



Baton Rouge Newsletter

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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.

December Tour of Cane Land Distillery

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Place: Cane Land Distillery, 760 St. Phillip Street, Baton Rouge, LA.

Topic: *Tour of the Refinery and Rum Tasting*

Agenda: 5:30 – Registration and Social
6:00 -- Tour
6:45 – Rum tasting

Cost: \$10 per person for the tasting samples

After the tour those wishing to do so will meet at Pastime Restaurant, 252 South Boulevard (at Nicholson Drive) for poboys and drinks. Will "go dutch" (everyone covers their own bill).

RESERVATIONS

Please make your reservation with chapter secretary, Chelsea Bourdon, **by 5:00 PM on Monday, December 4** at CBourdon@Hargrove-EPC.com

Reservations required, 30 person limit

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.

Other Upcoming 2018 Events / Speakers

TBA 4th Annual AIChE Young Professionals Trivia Night (see Page 2).

TBA Financial Planning Happy Hour (see Page 2)

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, Clark Snyder, at WClarkSnyder@hotmail.com to schedule a meeting date and time.

Cane Land Distillery Tour



Cane Land Distilling Company, LLC was founded in 2013 by Walter Tharp, whose family owns Alma Plantation & Sugar Mill in Lakeland, Louisiana.

Tharp hatched the idea of opening a distillery while attending a party at a wedding of the owners of the famed rum company, Ron Zacapa in Guatemala. Other owners of sugar mills from Guatemala and El Salvador were in attendance at the wedding gala. One common question emerged from conversations with those sugar mill owners. "You have a sugar mill and you don't make rum? Why not?"

Tharp's initial thought was, "Just because we make sugar doesn't mean we make candy bars." Reflecting on the conversation on the flight back to the States, the idea for a Louisiana distillery was already in motion. Having such a vast agricultural resource as Alma, it made perfect sense.

Years of red tape ensued. Everything from pesky laws from the Prohibition Era that are still on the books, to challenges from federal, state and local authorities, made the journey difficult. But Tharp persevered.

Today, Cane Land Distilling Company is in full production in very rare company. Owning the farmland on Alma, the sugar mill and the distillery allows for complete control of the production and distilling process. This results in one of the country's only estate bottled producers of spirits and rum agricole in the continental U.S.

Fourth Annual AIChE Young Professionals Trivia Night

Testing of your trivia knowledge in the realms of chemistry, chemical engineering and more. Enjoy a pleasant night in the company of other chemical engineers. Location and date to be announced.

Financial Planning Happy Hour

The Financial Planning Happy Hour is a social event for young chemical engineers who are just starting their careers. A member of a financial advising firm, Compass Capital Management, will discuss the benefits of setting various nest eggs like savings accounts, HSAs, (ROTH-)IRAs, and will answer questions by those attending. It is planned for early 2018.

Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.

--Raymond Lindquist

From the Chapter Chair's Pen

Who can believe the year is almost over. Time sure does fly by. For AIChE it has been just as strong a year as usual. We have had great turnouts for the meetings and especially the seminars. Everyone has pitched in and contributed a lot of time and effort towards helping the local section be a success. It has been my privilege to serve with an amazing bunch of engineers this year in the role of Chair. Now, the time has come for new members to take over and I want to congratulate Donna, Vishal, Chelsea & Jimmy on their election...and a double dose of that should go to Jimmy as our newest AIChE Fellow, which is no small feat to obtain. I am sure that they will continue to make our section arguably one of the best in the country through their dedication and hard work.

