



The South Texan

VOLUME 100 NUMBER 8

MAY 2000

MAY MEETING THURSDAY • MAY 4, 2000

Speaker: Bruce Finlayson, Chair National AIChE

Focus: "A History of Chemical Engineering in the Last Millennium"

You wonder: How can chemical engineering have a 1000 year history when the first degrees were only awarded 100 years ago? This talk takes you through an illustrated picture of the world before chemical engineering was named, using the criterion: anything in Perry's Chemical Engineering Handbook today is chemical engineering no matter when it was done or what it was called. Of course, most of the developments occurred in the last century (the 20th century): the Haber process to make ammonia, the invention of PVC (by a UW grad), the making of penicillin, the catalytic converter for the automobile, and many other improvements that chemical engineers have brought to the world's population. The talk will end with an overview of the actions AIChE is taking to be relevant to the future of chemical engineering as it branches out into diverse, multidisciplinary areas.

More about our Speaker see page 3



Meeting Location

**RADISSON
ASTRODOME HOTEL**

(Kirby at South Loop)

WORKSHOPS

(NO FEES - NO RSVP) 5:30-6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 5:30-6:30 p.m.

SOCIAL PERIOD 6:00-7:00 p.m.

DINNER 7:00-7:45 p.m.

PRICE \$ 20.00 with reservation
22.00 without reservation

Students and Unemployed 1/2 price

MEETING / SPEAKER 7:30-8:30 p.m.

AUTO - R.S.V.P.

By 4:00 p.m Tuesday, May 2nd

Call (281) 474-1626

WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS

GOVERNMENT INTERACTION

Topic: "77th Texas Legislature Session"

Focus: At 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 9, 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature session will start. The legislative agenda will include many items of interest to chemical engineers including statutes needed to implement the Houston-Galveston area's air quality program. This workshop will discuss the legislative

Continued on page 3

Contact: Dennis Griffith, Brown and Root
281-575-4582 • Fax 713-465-6914 • dennis.griffith@pdq.net
Steve Clegg, Catrep Corporation
713-954-9549 • Fax 713-954-9568 • sclegg@ix.netcom.com

CAST

Topic: "Refinery LP Modeling"

Speaker: Vasant Patel, Kellogg Brown & Root
Houston, Texas

Focus: Linear Programming (LP) is a powerful mathematical technique well suited for optimizing a large number of variables such as those encountered in a petroleum

Continued on page 3

Contact: Soundar Ramchandran, Solutia, Inc.
281-228-4248 • Fax 281-228-4167 • sbramc@solutia.com
John Cheng, Montell USA, Inc.
281-280-5374, Fax 281-280-5350
Wai Ming_John_Cheng@Montellna.com

PROCESS ENGINEERING PLANT OPERATIONS

Topic: "Basics of Air Cooled Heat Exchangers"

Speaker(s): Mr. Stan McHugh, Regional Director, U.S.A (Sales)
Mr. Bob J. Giammaruti, Manager of Research and Development (New Products)
Mr. George E. (Buddy) Kluppel, Director of Administration

Focus: Hudson Products Corporation will present a video and slide enhanced program covering the "Basics of Air Cooled Heat Exchangers" focusing on the various types and selection of air coolers. Hudson Products Corporation will also cover the use of their new air cooler budget rating and estimating program, which can be downloaded free of charge from their web site.

In addition, Hudson will present their new line of unique "heat pipe" or "thermosyphon" products. These products have applications including heavy oil tank and pipeline heating, combustion air pre-heating and "freeze safe" steam condensing.

Contact: Jim Morris, Jacobs Engineering Company • 713-669-2497 • Fax 713-661-8476 • jim.morris@Jacobs.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Topic: "Ethics Feedback & Followup to Panel Discussion"

Facilitator: Larry Lowell

Comments, Questions, or suggestions on where we go from here.

Contact: Larry Lowell • 281-334-4907 • Inlowell@flash.net

PROCESS SAFETY

Topic: "OSHA's Proposed Ergonomics Standard"

Speaker: Mark Hansen, Weatherford International

Contact: Skip Early, Early Consultants
281-558-5418

"FELLOW MEMBERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP"

See Page 4 -5 for details!

