



FEBRUARY MEETING Thursday February 6, 1997

TOPIC: "Financial Management or How to Max Your 401 (k) Earnings"
SPEAKER: Paul Riggs, Account Manager
 The Acacia Group

SPOUSE / GUEST NIGHT

Bring your spouse, partner or guest—office casual dress

PLACE: HESS BUILDING
 3121 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, Texas
 (about 3/4 mile north of SW Freeway
 on east side, opposite Exxon Production
 Research)

WORKSHOPS: 5:00 P.M. - NO FEES
 NO RSVP Required

SOCIAL PERIOD: 6:00 P.M.

DINNER: 6:45 P.M.

MEETING/SPEAKER: 7:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

PRICE: \$17 with reservation
 \$19 without reservation
 Students and Unemployed - 1/2 price

AUTO- R.S.V.P. By 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, February 5th
 (713) 474-1626

Credit Cards temporarily not accepted for payment.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Asset Management. Aggressive Growth. Compound Interest. Derivatives. S&P Index. Gold. Do these words cause your eyes to glaze over? Are you dreading April 15, 1997? You are not alone. Most of us were trained to design or operate chemical plants, not manage money. Due to today's

changing business practices, we are being required to manage our retirement savings rather than our employer. Often the engineer changes employers before earning vested pensions or the company only offers 401 (k) plans. For a sizeable minority who are self-employed or contract workers, participating in a 401 (k) plan is not possible.

To help understand the basics of financial management and how to apply the basics to your savings will be the topic of Paul Riggs' talk. As an Account Manager with the Acacia Group, he works with individuals to integrate company benefits with personal benefits to meet individual needs. He will include strategies for full time and contract employees. He will also discuss methods to accumulate, conserve, and distribute estates by means of investment, estate planning, retirement planning, wills, and life insurance trusts.

(continued on page 3)

Workshops

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Environmental Issues

Topic: "A Watershed-Based Approach to Wastewater Permitting"
Speakers: Mel Vargas & Tom Weber
 TNRCC Austin Water Permitting
Focus: TNRCC has implemented a watershed-based approach to improve coordination among water quality programs which support wastewater permitting, development of total maximum daily loads, and monitoring.

(Continued on page 6)

Contact: Matt Kolodney, 713 / 767-3752 / Fax 713 / 767-3761

C&I

Topic: "Advanced Control and On-line Optimization: What Works; What Doesn't; Where is the Money?"
Speaker: Dr. Zak Friedman
 Petrocontrol, Hoboken, NJ
Focus: This presentation will discuss what it takes to make advanced controls work in a refinery. It will cover issues which are not being addressed very effectively in an average refinery and what the refiner should do to make money out of its advanced controls. (Continued on page 6)

Contact: Jerald N. Linsley, 713 / 272-3134 / Fax 713 / 778-6004
 Ivan Lozada, 281 / 544-8147 / Fax 281 / 544-7468

Professional Development

Topic: "Management and Organizational Psychology: What's Useful, What's Not"
Speaker: Henry Kahn, P.E. and Larry P. Lowell, Jr. P.E.
Focus: Henry will review the history of Taylor Psychology, MacGregor Psychology, Matrix Management, MBO and other methods. Larry will discuss recent developments in psychology that can be useful for engineers and managers.

Contact: Larry Lowell, 281 / 334-4907 / inlowell@flash.net

Process Safety

Topic: "EPA / OSHA Accident Investigation - New Charter - New Concerns"
Speaker: John Rivard, Sr. Consultant
 EQE International
Focus: The new Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and OSHA on major accident investigation reflects the commitment of these agencies to investigate major accidents not only for compliance, but also for root cause, leading to EPA / OSHA (Continued on page 6)

Contact: Skip Early, 281 / 558-5418 Fax 281 / 558-5488

NOTES
 150-2000
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The South Texan is published monthly, except June, July and August, by the South Texas Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of STS-AICHE.

The Purpose of the Section, a nonprofit scientific, educational and charitable organization, are the furtherance of the aims and purposes of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the advancement of the science of chemical engineering and of related sciences through (i) the education of members and nonmembers in the sciences (ii) career guidance and financial assistance to students of the sciences and (iii) encouragement of research in the sciences.

From the Chair



In today's world, the financial planning for retirement is up to the employees. A guaranteed pension from your employer or even Uncle Sam is not an option or not enough to live on. The best plans are now based on 401 (k) and IRAs with a little income from Social Security. Your understanding of the basics of financial management and investing will determine the life-style you have after you retire.