I encourage everyone to come out for the December meeting on December 6th and to make time to get involved in your local section. Take it from me, it is certainly rewarding.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Clark Snyder, 2017 Chair



Recap of the November Meeting



The November meeting took place at Ralph & Kacoo's. The food was excellent and so was the presentation by Rachel Wiggins. She gave us an overview of Process Safety Management, from Hazard and Operability Analyses, Process Hazard Analyses, and conducting Levels of Protection Analyses and Safety Integrity Level. She explained how process safety deals with catastrophic events causing many deaths and injuries rather than with isolated personal injuries. She explained the qualitative risk analysis matrix in which events are plotted by their frequency or probability of occurrence versus the seriousness of their consequence. Increasing the safety integrity level by using redundant or more reliable instruments can reduce the frequency of the incidents and consequently their risk level. She made a brief introduction of her organization, LOOP (Louisiana Offshore Oil Port), which operates at three locations. At the main location, they can store up to 11 million barrels of oil in tanks and over 60 million barrels in salt domes. The port unloads oil from supertankers and pump it through pipelines all over the United States.

At the meeting, some of the officers for 2018 were elected. Donna Bryant will move to Chair, Vishal Vora was elected Vice Chair, Chelsea Bourdon will continue as Secretary, Jimmy Orr as Treasurer, and Noel Ricord as member of the Executive Committee.

Narses Barona, Ph.D. (1932-2017)

Dr. Barona, a Fellow of AIChE, passed away peacefully on November 12. A native of Cali Colombia he worked for Ethyl Corporation (Albemarle) for 33 years and taught a senior course in chemical engineering at LSU. He conducted research and is the author of several publications and patents. He was a dear friend. We express our deepest condolences to Luz Marina, his wife of 59 years, and to the rest of his family.

Jimmy Orr, New Fellow



Jimmy Orr has been elevated to the grade of Fellow member of AIChE by the Council of the institute. Jimmy has been the recipient of the National AIChE Shining Star Award and several awards from Dow Chemical and DSM Copolymer. He has also served the Baton Rouge Section as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer (several terms), Executive Committee, and organizer of several of the bi-annual seminars. Our heartfelt congratulations go to Jimmy. Well deserved.

High School Chemistry Awards



Mrs. Kathy Moise and student Nhat Vu, The Church Academy; Mrs. Jamie Hamilton and student Autum Oberholtzer, Central High School; Mrs. Brandy Perkins-Howard and students Taylor Thomas and Amber Georgetown, McKinley High School; Mr. Timothy Sprull, representing Tiffany Bateast and student Jeff Ezell, Woodlawn High School; Ms. Nadege Van Camp and student Haley Van Camp, Southland Christian Academy; Mr. Alan Bartlett, representing Alesia Cook.

These are the recipients of the section's high school chemistry grants awarded at the November meeting. The funds for the awards are derived from the income from the bi-annual seminars. With these awards, the section has donated over \$55,000 in the past 22 years to support chemistry education in schools in the Baton Rouge area.

Become a part of our group of talented, experienced and highly motivated individuals who combine engineering and technical expertise with the ability to be dynamic, innovative team members and leaders.

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2017 Section Contacts

Officers

Chair: W. Clark Snyder, WClarkSnyder@hotmail.com
Vice Chair: Donna Bryant, Donna.Bryant@Syngenta.com
Secretary: Chelsea Bourdon, CBourdon@Hargrove-EPC.com
Treasurer: Jimmy Orr, Jimmy.Orr@Jacobs.com

Executive Committee Members

Glenn Bryson BGBryson@BellSouth.net
Noel Ricord LCNoel55@aol.com
Armand Melikyan AMelikyan@Hargrove-EPC.com
William Buck William.Buck@WinkEngr.com
Stephen Reilly Stephen.Reilly@Prosys.com

Committees

Awards: Dal Dalferes, Joseph.Dalferes@jacobs.com
Communications: Brandon Lithgoe, BLithgoe@Yahoo.com
Education: Erick Flores, EFlore5@LSU.edu
High School Grants: W. Clark Snyder, WClarkSnyder@hotmail.com
Membership: Glenn Bryson, BGBryson@BellSouth.net
Newsletter: Armando Corripio, Corripio@LSU.edu
Nominations: Open
Professional Development: Randy Goodman, Randy.Goodman@LA.gov
Seminars: Armand Melikyan, Armand_Melikyan@hotmail.com
Sponsorship: Stephen Reilly, Stephen.Reilly@Prosys.com

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.

