



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.

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Louis Joseph Thibodeaux, 1939-2020

From LSU Cain Dept. of Chemical Engineering.

Chemical engineering--in general and LSU in particular--lost a giant of a person in the loss of Professor Louis J Thibodeaux who passed away on August 18, 2020 after a brief illness. Prof. Thibodeaux ("Louis" as he is commonly known) has taught thousands of undergraduates and several graduate students during his term as a faculty member at both the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville where he began his academic career and then at LSU where he remained a faculty member for over 30 years till his retirement in 2015. He literally coined the term "environmental chemodynamics" and made it synonymous with the chemical engineering department at LSU through his extensive research, teaching and service.

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Take good care of yourself

Avoid the virus



Other Upcoming 2020 Events / Speakers

TBA Seminar at Oak Lodge. Topics TBA and ethics.

*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.*

From the Vice-chair's Pen

Hopefully everybody had a nice and safe summer. Over the past few months we lost some members of the AIChE community that will be missed. Professor Thibodeaux passed away on August 18, 2020. Professor at LSU for 30 years he taught many and was an active member in the AIChE community. Joe Anjier also passed away recently he was a former chair and longtime employee of Kaiser Aluminum Gramercy. The AIChE community is grateful for the contribution of these individuals and we will miss them. Normally now that we are getting into the fall season, we would be starting our fall activities and dinner meetings. We will however be unable to hold in person meetings for the fall out of an abundance of caution. There are some options on still receiving PDH credits however through virtual meetings. The annual AIChE conference will be virtual this year as well. Keep an eye out for updates on the newsletters and via the Baton Rouge chapter webpage for PDH opportunities.

Erick Flores, Vice-chair

From the editor's desk

The passing of Louis Thibodeaux is a special personal loss. For many years, we got together at lunch to "jog" around campus. I write it in quotes because our mutual friend Roger Seals sometimes joined us and walked with us as we jogged, never having any trouble keeping up.

Louis and I were graduate students together at LSU and took a course in distillation from Paul Murrill, another dear friend we lost. This is why I always say that the only person who knew him longer than I is his wife Joyce.

Although not mentioned elsewhere, he received the Charles E. Coates memorial award. He appreciated the award very much because he was a great admirer of his major professor, Jesse Coates, son of Charles. He even kept a bust of Jesse in his office wearing a pair of glasses. He always wore a hat and many say that no one can wear a hat better than he. At his funeral, his hats were on a rack and each of his seven grandchildren picked one up and wore it to the burial site. There was one left.

We were the best of friends even though we argued fiercely about almost every issue, particularly one that was most dear of his heart, global warming.

Connie and I are keeping him and his family in our prayers.

Armando Corripio, editor



If you are going through hell, keep going!

--Winston Churchill

Louis Joseph Thibodeaux, 1939-2020

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Thibodeaux received his B.S, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the department of chemical engineering at LSU. His B.S. degree was in the twin areas of petroleum and chemical engineering. He then began an industrial career at DuPont in South Carolina. But before long he was back at LSU pursuing a Ph.D. degree. Prof. Thibodeaux then went on to become a faculty member in the department of chemical engineering at the University of Arkansas. In 1985, he returned to LSU as a full professor and as the Director of the EPA Hazardous Waste Research Center. He maintained and improved on the Center activities which was renamed the EPA Hazardous Substance Research Center (South and Southeast) and got it renewed twice for a total of 25 years. This Center placed the research activities central in the areas of hazardous waste treatment and sediment transport. His seminal 1979 book "Environmental Chemodynamics" defined the area of environmental transport phenomena and it underwent a revision in 1997 and has been accepted at hundreds of universities both within and outside the U.S. He also wrote more than 200 journal articles and gave hundreds of presentations at various national and international meetings. He was also instrumental in providing professional educational activities to hundreds more through the American Institute of Chemical Engineers organization. He was a fellow of AIChE and a recipient of its Lawrence Cecil Award from the AIChE Environmental Division. At LSU he was also appointed the first Jesse Coates Distinguished Professor, which was named for his Ph.D. advisor, Professor Jesse Coates. At the recent department celebration in honor of his 80th birthday, many of his former students and colleagues spoke eloquently about his many contributions to the field of environmental chemical engineering.

Professor Thibodeaux advised many graduate students who have gone on to become faculty members at other universities and industrial concerns worldwide. He was a genuine, honest and caring professor who touched many lives at LSU and elsewhere.

Joseph Anjier, 1938-2020

Joseph "Joe" L. Anjier, a resident of Baton Rouge, died peacefully on Friday, July 24, 2020 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the age of 81. Joe was born on July 27, 1938 in San Rafael, California to Charles and Helen Anjier. He married Jennifer Stringer in 1959 in Pueblo, Colorado. Joe graduated from Centennial High School, Pueblo, Colorado, class of 1956. He attended the Colorado School of Mines and received a degree in Petroleum Refining Engineering in 1960, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, Army ROTC, and the National Society of Scabbard and Blade. He later attended Louisiana State University and received a Master of Business Administration in 1977. After completing his active duty as a first lieutenant in the Army Corp of Engineers, Joe moved to Sacramento, California in 1961, where he worked for Aerojet-General Corp as a materials engineer for solid-fuel rockets. In 1964 he started working for Kaiser Alumina as a chemical engineer. Over the next 38 years, Joe worked for Kaiser Aluminum and its affiliates in Baton Rouge and Gramercy, Louisiana and in Gladstone, Australia (four stints) in various roles supervising alumina production and research and development. He retired from Kaiser in 2002. At that time, Joe formed an engineering consulting company, JA Engineering Services, LLC, which provided engineering services relating to alumina process technology. Joe's consulting work extended to Australia, Jamaica, St. Croix, Russia and Greece, as well as the United States. Joe is survived by his wife, Jennifer, children: John Anjier of New Orleans (Allison) and Suzanne Harr of San Jose, California; five grandchildren: Jack Anjier (Houston, Texas), Caeli Harr (Austin, Texas), Matthew Anjier (Chicago, Illinois), Amanda Anjier (Austin, Texas), and Alexander Harr (Seattle, Washington); and a sister, Sandra Steere (Dallas, Texas). Preceded in death by his parents: Charles and Helen Anjier and his brother-in-law, Samuel Steere (Dallas, Texas). Joe was a dedicated husband to his beloved wife whom he called "Guinevere". They would have celebrated their sixty-first anniversary on August 1. We all remember him as a kind, easy-going, happy person, who made friends wherever he went. He enjoyed golf, traveling, spending time with friends, history, and collecting seashells, among many hobbies. He was a member of the General Philemon Thomas Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, serving as President and receiving the Meritorious Service Award. He was also a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, serving as an usher for many years.

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.

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