This month's speaker, **Paul Riggs**, is an investment manager for the Acacia Group. He helps individuals develop and implement a savings plan with long term and short term objectives. He will discuss the basics of financial planning and investment without favoring specific companies or strategies. As this topic is of interest to most people, please bring a spouse, partner, or co-worker to the meeting. Attire is office casual.

As stated in my January column, I will continue to address some of the results from the survey conducted by the Long Range Planning Committee. Beside the dress code, other topics related to the monthly meeting included social meetings and joint meetings with other technical societies. Last year, the section held a purely social meeting in June. The meeting was a Houston Ship Channel boat ride. Turnout was good and attendees had a great time. I am interested in holding a purely social meeting in June. While a few members have asked to repeat the boat ride, others would like a family type function such as a picnic at Miller Park or public beach. Let me know what type of event you would like by March 1, so plans can be made.

The other meeting concern I will address this month is holding joint meetings with other technical societies. Joint meetings take a lot of effort to make happen. I tried twice to have a joint meeting with several of the environmental technical societies. The response was "No Thank You" even with a speaker from the TNRC management team. It seems the environmental technical societies use their dinner to raise funds and the price AICHE charges is lower than what they charge. Any one who wishes to arrange a joint meeting with other technical societies is welcomed. Just let **Ron Darby** and myself know 3 or 4 months in advance so dinner arrangements, especially prices, can be coordinated between the two societies.

When our April monthly meeting is held, HESS will have moved into the new location on Westheimer, just west of the Galleria. This location will be more convenient to many of you who work or live on the west side of Houston. Directions including a map with backstreets will be published in the April, 1997 newsletter.

Laura J. Gimpelson, P.E.



**R. STANLEY
KISTLER
AWARDED
FELLOW OF THE
INSTITUTE**

At the December STS-AIChE meeting, Stanley Kistler was presented his Fellow of the Institute Award by National AIChE president Bill Doumas. It is an honor for the South Texas Section to have such a professional and active member in its ranks.

Stanley joined Heat Transfer Research in 1973 and is currently working in applied research as Director of Software Development. He is responsible for advanced planning of HTRI's computer programming efforts, development of project specifications, program documentation, software quality control, computer program maintenance, development of specifications for programming projects, and member technical services. During his career at HTRI he has been responsible for development of the ST Computer Program, development of the CST Computer Program, the single-phase shellside research project, the IST Computer Program, and development of other programs at HTRI including ACE, PHE, and TWALL. In addition to internal HTRI Publications, he has six publications in the open literature.

Dr. Kistler received B.S., M.S., Ph.D. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla. His specialty was heat transfer, and his research work was on film boiling from flat plates.

He served on the Equipment and Practices Subcommittee of the Heat Transfer and Energy Conversion Division from the late 1970's through 1990, and was chair for six years. He has been chair of the Heat Transfer and Energy Conversion Division, the D.Q. Kern Award Committee, the National Heat Transfer Conference Coordinating Committee, and has served on the Max Jakob Award Committee, the Research Council, and organized numerous Process Heat Transfer Sessions at the National Heat Conference and AIChE meetings. He is currently Software Editor for Heat Transfer Engineering, and is a Registered Chemical Engineer in the state of California.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER (continued from page 1)

Paul Riggs is a chemical engineer who made the transition from engineering to business. Prior to joining the Acacia Financial Center of Houston in 1993, he was a process engineer at Lyondell Petrochemical Company. He earned his Bachelor's in chemical engineering at The University of Texas and his MBA in Marketing and Management from the University of Houston. At Acacia, he is an Account Manager and Registered Representative of The Acacia Group's registered brokerage and investment advisory firm.

HOUSTON ENGINEERING WEEK

"Engineers: Turning Ideas into Reality" is the theme of Houston Engineers Week, February 16-22, 1997. During that week there will be many functions around town recognizing the contributions that engineers make to their professions and the community. Among those to be honored at the Young Engineers Award / Recognition Dinner on Monday, February 17, will be Cindy Foley, the STS-AIChE 1996 Outstanding Young Member. This dinner will be at the new location of H.E.S.S., 5430 Westheimer. On Friday, February 21, George C. Love, P.E., will be honored as Engineer of the Year at a banquet being held at the Westin Oaks Hotel. For information and reservations to these and other Houston Engineers Week events, please contact Steven R. Neeley, P.E., Harding Lawson Associates, 9600 Richmond, Houston, Texas 77042, Suite 200, (713) 974-9611, Fax: (713) 789-1029.

