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In This Issue:

- Message from the Chair
- Next Meeting:
January 14th 6:00PM
- 2025 WSC AICHE
Clemson Scholarship
Application
- Opportunities to Assist
- 2025 Officers and
Executive Committee
- 2024-25 Calendar of
Events

Contact Information

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Message from the Chair

Happy New Year to one and all. Somehow, I'm not all that sorry to see 2024 end, not as much as I enjoyed saying good-bye to 2020, but still. An interesting factoid for the chemical engineering profession is that its unemployment rate isn't affected much by the twists and turns of the economy. It typically hovers around 2%. We may not have the job we'd really like, but in most cases, we have one if we want one. In 45 years, I've never known unemployment and it's not an uncommon statement for ChE's. We also have the blessing of being one of the higher paying professions. I've always been grateful for the economic benefit that's been provided me through this career. It's also great to be part of a profession that values and promotes safety and environmental stewardship along with value creation. We really do have the privilege and responsibility to leave the world in a better condition than we found it.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the median annual wage for chemical engineers was \$112,100 in May 2023. Entry level salaries in SC are around \$80,000. That means the average ChE earns more than one million dollars over 10 years. It's only been in recent years that I really thought about that. As part of our engineering economics classes, we learned the power of compound interest. A dollar growing at 5% over 45 years would be worth twice that value even after accounting for inflation. I know ChE's who were excellent financial planners who are very comfortably retired now and not retirement age. In our January 14th meeting, Bryan Ballentine, the president and founder of Ballentine Capital Advisors, will speak to us on "Wealth Management and Retirement Planning". Whether we're just getting started or nearing the end

January 2025

of our career it's never too late to work to improve our financial situation. So, come out and learn something new in the world of savings and investment.

We will once again be offering two scholarships to the Clemson ChE students in our February meeting in the Clemson. The scholarship application is now LIVE! Fill out the application and submit it as instructed in the section below. This is an opportunity for us to recognize excellence on the part of the next generation of ChE's. Good luck to all who apply.

Bill Thompson, Chair, WSC AIChE

January Meeting Information

Our January meeting will be a discussion of wealth management and retirement planning with Bryan Ballentine the president and founder of Ballentine Capital Advisors.

TITLE:	Wealth Management and Retirement Planning with Bryan Ballentine
DATE:	Tuesday, January 14th, 2024
Event timing:	Social Starts at 6:00pm Dinner Starts at 6:30pm Presentation starts at 7:00pm
LOCATION (in-person event):	Jacobs Engineering 1041 E Butler Rd, Greenville, SC 29607
LOCATION (virtual event):	Virtual event Link on Website Meeting will open at 6:45pm
COST	No Charge for Dinner
RSVP by 1/12/24	RSVP HERE if you plan to attend

RSVP [\[HERE\]](#) - by January 12th.

2025 WSC AIChE Clemson Scholarship Application

The 2025 WSC AIChE Scholarship application is now OPEN! This scholarship is to be awarded to rising Clemson seniors, majoring in Chemical Engineering with an anticipated graduation date between August 2025 and May 2026. Two scholarships will be awarded: one for \$1,500 and a second for \$1,000.

If you, or someone you know, meet the criteria listed above, complete the application [HERE](#) for consideration by 11:59pm January 31st, 2025.

Winners will need to be present at the February WSC-Clemson AIChE Joint Meeting at Clemson University.

Please pass this along to anyone you know who may qualify!

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
