symposium, and the Process Plant Safety Symposium Topicals), the Fifth World Congress of Particle Technology and the Ethylene Producers Conference, and with 200 or more sessions, this meeting promises to be of interest to a broad segment of practicing engineers. Extended Abstract/Presentation Record/Paper Online Submittal The 2006 Spring Meeting Online submittal process is scheduled to open in early February 2006. There will be a link for uploading papers. We anticipate that authors will have 4-5 weeks in which to upload their papers. For guidelines and record sample see Guidelines and Record Sample.

Collocated Conferences

In 2006, The Fifth World Congress on Particle Technology will be held with the AIChE Spring Meeting, offering over 80 sessions on particle technology and opportunities to exchange ideas with colleagues from around the world. Please note that Call for Papers for all sessions is now **closed**.

The 2nd Global Congress on Process Safety will again join the Spring National Meeting. The largest gathering of process safety professionals in the world, the congress is comprised of three process safety conferences:

- 21st CCPS International Conference
- 40th Loss Prevention Symposium
- 8th Process Plant Safety Symposium

What's more, you'll find content at the Spring National Meeting from:

- The 18th [Ethylene Producers' Conference](#)
- [Fourteen topical conferences](#), offering concentrated programming in core and emerging areas
- Over 150 [technical sessions](#)
- Plus [exhibits](#), special sessions, and receptions

Meeting Program Chair

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Meeting Program Co-Chair

Dr. Peter R. Pujado, Email: prpujado@aiche.org

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Mr. Jason Bell, Conference Planning & Logistics, Email: jasob@aiche.org

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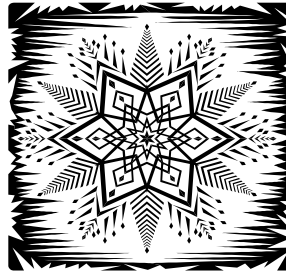
Section Ads / Announcements

April 4th Meeting at Tulane University

Our April 4th Meeting will feature a panel discussion prior to start of the social. All members are invited and encouraged to attend and join in the discussion.

Here is the proposed agenda for the meeting:

- 5:00—5:30 p.m. Freshman Panel Discussion
- 5:30—6:00 p.m. Social
- 6:00—7:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00—7:45 p.m. Faculty Presentations (Ongoing Research, etc.)
- 7:45—8:15 p.m. Tulane Facilities Tour
- 8:15—8:30 p.m. Meeting
- 8:30 p.m. Adjourn



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.

Note: Dates following an ad denotes the last month it will run.

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**



6th Annual Tulane Engineering Forum “Engineering in a Coastal Environment”

Friday, June 2, 2006

New Orleans Hilton Riverside

8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Registration fee will apply

Nationally Acclaimed Speakers

Plenary and Concurrent Session • Poster Sessions

Underwritten by 50 companies
400+ Engineers Expected to Attend
7 PDH credits, including 1 ethics PDH.

For more information, please contact Event Coordinator,
Jenny Kottler, at 504-891-1044 or jkottler@bellsouth.net.

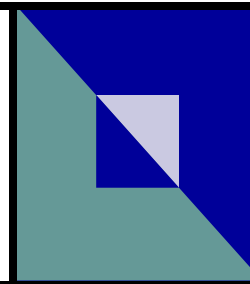
Or visit the Forum Website at:

www.eng.tulane.edu/tef



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

P.E. Review Course



Dr. John C. Prindle, Jr., P.E., Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University will be offering a P.E. Review course for the Chemical Engineering P.E. test.

The LAPELS website states that the deadline for submitting applications has passed (was Dec. 1, 2005) for the April test. However, Dr. Prindle encourages those members who want to get their P.E. license to begin the application process now for the October test... it does take some time.

For more information, please contact Course Coordinator, Dr. John C. Prindle, Jr., P.E., at 504-865-5774 or prindle@tulane.edu

Or visit the P.E. Review Course Website at:

<http://www.tulane.edu/%7Ebmitche/aiche/Prindle%20PE%20Exam%20Review.html>



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**New Orleans Section - American
Institute of Chemical Engineers**

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Serving Chemical Engineers....Who
Serve the World

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[WWW.TULANE.EDU/
~BMITCHE/AICHE/
AICHE.HTML](http://WWW.TULANE.EDU/~BMITCHE/AICHE/AICHE.HTML)



Quote of the
Month

**“To love what you do and feel
that it matters—how could any-
thing be more fun?”**

— Katharine Graham

Meeting Notice!

Date: February 22, 2006
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Place: Plimsoll Club in the World
Trade Center—Downtown
New Orleans

See:

http://www.plimsollclub.com/images/im_map-dir.gif

For directions.

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.

2001 “Marx Isaac’s Award”, for excellence of a small local section newsletter.