The events concerning Houston Engineers Week include the following:

- February 7, 1997** **Houston Business Journal Supplement**
- February 17, 1997** **Young Engineers Award / Recognition Dinner**
Houston Engineering & Scientific Society (H.E.S.S.), 5430 Westheimer Way (former Carlisle Restaurant)
6:00 p.m.
Tickets \$21.00
- February 18, 1997** **Student Award / Recognition Luncheon**
U of H Hilton Hotel
12:00 p.m.
Tickets: Individual \$18.00
Sponsors \$150.00
- February 20, 1997** **TSPE Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon**
Mrs. Stewart Haynes' Residence
11:00 a.m.
- February 21, 1997** **Engineer of the Year Banquet**
Westin Oaks Hotel
6:30 p.m.
Honoring George C. Love, P.E.
Tickets: \$39.50
- February 22, 1997** **Mathcounts Regional Contest**
University of Houston, Agnes Arnold Hall
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

FOR THE SPRING NATIONAL MEETING

Contact: **Laura Gimpelson @ 459-2525**

or

Joseph James @ 474-6550

for more information

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

January's workshop - New Year's Resolutions for Chemical Engineers or *Take This Job and Love It!* suggested that we take time and review our hopes and dreams - both professionally and personally. What center of life do you operate out of? Is it love or financial independence or security? According to **Helen Keller**: "Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."

Have you given up your dreams to pursue your career or 'prime directive'? Now is an excellent time to take an Inventory. What is right in your life? What is good in your life? What do you have a **passion** for? When will you do it? If not you, then who?

A secret of fulfillment might be refusing to live without career satisfaction. Focus on your strengths and talents. Get your career power back!

The Four-Step Career Empowerment Process

1. Define the problem
2. Use the problem to create a positive vision
3. Acknowledge and accept your feelings
4. Make conscious choices

According to Powers and Russell² there are 10 ways to love your job: (1) Dream a Big Dream - Let your mind and heart take flight. What would you truly love to do? (2) Don't settle for too little - one-half of your waking hours are spent at work. (3) Don't sell yourself short - You are more than your last assignment, project, or job. (4) Challenge yourself - and your job to grow with you. (5) Keep Learning - Learn new skills for the future. (6) Chin up - Stick to your long-term goals in spite of short-term setbacks. (7) Play the hand that's dealt you - How do you respond (not react) to the ups and downs of your job and life? (8) Make your mark - Every job has room for accomplishment, quality, and pride. (9) Think beyond yourself - There is time to care about others and work together. (10) Recharge your batteries - Reserve time and emotional energy for ALL the important parts of your life.

1. Tracy, Diane (1994). *TAKE THIS JOB AND LOVE IT* -A personal guide to career empowerment. NY: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

2. Powers, Paul & Russell, Deborah (1993). *LOVE YOUR JOB!* Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates.

Larry P. Lowell Jr., P.E.

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TIPS ON SELECTING & OPERATING CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS

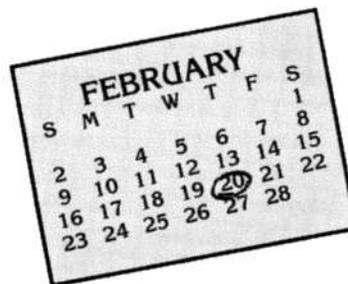
WILL BE PRESENTED AT STS-AICHe **REGIONAL MEETING AT THE HOECHST CELANESE CLEAR LAKE PLANT, FEBRUARY 20**

At the February Regional Meeting **Bill Bailey**, of the Durco Pump Company, a division of the Duriron Corporation, will discuss "Good Pump Practice." This will mainly entail the selection of centrifugal pumps and the different variables that affect selection of centrifugal pumps and proper operation and maintenance. Mr. Bailey will discuss extending pump mean time between planned maintenance (MTBPM). This presentation should be of interest to anyone in an operating company, but especially to process and production engineers. Plants depend on centrifugal pumps, be they for transferring feedstocks, wastewater, and intermediate or final products. This is an opportunity to learn how to keep them running, find out what is new, and to update your skills.

