



Baton Rouge Newsletter

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January 6, 2015

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The *AIChE Baton Rouge Newsletter* is published monthly, from September to June, by the AIChE Baton Rouge Section, 110 Chemical Engineering, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. It is distributed free of charge to members of the Baton Rouge Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Membership Fee: \$15.00/yr.

January 2015 Meeting...

- Date:** Thursday, January 15, 2015
- Place:** Mike Anderson's Seafood, 1031 W. Lee Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70820
- Speaker:** Dr. Krishnaswamy Nandakumar, Gordon A. & Mary Cain Professor, LSU
- Topic:** *"How is Chemical Engineering evolving? The role of computers in shaping the future of research, discovery, design, and education"*
- Agenda:**
5:30 PM - Social hour
6:00 PM - Dinner begins with chapter announcements
6:15 PM - Speaker begins
7:15 PM - Meeting adjourns
- Menu:** A selection of LA seafood and Cajun cuisine entrees
- Cost:** \$25 per AIChE member (\$30 per guest, \$12 per AIChE student member)

Professional Engineering Certification

The subject of this meeting is an acceptable activity for continuing Professional Development as defined by LAPELS and is **approved** for **one (1)** PDH unit.

The Baton Rouge AIChE chapter is NOT responsible for individual record keeping of PDH credits. Certificates must be obtained at the meeting by the individual.

RESERVATIONS

Please make your reservation with chapter secretary, William Buck, **by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 14th, 2015** at William.Buck@willbros.com or by calling 225-612-6224.

Upcoming 2015 Events / Speakers..

- 02/19:** Daniel Shantz, Ph.D., Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Professor, Tulane University (jointly hosted with the Southwest Catalytic Society) at TBD
- 03/05:** Third Annual Industry Panel Dialogue with LSU AIChE
- 03/19:** Private Tour & Trivia Night at Tin Roof Brewery
- 04/23:** BASF at Geismar site

If you or your colleague(s) would like to give a technical presentation at an upcoming chapter meeting for 2 professional development hours (PDHs), please contact Chapter Chair, Stephen Reilly, at stephen.reilly@prosys.com to schedule a meeting date and time.

December Meeting Recap...

The presentation at the December meeting was given by Mr. John Willis and Mr. C.R. Phillips of ADCO Companies LTD. The topics covered technical details on both firetube and watertube design boilers. Several designs were presented including package boilers that can be shipped and assembled at the client location. New technologies for NO_x reduction with efficient burner design were presented. Locally ADCO boiler has facilities in Denham Springs and in addition to helping supply new boiler needs also offers several sizes of Rental boilers. More information and expertise can be obtained at the website, www.adcoboiler.com, or by calling Mr. John Willis at (225) 698-3600.

Also, during the December meeting, 2015 officers were nominated and elected. Stephen Reilly was elected as the new Chair and Lauren Hartley as the new Vice Chair. Bill Buck was elected secretary to replace Brian Hoppe. Oscar Alfaro remained as treasurer for 2015. Glenn Bryson, Clark Snyder, and Prof. Louis Thibodeaux continue to serve on the executive committee. Dal Dalferes and Armand Melikyan were thanked for their efforts on the executive committee, and Noel Ricord and 2014 Chair Jimmy Orr will fill their shoes in 2015.

- William D. Buck, P.E.



January 2015 Meeting Abstract...

There are 50 million chemicals known to mankind and a new chemical is synthesized or discovered at a rate of one in every 2.6 s in the past year. Every aspect of our lives is touched by chemicals, whether it is fuels, fertilizers, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics etc. On the other hand, computers have become ubiquitous with hand held phones/tablets to modern super computers with incredible powers. They are revolutionizing the way we engage with each other through the cloud, interact in commerce, discover new phenomena in science, design and operate new engineered systems, or educate the next generation. This talk will discuss the impact of these developments on chemical engineering and speculate on what the future holds for this field.

The College of Engineering (CoE) at the Louisiana State University (LSU) is gearing up to lead the educational, workforce development and R&D engagement of the chemical, conventional & renewable energy resource industries in Louisiana in ways that will equip the state with a modern, highly skilled workforce and build a state-of-the-art chemical process innovation center to coincide with the renaissance of the chemical industry in the state. Several faculty members from chemical, petroleum, mechanical and biological engineering departments have united to form a research cluster called **EPIC- Enabling Process Innovation through Computation**. Louisiana State University is also the home to the Center for Computation and Technology (CCT) with high performance computing facilities that rank 46th in the world (with 1.5 peta flops capability) to enable exploring a larger design space for process innovation, just as automotive, aerospace and information technology industries have innovated their businesses through sustained engagement through industrial commons.