2000 South Texas Section

From the Chair

CHAIR

CHRISTOPHER TAGOE

Equistar Chemical Bayport
5761 Underwood Road
Pasadena, TX 77507
Ph.: (281) 474-0457
Fax: (281) 474-0456
Chris.Tagoe@equistarchem.com

CHAIR-ELECT

ANDREW WILSON

2110 ELMEN ST. #1
Houston, Texas 77019-6802
Ph.: (713) 521-3141
E-Mail: andrew.wilson@enron.com

SECRETARY

JACKIE FORSYTH

Enichem
4803 Decker Drive
Baytown, Texas 77520
Ph.: (281) 424-6115
Fax: (281) 424-6169
E-Mail: jforsyt@enichema.com

TREASURER

DAVID MITCHELL, P.E.

GDS Engineers, Inc.
9009 West Loop South, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77096-1719
Ph.: (713) 295-4681
Fax: (713) 667-9241
E-Mail: dcmitch@gdseng.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITION 1

RICHARD STREET

Aspen Technology, Inc.
9896 Bissonet
Houston, Texas 77036-8220
Ph.: (281) 504-3384
Fax: (281) 584-4329
E-Mail: richard.street@aspentech.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITION 2

DRAGO BUKUR

Texas A&M University
Chemical Engineering Dept.
College Station 77845-3122
Ph.: (979) 845-3401
Fax: (979) 845-6446
E-Mail: d-bukur@tamu.edu

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITION 3

PAUL TEMME

Valero Refining Company - Texas
Houston Refinery
P.O. Box 5038
Houston, Texas 77262-5038
Ph.: (713) 923-3440
Fax: (713) 923-3561
E-Mail: temmep@valero.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITION 4

JOHN CHENG

Montell USA, Inc.
1002 Gemini, Sutie 200
Houston, TX 77058-2746
Ph.: (281) 280-5374
Fax: (281) 280-5350
E-Mail: wai-
ming_john_cheng@montellna.com

PAST CHAIR

CHARLES A. (MICKEY) REEVES

The Pace Consultants, Inc.
4828 Loop Central Drive, Suite 900
Houston, Texas 77081-2213
Ph.: (713) 669-7808
Fax: (713) 661-8476
E-Mail: mickey.reeves@jacobs.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

JERRY GRESHAM

Gresham & Gresham
P. O. Box 820888
Houston, Texas 77282
Ph.: (713) 780-1000
Fax: (713) 781-3300
E-Mail: gresham@pdq.net

ADVERTISING

STANN STIRLING

Ph.: (713) 744-2815
Fax: (713) 744-2880
E-mail: spstirli@uop.com

Holly Pro Graphics

Ph.: (713) 644-3700
Fax: (713) 644-8725
E-mail: typeforu@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

GARY CONGRAM

Ph.: (281) 376-5691
Fax: (281) 376-5691
E-Mail: isoconsul@aol.com

CHEMICAL / ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Brown & Root, Inc.

10200 Bellaire Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77072
Ph.: (281) 575-4348
Fax: (281) 575-5258

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

1-800-AIChemE
1-800-242-4363

AICHEXpress Service Center
345 East 47th Street, NY 10017
To expedite your request, all inquiries should be made through New York
E-Mail: xpress@aiche.org



The May monthly meeting is our traditional awards night. We hope you will join us in celebrating the achievements of our awards winners.

As a result of this publication, many of my colleagues now know of my involvement with the local section of AICHE. Invariably, I am always asked why I am involved. I find this question somewhat troubling. One would think

that the idea of an active professional organization to represent the needs of the membership would be clear and enthusiastically supported. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Very few of the engineers I talk to recognize the numerous programs that the national AICHE section promotes;

- Life and health insurance plans
- Financial services
- Research support including the DIPPR database and the DIERS effort.
- Publications including Chemical Engineering Progress, one of the most respected technical journals.
- Lobbying
- Courses
- Symposia
- Employment services

Just to name a few. Check out the national AICHE web site at AICHE.org to learn more about these and other programs.