Regional meetings "East of I-45" are open to anyone wishing to learn about advances in technology, brush up on engineering and operating methods, or simply to interact with other engineers. The **Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group** will host this month's meeting at their Clear Lake Plant in the Pasadena Bayport Industrial Complex. We hope to draw engineers from nearby plants in the Bay Area, Texas City, and North and South of the Ship Channel. If you have never been to a Regional meeting, give it a try, whether a member or not. Bring your friends along. There is no charge and always plenty of room.

Starting at 4:30 p.m. you can share experiences and enjoy the fellowship and networking with other chemical engineers. The one-hour workshop ends at 6 p.m. so your evening is not impacted. Free soft drinks are provided and dress is casual/work clothes.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO COME!



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR NOW
FOR THE
FEBRUARY

REGIONAL MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1997

TIME: 4:30 to 6:00 PM

SEMINAR: "Good Pump Practice"

SPEAKER: Bill Bailey, Sr. Sales Representative

LOCATION: Hoechst-Celanese Corp. 9502 Bayport Road, Pasadena. Take I-45 or Red Bluff Rd to Bay Area Blvd. and go east. About 0.7 mi. beyond the intersection with Red Bluff, turn left (North) onto Bayport Rd. Another 0.7 miles puts you at the plant entrance. Visitor Parking on the left just past the stop sign. Proceed to Cafeteria in Employees Bldg. to right of Main Gate. (Main Number: 474-6200)

RSVP: (Optional) or for more info: Call Dave Silarski (Global Octanes) @ 478-4086 or FAX 478-4089.

1997 JOB FAIR

MARCH 11 & 12, 1997

AICHe 1997 Spring National Meeting

George R. Brown Covention Center • Houston, Texas

- 1) Register for Spring National Meeting
(\$20 for unemployed* / undergraduate members)
 - 2) Pre-Register for Job Fair by March 3, 1997
[no additional charge, must complete 1) above]
- Registration - both <http://www.aiche.org/fair>
 Resume submittal - e-mail register@aiche.org(ASCII text only)
 Resume submittal - fax 1-757-490-7448
 Customer Service - Meeting 1-800-242-4363
 Customer Service - Job Fair 1-800-288-2890

* NOTE: Unemployed members **must** be listed with AICHe as unemployed before registration

** NOTE: Fax cover letter should mention AICHe Job Fair,

ORGANIZATIONS with job openings contact:

Henry Roman..... 1-800-288-2890 X2441

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

National PDC:

- March Workshops: Resumes Round Table, Cover Letter for your Resume & Interview Tips
 March Peer Help Employment Center

STS PDC:

March 10 p.m. & March 11 a.m.

Poster Sessions (outside Ballroom A)

- Employment: Supply & Demand..... **Freeman Self**
 CEO: Chemical Engineering Opportunities ..**Larry Chriswell**
 Contract Engineer **Bill Weir**
 Alternate Careers **Ed Ekholm & Larry Lowell**

Call Larry Lowell for local questions: 281 / 334-4907 (night) or Inlowell@flash.net; also see page vii of the 1997 Spring National Meeting Program, Supplement to CEP, December 1996.

SPRING NATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

The program and a whole lot more are available on the Internet at home page <http://www.phoenix.net/~jajames/97sprmtg.htm>. The Weblet's contents includes several ways to obtain the meeting and Expo information prior to attending to optimize your "Knowledge Base"

Visit this Web Site for information on the Welcoming Party (March 9, 1997) and other Social Events, Continuing Education offerings, Petrochem & Technochem Expo exhibitors' listings with a map of locations, career fair and professional development, plant tours, extended abstracts with a map of location of session, directions and maps, pictures, and AICHe Committee Meeting information. You can even surf the site for breakfast, lunch and dinner plans, along with links to the current weather forecast and Houston Attractions. Send Joe James, Web Spinner, your ideas at jajames@phoenix.net See you at the Welcoming Party.

Joe James, GAC Vice-Chair

CAST

After a two month hiatus, we are back with a bang. The February CAST (*Computing and Systems Technology*) workshop will feature **Dr. Zak Friedman** of PETROCONTROL, Hoboken, NJ, speaking on the topic of "Advanced Control and On-line Optimization: What Works, What Doesn't, Where is the Money?" Dr. Friedman is a consultant in the field of Process Control and On-line Optimization. He has pursued research in the area of using process models for real time closed loop control and optimization of refinery units, and in standardization of control technology. His experience spans thirty years in oil refining and petrochemicals, working for such employers as Exxon Research & Engineering and KBC Advanced Technology. He holds a BS degree from the Israel Institute of Technology and a PhD degree from Purdue University. Indications are that this will be one of our hottest, most controversial workshops. Those who want to weenie up on a bit of background are referred to Dr. Friedman's paper in *Hydrocarbon Processing* October, 1995.