Biography for Dr. Krishnaswamy Nandakumar...

Dr. K. Nandakumar is currently Gordon A and Mary Cain Chair Professor at Louisiana State University. Prior to this, he was the GASCO Chair Professor at The Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi. Formerly, he was in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada for nearly 25 years. Dr. Nandakumar received his B. Tech from Madras University in 1973, M. Sc from University of Saskatchewan in 1975, and his PhD from Princeton University in 1979.

He received the *Alexander von Humboldt research fellowship* from the German government in 1989-90 and the *Albright & Wilson Americas Award* from the Canadian Society of Chemical Engineering in 1991 for distinguished contributions to chemical engineering before reaching the age of 40. Dr. Nandakumar was elected as *Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada* in 1991, *Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada* in 2006, and *Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering* in 2007. He has received, from the University of Alberta, the *McCalla Professorship* (1992), the *Killam Annual professorship* (2001) for excellence in research, and the *Rutherford Award* (2001) for excellence in teaching. He has also received the *Excellence in Education award* (2002) from APEGGA, the professional engineering association in Alberta. He was Editor-in-Chief of *The Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering* during 2005-2009. Dr. Nandakumar is also the recipient of the *premier award of The Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering*, called the *R.S. Jane Memorial Award* in 2008.



From the Chapter Chair's Pen...

Can you believe it is 2015 already? I certainly can't, and if the *Back to the Future* series is to be believed, then I'm definitely still waiting for my personal hover board!

On a more serious note, when Clark Snyder and Glenn Bryson nominated me to be chapter secretary in 2013, with the intention of serving as chair two years later, I admittedly was hesitant to accept. At the time, I had only lived in Baton Rouge about a year and a half, and I was still adapting to the area. After all, I had previously worked in Saudi Arabia for a year, graduated from Johns Hopkins before that in the spring of 2010, and spent my childhood in the Houston and northern New Jersey areas before then, so I was not sure at the time if I would be around for the long term. But I felt compelled to give back to the chapter, as AIChE was the first organization I got involved with during my college years, and it benefitted me once again in helping to understand the local chemical engineering industry, to get to know a significant portion of our ~200 local chapter members and other chemical engineers nearby, and to most importantly feel at home.

My youth and unique background provide a new perspective this past year serving as the vice chair. I introduced a sponsorship program to the chapter as a way to keep membership and event costs down. I have hosted two industry panels and one joint meeting with the LSU chapter to strengthen our groups' partnership. I even helped arrange a trivia night last July geared toward the young professional crowd as a fun way to keep the group's calendar filled during the summer malaise.

Thus, I am honored to serve as this year's chair. I look forward to growing the chapter, but I need your help to do that, so I hope to see you at upcoming events! I'm always open to feedback, too, so never hesitate to contact me if something's on your mind. Until then, see you at the next chapter event!

Stephen Reilly

Third Annual Industry Panel Participants Needed!

Attention, chemical engineers living and working in the Baton Rouge area! The chapter's third annual industry panel discussion with the LSU chapter will be held on Thursday, March 5th, on the LSU campus, and we want YOUR participation!

Promote your former and current companies; highlight your career accomplishments; wax nostalgic on your undergraduate days; comment on current chemical engineering industry topics; savor a free dinner; and most importantly, provide a perspective that current chemical engineering students don't receive from their course lectures but which will enhance their own career pursuits.

If you are interested in participating in this highly-anticipated event, e-mail your reservation to chapter vice chair, Lauren Hartley, at lhartley@trinityconsultants.com as soon as possible. *(Note: The panel will be limited to 10 professionals generally on a first-call basis. Previous panel participants are welcome to join again, but priority may be ceded to new individuals.)*

Looking to promote an upcoming job opportunity, conference, or other company event?

Consider sponsoring the Baton Rouge AIChE chapter to get newsletter and website exposure, among other chapter benefits! If interested, please send an inquiry to chapter Chair, Stephen Reilly, at stephen.reilly@prosys.com to find out more.



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2014 Section Contacts

Officers

Chair: Stephen Reilly, Stephen.Reilly@ProSys.com
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Seminars: (OPEN POSITION)

Why Should You Join the Local AIChE Chapter?

1. It is a welcoming presence to new chemical engineers in the area.
2. It provides a neutral ground mentorship toward career directions and other life topics.
3. It facilitates a better understanding of local, state, and federal policies related to our professions.
4. It offers a smooth transition for graduating chemical engineers from LSU, ULL, and other nearby universities who start working in the area.