



Baton Rouge Newsletter

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January 10, 2020

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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 Dinner Meeting

- Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020
- Place:** George's Southside, 8905 Highland Road at Staring Lane.
- Speaker:** Dr. Thomas E. Rehm
- Topic:** *A Path Forward on Solving Climate Change*
- Agenda:** 5:30 – Registration and social.
6:00 – Dinner and Speaker
- Menu:** Burgers, Po-Boys, seafood and other casual foods.
- Cost:** Pay for your meal and drinks as they are delivered.

RESERVATIONS

Make your reservation
by 5:30 PM on Wednesday, January 15th at ,
Armand_Melikyan@hotmail.com
Reservations are not required. Bring a friend.

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 2020 Events / Speakers

*If you or a colleague(s) would like to give a technical presentation at an upcoming chapter meeting for 2 professional development hours (PDHs), please contact Chapter Vice-Chair, **Chelsea Bourdon**, at CBourdon@Hargrove-epc.com to schedule a meeting date and time.*

Recap of December Meeting



For the December meeting, we took a trip down a small-scale model of the Mississippi! Joseph McGlatchy led us on a tour of the LSU Center for River Studies, where we learned about the history of coastal land shifts. The tour started with a video about the threat of eroding wetlands (about 24 sq miles per year). We then moved through the large foyer that showed a chronological history on the changes of Louisiana's coasts dating back to ancient times as well as the predicted consequences of systems already installed designed to control the Mississippi River if nothing is done. The last stop in the foyer was a map covering an entire wall with giant pushpins showing where steps have already been taken or are in progress to restore our wetlands. After everyone had a chance to look around, we were brought to the main event: the river model. The river model is 10,000 square ft, following the Mississippi from Donaldsonville down through the barrier islands to the Gulf of Mexico. Although we didn't get to see any runs, Joseph explained how pumps are used to replicate the flow of the river so the transport of sediment can be simulated and measured. He then turned on the projectors, which lit up the Mississippi with color and was definitely the highlight of the tour. Afterwards, people went to Pastime to get some good food and socialize.

Call for Nominations—2020 Coates Memorial Award

The deadline for nominations for the Coates Award is in February. If you would like to nominate one of your colleagues please contact Erick Flores, EFlores@Hargrove-epc.com. A member of the Baton Rouge AIChE Section should get the award this year. The award is given for contributions to the profession, the society, and the community. The nominator must obtain three letters of support from individuals familiar with the nominee's activities in each of the three areas, one letter for each area. A letter summarizing these activities and the nominee's résumé are the other items in the nomination package.

That man is best/Who does his best/And leaves the rest;/Then do not worry.

--Charles F. Deems

From the Chair's Pen

I hope everyone had a nice and relaxing holiday season with their families and cheers to the New Year! January is always a great time for self-reflection and setting goals to be your best you. AIChE is a great way to develop professionally, whether it's learning about new topics and technologies or processes you're already familiar with. We've got many activities planned for the spring including a tour with the New Orleans Chapter and of course the annual Coates Awards. This year we will be nominating a chemical engineer to receive the award, so if you have someone in mind please email Erick Flores, the new Vice-Chair of the chapter.

In addition, I encourage you to let us know if you have ideas for speakers or venues. I would like to see the chapter grow and for us all to get to know each other better, so feel free to reach out to me at any time!

Our first meeting will be at George's southside, where Dr. Rehm will give a presentation on climate change. It'll be interesting to see his take on global warming and the oil/gas industries. So come hungry for food and knowledge! I look forward to seeing you all.

Chelsea Bourdon, Chair

January Meeting Speaker and Topic

Thomas E. Rehm, PhD, PE, AIChE Fellow, CCPSC, CSP, began his career in 1972 with UOP as a Senior Design Engineer. He then went on to complete graduate studies at Northwestern University, defending his doctoral dissertation in 1985 and joining Amoco Chemical in Naperville, Illinois at the Amoco Research Center, where he was primarily involved in commercializing new products.

Rehm joined CH&A in 1993, a small consulting firm in Kingwood, Texas, where he investigated industrial accidents, primarily for litigation. He then joined Saudi Aramco in 1997 to improve their investigations and, in the process of doing so, became involved with the steering committee that launched Saudi Aramco's version of Process Safety Management in 2005. In this capacity, Rehm led the Saudi Aramco Compliance Review Team, essentially PSM auditing of several Saudi Aramco facilities and operations.

Rehm retired in 2009, toured all fifty states with wife Mary and settled into semi-retirement in 2011 in the Houston area, near to the greatest concentration of grandkids (6 of 10). Throughout retirement, Rehm has undertaken process safety consulting work as well as volunteer work.

Rehm served as 2019 Chair of the AIChE South Texas Section and as a Director of the Safety & Health Division Virtual Meeting Planning Committee 2017-2019. He is a Founding Member of AIChE's Climate Solutions Community, serving as Chair of the Community's Steering Committee.

Global warming is occurring at an alarming rate. Some are not alarmed, some even thinking that global temperatures have stabilized over the past twenty years. However, the evidence of global warming is overwhelming and will be presented. What should be done about global warming? Some solutions carry price tags of trillions of dollars, including new infrastructure. Are there rabbit holes we should avoid, particularly in light of high costs? What are the challenges of determining which solutions are viable? How can oil, gas, and chemical sectors be involved in leading on climate solutions? The AIChE has a plan to lead a multi-disciplinary initiative to answer those questions.

2020 Section Contacts

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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.

150 years



We create chemistry