There will be no CAST workshop for the month of March, 1997, because of the AICHe Spring National Meeting. All CAST workshop attendees are highly encouraged to attend this convention. I realize that I am preaching to the choir, but, a certain STS past chairman who shall remain nameless has vociferously encouraged me to vociferously encourage you to attend. So there! I've said it. I won't say anything more about it other than to remind you that there are 7 sessions supported by the national CAST division plus an additional 15 sessions which are also devoted to optimization, control, modeling and CAST related topics. This means that about 16% of the sessions are directly applicable to CASTers. In addition, there are undoubtedly individual papers in the remaining sessions that pertain to CAST topics. In spite of rumors to the contrary, computers are not just a passing fad.

The projected schedule for the rest of the year is:

- March 1997** No Workshop. **1997 Spring National Meeting**
April 3, 1997 **Andreas N. Matzakos**, Shell Development Co., "Bioreactor pH/Alkalinity/Precipitation Model."
May 1, 1997 **Jeff Hyatt**, DuPont Co., "pH Systems Design and Control."

Thus, our 1996-1997 schedule is complete. If you have any suggestions for the 1997-1998 speakers, please pass these ideas on to us. Who knows. We may have another schedule change before this year is completed. In addition to Dr. Kevin Lunsford of Bryan Research & Engineering, we have Aspen Technology, Inc. who has indicated an interest in presenting a workshop next year. You can forward any other suggestions, comments, ideas, criticisms, praises, etc. to:

Ivan Lozada

Shell, 281 / 544-8147, 281 / 544-7468 (FAX) or

Jerald Linsley

CCI, 713 / 272-3134, 713 / 778-6004 (FAX)

Fluid/Particle Separation Course

The 6th American Filtration & Separation Society
Education Conference

February 24-27, 1997 • Houston, Texas

This conference is designed to promote the education in fluid/particle separation. On the first day, a symposium will be held to present the newest development in several major areas of fluid/particle separation. The 2nd and 3rd day will be a course on fluid/particle separation. This course is the result of an on-going effort in the past five years by a number of experts in this field. The instructors are well known experts in each particular area with many years of practical experiences. The class notes will be the first draft of the text book to be recommended for university curriculum.

Among the keynote speakers, Prof. Werner Stahl is the world's leading researcher and practitioner in centrifuge technology. He became a full professor at the Univ. of Karlsruhe, Germany in 1979 after 10 years of extensive experiences in the centrifuge industry. Prof. Alex McCorquodale is famous for his modeling in hydraulic system especially in the clarifier design which has significant impacts on the water and wastewater treatment industry. Prof. Frank Tiller is well known for his work in solids/liquid separation, including thickening, filtration and centrifugation in the past 50 years. Due to his contribution, he was considered as the father of the modern cake filtration theory. Dr. Reg Davies is a prominent industrial researcher and is currently the manager of duPont's Particle Technology Center. He is famous for his experiences in particle technology especially in particle characterization. There are also experts from both industry and universities teaching the various sections of the course.

Symposium (February 24)

| |
|---|
| Developments and Trends of Decanter Centrifuges - Prof. W. Stahl, Karlsruhe Univ. |
| Clarifier Design and Modeling - Prof. Alex McCorquodale, Univ. of New Orleans |
| Progress in Filtration Technology - Prof. Frank Tiller, Univ. of Houston |
| Industrial View of Education in Fluid/Particle Systems - Dr. Reg Davies, DuPont |

Fluid Particle Separation Course (February 25-26)

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 5. PRETREATMENT |
| 2. FLUID/PARTICLE CHARACTERIZATION | 5-1 Filter Aids |
| 3. FILTRATION 3-1 Cake Filtration 3-2 Depth Filtration 3-3 Straining 3-4 Membrane Filtration | 5-2 Chemical Treatment |
| | 6. GAS/PARTICLE SEPARATION |
| | 6-1 Mechanical Separators |
| | 6-2 Electrostatic Separators |
| 4. FIELD SEPARATION 4-1 Gravity Settling 4-2 Centrifugal Settling 4-3 Cyclones 4-4 Flotation | 6-3 Applications |
| | 7. SYSTEM DESIGN |
| | 7-1 Solid/Liquid Separation |
| | 7-2 Solid/Gas Separation |
| | 8. CURRICULUM DISCUSSION |

