



American Institute of Chemical Engineers

The Western Palmetto Informer

November 2024

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Contact Information

Visit our website:
www.aiche.org/wsc

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Message from the Chair

I send you November greetings. Please pardon my tardiness this month, it has been a rough 2-3 weeks. Our October meeting at Clemson went well and I'd like to thank our speaker, Judy Lesslie of aeSolutions, who spoke to us on the topic of dust explosions. Over the years I've been surprised just how much time I've spent in my career trying to prevent ordinary days from turning into accidental disasters. Judy's talk was quite interesting and hopefully the attendees picked up an appreciation for how some of the most seemingly innocuous materials can be deadly.

Our November topic is much less ominous. It's our annual joint meeting with the Western Carolinas Section of the American Chemical Society. They have arranged for 3 local entrepreneurs, Mr. Ralph Hulseman of Hoowaki, Dr. Greg Springteen of Aconabolics, and Dr. Andrew Mount of ConusCoat to present on their journeys followed by a panel discussion. This should be quite fascinating. I work for just such a company. Ortec, Inc. was founded with \$20,000, a used reactor, and borrowed space by Dr. Larry Brotherton in 1980. Forty-four years later we have grown to 4 sites including one in Europe. I've been with Ortec since 2008 and have been a big part of its growth. It's been an amazing ride and even at 67 I'm not ready to get off yet. Every day of these companies are an adventure and if you ever get to work with one it will be a gift. So, join us in Fluor's cafeteria on November 19th at 5:30 to hear these gentlemen's amazing stories. I assure you it will be time well spent.

One more thing. Remember we have a social time in December instead of a presenter. We always try to go somewhere casual

that's conducive to getting to know one another better. Last year we were at Think Tank Brewery and had a good time hanging out together. We will definitely aim for a similar venue this year and will let you know as soon as possible as to date and time.

Bill Thompson, Chair, WSC AIChE

November Meeting Information

Our November meeting will be a joint meeting between the Western Carolinas Section of the American Chemical Society (WCACS) and the Western South Carolina Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (WSCAIChE).

For this meeting, we will have presentations and a panel discussion featuring three local entrepreneurs who have started chemical-related companies in the area. The panelists are:

Mr. Ralph Hulseman Mount of Hoowaki. Mr. Ralph Hulseman is the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer and President of Hoowaki, LLC. Hoowaki conducts advanced research, development, engineering and design of micro and nano surfaces to solve difficult surface tension problems.

Dr. Greg Springsteen of Aconabolics. Dr. Greg Springsteen is a professor at Furman University. He is the cofounder of Aconabolics, LLC, which focuses on the development of labeled-keto and organic acids for use in metabolic research and diagnostics.

Dr. Andrew Mount of ConusCoat. Dr. Andrew Mount is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Clemson University. His company, ConusCoat is developing a conopeptide based solution which will eliminate poisonous biocides, such as copper, from marine bottom paint and provide long-term fouling resistance to marine vessels around the world.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| TITLE: | Local Entrepreneurs Presentation and Panel Discussion |
| DATE: | Tuesday, November 19th, 2024 |
| Event timing: | Social and Meet&Greet: 5:30 Dinner: 6:00pm Presentation Starts: 6:45pm |
| LOCATION (in-person event): | Fluor Centre 1 Cafeteria 100 Fluor Daniel Drive, Greenville SC 29607 MAP |
| LOCATION (virtual event): | A Link to the ZOOM Meeting will be provided on our webpage HERE . |
| COST | No Charge for Dinner |
| RSVP by 11/16/24 | RSVP HERE if you plan to attend |

RSVP [\[HERE\]](#) - by November 16th.

Local Section Feedback

If you have any feedback on what this section can do better in the coming year, recommendations on events you would like to see, or topics for presentations, please let us know!

If you have any feedback, please send an email to sec@wscaiche.org. Any feedback is appreciated. We want to grow and make this section better, and we need your help with that!

Opportunities to Assist

We welcome your participation on any level in this organization. Please reach out to Devon Clymer, sec@wscaiche.org, if you have any feedback on any of the following:

- You or someone you know would like to give a technical presentation at an upcoming meeting.
 - Provide meeting topic or location recommendations to the leadership team.
 - Provide recommendation or access for a plant tour (usually in the spring).
 - You have interest in joining our Officers or Executive Committee.
 - Any general question or comments on meeting times, locations, and topics
-

2023-2024 Officers and Executive Committee

| POSITION | NAME | COMPANY | E-MAIL |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| Chair | Bill Thompson | Ortec | bthompson@ortecinc.com chair@wscaiche.org |
| Vice-Chair | James Young | Fluor | James.H.Young@fluor.com vchair@wscaiche.org |
| Secretary | Devon Clymer | Jacobs | Devon.clymer@jacobs.com sec@wscaiche.org |
| Treasurer | Kevin Pait | | kipait100@gmail.com treasurer@wscaiche.org |
| Webmaster | Conny Walker | Independent | connyw@earthlink.net |
| Scholarship Coordinator | David Hine | | dpkjhine@gmail.com |
| Newsletter | (open) | | |
| Historian | (open) | | |
| | Karl McCaleb | | kmccaleb2@bellsouth.net |

| POSITION | NAME | COMPANY | E-MAIL |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Executive Committee | Donald P Gurney, Jr., ScD, P.E. | Consultant | degurney@charter.net |
| | Anil Wagle | Retired | Anilwagle123@gmail.com |
| | Anastase (Tasso) Ghionis | Omega Chemicals | |

2024-2025 Calendar of Events

| DATE | LOCATION | TOPIC |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| September 10, 2024 | Jacobs Engineering | Mixing Fundamentals |
| October 8, 2024 | Clemson | Dust Explosions |
| November 19, 2024 | Fluor | Local Chemical Industry Panel. Joint meeting with ACS |
| December 2024 | TBD | WSCAICHe Holiday Social |
| January14, 2025 | Jacobs Engineering | Financial Planning with Bryan Ballentine |
| February, 2025 | TBD | TBD |
| March, 2025 | TBD | TBD |
| April 2025 | TBD | TBD |
| May 2024 | TBD | WSCAICHe May Social |