



American Institute of Chemical Engineers

The Western Palmetto Informer

December 2024

Volume 24, Issue 4

In This Issue:

- Message from the Chair
- Next Meeting:
December 11th 6:00PM
- Local Section Feedback
- Opportunities to Assist
- 2025 Officers and Executive Committee
- 2024-25 Calendar of Events

Contact Information

Visit our website:
www.aiche.org/wsc

E-Mail us at:
sec@wscaiche.org
chair@wscaiche.org

Message from the Chair

Our November joint meeting with the local ACS section was a good one and we appreciate the strong turnout for it. I'd like to thank Nina Veas from ACS for arranging the panelists, Jim Young who handled the venue and food, the team of speakers who gave of their time to teach us something about entrepreneurship, and the audience for their interaction and participation with the panel. Dr. Greg Springsteen provided a fascinating look at the business they are developing at Aconabolics to synthesize specific ¹³C marked metabolite molecules, and Dr. Andrew Mount's discussion of the path they have been on at ConusCoat to produce revolutionary new coatings to replace the toxic Cu based antifoulants currently used on ships, (though Mr. Ralph Hulseman of Hoowaki was unable to attend, his business of novel high adhesion surfaces also appears to have extremely interesting potentials). I find it fascinating that the majority of jobs in this country are created by entrepreneurs and their small businesses. Working in life sciences I've learned that much of the technical innovation and new product discovery happen in small companies. In fact, many of the new pharmaceutical discoveries come from small R&D firms, made up by "right-sized" scientists from "big pharma" powered by venture capital. It's often faster and more efficient for the pharmaceutical majors to buy this technology than to try to develop it themselves. Here's to the entrepreneurs who take the risks that benefit us all.

Here we are in December and, as one of my friends used to say, "Christmas is at our throats". I'm writing this the day after Thanksgiving and I'm reminded just how much we have to be thankful for, especially in this country. We live in freedom, safety, peace, and prosperity that much of the world can only dream of. Ed Bradley on 60 Minutes once asked a Soviet apologist "if the USSR

is such a paradise, why is there a line to get out of your country and line to get into ours?” People come from all over the world to this country to get a chance to be what they want to be. Think back through your career about the things you’ve been able to do, places you’ve been able to go, and people you’ve been blessed to meet. Being a Chemical Engineer has been an awesome experience has it not?

We are going to take a break from presentations to relax and get to know each other a bit more in December. We’re going to meet at FireForge’s Brew Hall on Wednesday December 11th starting at 6 pm and you are encouraged to bring a guest. It’s a good opportunity to talk casually and make connections that just might last a lifetime. It’s also a chance to build your “phone a friend” list for the future. I’m finally back up on my feet and looking forward to it. I trust I’ll see you there.

Bill Thompson, Chair, WSC AIChE

December Meeting Information

Our December meeting will be our Annual Holiday Social at FireForge Brew Hall.

TITLE:	Holiday Social
DATE:	Wednesday, December 11th, 2024
Event timing:	Social Starts at 6:00pm
LOCATION (in-person event):	FireForge Brewery 311 E. Washington St. Greenville, SC 29601
LOCATION (virtual event):	No Virtual event for this social
COST	No Charge for Dinner
RSVP by 12/9/24	RSVP HERE if you plan to attend

RSVP [\[HERE\]](#) - by December 9th.

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)		
Executive Committee	Karl McCaleb		kmccaleb2@bellsouth.net
	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
December 2024	FireForge Brewery	WSCAICHe Holiday Social
January14, 2025	Jacobs Engineering	Financial Planning with Bryan Ballentine
February, 2025	Clemson	TBD
March, 2025	TBD	TBD
April 2025	Nicca Chemical	Nicca Chemical Presentation and Plant Tour
May 2024	TBD	WSCAICHe May Social