Conference coordinator: **Dr. Wu Chen, Dow Chemical**
Dr. Ted Cleveland, Univ. of Houston

For more information contact the American Filtration Society
(205) 333-6111 • (205) 333-6446(FAX)

WORKSHOPS (continued from page 1)

Environmental Issues

A key component of this approach is the Permit-by-Basin Rule (*Texas Administrative Code, §305.71*), adopted by the TNRCC on January 3, 1995. This rule requires comprehensive evaluation of the combined effects of multiple permitted discharges on water quality within each watershed or basin. The Permit-by-Basin Rule, in conjunction with the watershed management cycle, establishes the statewide sequence for implementing the watershed management approach in all basins and coastal areas of the state. The watershed management approach also establishes the long-term process necessary to better understand and manage the overall water quality of a river basin or watershed.

NOTE: A Co-Coordinator for the Environmental Workshop is needed. If you are interested contact Matt Kolodney, 713 / 767-3752.

CASI

A list of specific issues follows:

- Basic control (DCS) configuration and turning problems Advanced controls will not work on top of infeasible or poorly tuned basic controls.
- Standardization of control tools.
- Inferential control versus analyzers (*or plus analyzers*). Issues of response, accuracy, reliability and maintenance for either approach. Poorly conceived inferential controls are permanent maintenance problems. Poorly specified and installed analyzers are permanent maintenance problems.
- The role of neural networks, expert systems, and other new software tools.
- Maintenance of advanced controls.
- The global refinery optimization problem.
- Unit on-line optimization. Is it going anywhere? What do we need to make it work?
- The on-line scheduling problem.
- Optimization crystal balling.

Process Safety

recommendations and public reports on the accident. John will explore how this new approach may affect the employer struggling to manage several investigations in the wake of a major accident, as well as the process industry in general.

WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT

While waiting for the STS-AIChE to establish its permanent Web site, **Joe James** has volunteered to put the newsletter and other information about the section at his Web site:

http://www.phoenix.net/~jajames/sts_home.htm

Currently his Web site includes the January and February issues of the *The South Texan*, and current contact list of officers and other committee contacts with automatic E-Mail links to their addresses.

If you have any comments about Joe's admirable effort, please give him an e-mail message at:

jajames@phoenix.net

Join Today!

AIChE's South Texas Section

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I wish to join the South Texas Section of AIChE.

My \$12.00 is enclosed.

Name: _____

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National Member of AIChE? YES NO

If I am not a National Member, I plan to apply within 2 years.

**REMEMBER!
NO MEETING
NO WORKSHOPS
IN MARCH**

BILL WEIR WINS BRIGHT IDEA CONTEST

When the envelope from the Long Range Planning Committee was opened last month, we all heard -- "and the Winner is--**Bill Weir!!**" Bill's four-part suggestion was to "provide training programs at prices affordable by individuals." A paraphrasing of his idea is that the STS-AIChE should invite company managers with hire-fire authority (*to lunch*) to discuss what experience and training they want in their new hires. And if the AIChE provides such training, it is conceivable those managers would employ such trained engineers to fill their vacancies.

With the rapid changes in the global economy where a technological advantage is key, it is essential for ALL chemical engineers to maintain their technical skills and to develop new ones. That is, all of us, whether permanently employed, on contract, between jobs, or those simply wanting to enhance their technical skills will need more training. Down the road, such continuing education may be required to satisfy the requirements for maintaining registration as a professional engineer.

Last November, the first of two \$100 prizes were awarded to stimulate responses to the survey. **Lisa Dall-Bauman** was the lucky winner of that random drawing.

The final selection was challenging because of the wide range of ideas and having to assign a value or weigh the benefit to be derived by the membership and stakeholders. All were eligible, but those most beneficial or meaningful to local members were desired. Ideas fell in ten categories. National Issues, STS-AIChE Issues, corporate management issues, outreach communication, and naturally, the survey format. All STS ideas have been submitted to the executive committee for their consideration and action. Some are being enacted already - *i.e.*, casual dress code. Other ideas will undoubtedly be forwarded to the National Council for their consideration. Unfortunately only one cash prize was awarded but we will all be winners in the long run as action is taken on these suggestions. Recognition in the form of "attaboys" or "attagirls" may be forthcoming to runner-ups as ideas are implemented.

Bill Stadig, Mbr., LRPC

**PLAN TO ATTEND!
March 9-13, 1997**



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