The national organization, counts on the local sections to address local issues. Of course there is the monthly meeting which I hope you have taken advantage of for your own professional development. Remember, in today's climate, professional development is more than ever before, your individual responsibility. There is also this newsletter, the list server and the web site which are our primary vehicles of communication. Local volunteers also provide

- Outreach to local high schools and colleges.
- Networking opportunities.
- Courses. Today, most courses are out of reach of most of the membership. Most companies do not encourage professional improvement courses, attendance at national meetings etc. The south Texas section has pioneered a new approach to professional development with it's refinery fundamentals courses. For less than \$20 and a Saturday, you can attend a training workshop. The workshop even provides a CD with all the lecture notes.

Incidentally, membership in the local section is not automatic with your annual membership. Local sections are separately funded. Notice that your invoice shows a separate line item for membership in your local section.

So what do I gain from participation? The satisfaction that I am actively playing a part in advancing the needs of the profession. I encourage you to do the same. In fact we are currently accepting nominations for officer and committee positions for next year. If you are interested in serving, contact Mickey Reeves or any one of the officers.

The South Texan is published monthly, except June, July and August, by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, South Texas Section. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of 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 non-members in the sciences (ii) career guidance and financial assistance to students of the sciences and (iii) encouragement of research in the sciences.

WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://www.sts-aiche.org>

SPEAKER (continued from page 1)

Bruce Finlayson is the Rehnberg Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Washington, where he has been on the faculty since 1967. He is currently President of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. His research is in the area of mathematical modeling, including helping to develop models for catalytic converters for automobiles and computational fluid dynamics (CFD).

Currently he uses CFD to model the flow and heat transfer in ferrofluids, which respond to magnetic fields as well as the usual flow situations. He teaches undergraduates and graduate students, including an award-winning course in which the students learned numerical techniques while modeling a catalytic converter for automobiles; several multimedia lessons have been developed by his students. (See <http://faculty.washington.edu/finlayso/>). He has written three books, was the Director of the ASEE Summer School for Chemical Engineering Faculty in 1997, vice-chair of an Engineering Conference on "Chemical Engineering Education in a Changing Environment", chair of a Gordon Conference on numerical methods for flow in porous media. He is a fellow of AIChE, won the Walker Award of the AIChE for contributions to chemical engineering literature, has been cited by Citation Classics in Current Contents for a most-cited article, and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He was Department Chair at the University of Washington from 1989-1998.

CHAIR continued

The main speaker at the monthly meeting this month is Bruce Finlayson, the current chair of the National AIChE organization. I invite you to come and meet and interact with Bruce and learn about his vision for the institute. This is your chance to ask about some of the programs I have highlighted above and to share your personal thoughts on how the section can further meet your needs.

Finally, on another note, I have been toying around with the idea of starting a technical column for our newsletter. We could provide short articles such as software evaluations, engineering calculation shortcut tips, refresher exercises, and troubleshooting hints. I would like to hear from you if you would be interested in such a column. Also if you would like to contribute to the column or help edit it, let me know.

Chris Tagoe
Chair

WORKSHOPS

GOVERNMENT INTERACTION (Continued from page 1)

agenda and how the STS-AIChE Government Interaction Committee can work with our legislators. Also being discussed will be the Government Interaction Committee's meeting schedule for the 2000-2001 STS-AIChE meeting year. Please check the room assignments in the hotel lobby and feel free to drop in to join us.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste. Support UNCF.

<http://www.topica.com/register>

CAST

CAST WORKSHOP

May 4th • Radisson Astrodome Hotel • 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Our April workshop featured Dr. Cornel Jordache and his talk discussed basics of data reconciliation and gross error detection. The talk was very interesting, especially given the fact that one hears the terms "data reconciliation" and "gross error detection" quite a lot whenever the topic of discussion is on-line optimization. Also the venue of our April meeting was a good change, and the tour of the brewery acted as a catalyst to draw a larger participation. I heard that the tour of the brewery was also very good. However, one comment I would like to make is that we check the capability of the venue for conference or seminar facilities before we decide to have a speaker at that meeting. It makes it a lot easier on the speaker and the participants, and to have good workshop when the meeting room facilities are satisfactory. Needless to say, the meeting room facility at the Brewery were less than ideal. However, I thank all the attendees for their enthusiasm and participation, and a big thank you to Dr. Jordache for making the presentation.

Our last meeting for this season will be in May. Our speaker, Mr. Vasant Patel is a Process Manager at Kellogg Brown & Root and is involved in refinery planning and project definition for grassroots and revamp projects. His twenty-five years of experience includes refinery technical support, scoping of capital projects, process simulation, process design, marketing support, bench scale-research and pilot plant tests. His recent projects include several LP studies for screening of clean fuels options for various clients. Prior to KBR, he held technical positions at Sun Oil's Pennsylvania refinery. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Chemical Engineering and MBA.

The CAST division of the AIChE covers all areas of computing and systems technology as applied to chemical process industries. Please feel free to contact either Wayne or myself if you have any suggestions or ideas to improve the workshop or increase its value to the CAST group. We are very interested in hearing from you.

Contact:

Soundar Ramchandran, Solutia, Inc.
281-228-4248, (FAX) 281-228-4167
sbramc@solutia.com

or

Wayne Fischer, Engineered Business Solutions, Inc.
(713) 522-3480 office
wayne@engbsolutions.com

JOINING or REMOVING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS FROM OUR LIST SERVER

Adding your e-mail to the List:

You can either go to our list server home page to register:

http://www.topica.com/lists/sts_aiche

or

You can also join by simply sending e-mail to the following address:

ss_aiche-subscribe@topica.com

Start an Email List For Free at Topica.

<http://www.topica.com/register>

"FELLOW MEMBERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP"



JULIO HERNANDEZ - FRAGOSO

A professional Chemical Engineer licensed to practice Puerto Rico since 1948, was born in Pajardo, Puerto Rico on March 1, 1925, eldest of five children. Married in 1950 to Luz D. Barreto. Two children were born Ludie Hernandez, now a physician with a Gastroenterology practice in Baytown. Julio B. Hernandez, a physician with a Dermatology practice in Phoenix, AZ. Julio retired in 1980 and lives with his wife in Baytown, Texas.

Education & Training

1947 B.S.ChE. - University of Puerto Rico, College of Agriculture & Mechanical Arts, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

1950 M.S.ChE. - Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago IL

1957 Certificate - Oak Ridge Schollo of Reactor Technology, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

1966 Certificate - Westinghouse Environmental School, Denver Colorado.

1968 Certificate - Westinghouse Environmental School, Denver Colorado.

Certificates - Continuous Education on Separation Processes, Distillation, Management, Public Relations, etc.

Positions, Professional Services, Accomplishments

1947-1953 - Chemical Engineering Instructor, University of Puerto Rico

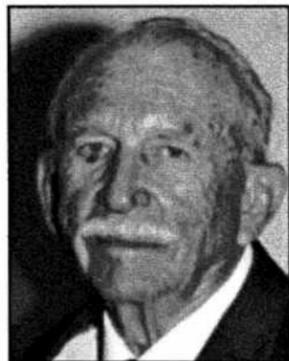
1953-1956 - Research Chemist, Central Aguirre Sugar Co.

1956-1980 - Various Positions Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority

It was during this period that the OTEC Utility Users Council was organized under the leadership of the Authority with the participation of 11 southern US utilities

1983-1987 - General Manager Carbine Energy Service Inc.

Retired in 1987.



CHARLES R. HOLMAN

1936-1937 - Received the degrees of B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from M.I.T.

1938-1968 - Employed by PPG Industries for 30 years, starting as Research Engineer and retiring as Vice President of Manufacturing in Dec. of 1968.

1941-1945 - On leave from PPG, served on active duty with U.S. Army in WWII starting as 2nd Lt. and finished as Major, Graduated from Command and General Staff School.

1969-1973 Couldn't stay retired, so accepted a position with Reichhold Chemicals as Director of Operations and Eastern Region Retired again 1973

1974-1983 Returned from retirement again to work as a Senior Project Manager for Crawford & Russell managing Design and Construction of Chemical Plants. C&R was sold to John Brown and now Kvaerner. I first came to Texas on temporary assignment as Senior Project Manager for the Conoco HOPE plant at Bay City but stayed 2 1/2 years until it was nearly completed.

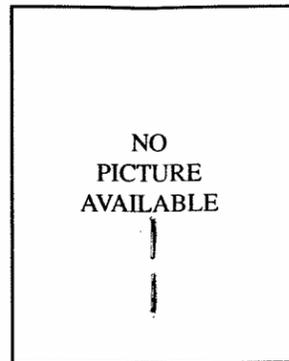
1983 Retired, seems to be the last one! Moved back to Texas in 1986, and settled on Lake Conroe where I living now. Active in AIChE since last retirement. Hobbies include Skeet Shooting, competing for 35 years, received an award for having shot 200,00 registered targets, more than any other Texas Skeet Shooter. Won the Senior Veteran (Over 80 years old) World Champion of Skeet Shooting for 4 consecutive years.



JAMES O. FRANCIS

James was born in Curry County, New Mexico on a family farm located about ten miles southeast of Clovis. He obtained a high school degree from Texico High School located nearby. He attended the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque from where he was drafted into the US Signal Corps during World War II. After discharge, he attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, receiving a BS in Chemical Engineering. He also worked at their Engineering Experiment Station. Upon Graduation, he worked as a Chemist for Cities Service in their Technical Service Laboratory in East Chicago. From there, he attended the University of Texas at Austin, receiving an MS in Chemical Engineering. While at UT, he also worked as a Teaching Fellow and Assistant. He then worked for Texaco, Inc. as an Engineer in Refining and Engineering, retiring after 35 years of service.

James and his wife Blanche live in Houston Texas. They have 2 children, Jeffery and Lauren. Jeffery resides with his wife Sue in Littleton, Colorado. Lauren resides with her husband Craig Slater and their three children in Pearland, Texas.



BRUCE F. GREEK

After obtaining a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Case Institute of Technology (now Case-Western Reserve University) in Cleveland, Ohio in January 1949, he began employment at Mellon Institute of Industrial Research in Pittsburgh, Pa. Initially, he was with a group developing improved instruments to control the polymerization process in making styrenebutadiene rubber. Then followed work on improving the sizing of high quality printing and art papers. Part time work at the nearby University of Pittsburgh led to a M.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1953. Then Armstrong Cork Co. (now Armstrong World Industries) employed him in Pensacola Florida with a group detached from the company's R&D department in Lancaster PA. Here, pilot plant work aimed to improve insulation and ceiling tile board made from wood fibers and fiberglass. In July of 1955, he joined the editorial staff of Chemical & Engineering News in the Houston office. Except for assignments in the Washington, D.C. headquarters and in other cities, he remained with the Houston office doing coverage of business developments until retirement at the end of 1991. Work with C&EN included such diverse activities as reporting on plant openings, marketing of chemicals, meeting coverage, and writing articles on processing, engineering and commodities.

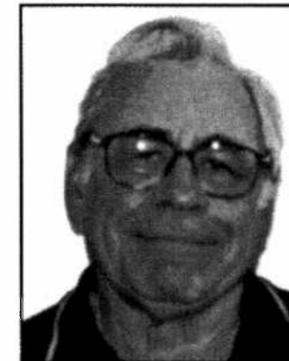


HERBERT C. MCKEE

I joined AIChE a few weeks after I received a Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering from Ohio State University. Most job opportunities then were in the chemical and petroleum industries, in such assignments as manufacturing, process development, research, etc. I started in that direction but went off on a tangent about four years later, into the field of environmental control. I am still on that path.

Almost half of that time was spent directing governmental regulatory programs: first as Chairman of the Texas Air Control Board (1966-1973) and later as director of the City of Houston environmental program (1976-1973) and later as director of the City of Houston environmental program (1986-1989). Most of the rest of the time was devoted to research and consulting, primarily in the air pollution field. In recent years. I have also been teaching part time at Rice University in Houston.

Over about 45 or 46 years in environmental activities, change has been a way of life (as in most other fields). Public attitudes about environmental control have gone from "benign neglect" to "imminent catastrophe" and then back to some middle ground. Technology has gone from simple to super-high-tech with automated controls. Calculations were first made with slide rules, then with pocket calculators and now with anything from a PC to a supercomputer. I've had fun doing it!



ROBERT (BOB) WAIXEL

Bob is a graduate from Purdue University in 1949 (BSChE). He married Ruth Wright in 1950. He is a World War II veteran. He has two daughters, Elizabeth and Susan and two grandchildren. He retired from Exxon Chemical in 1986, where he was a Senior Staff Engineer. His specialty was process design. Served on several local and national AIChE committees. His hobby is golf.



JAMES B. FLEMING

James B. Fleming in his 34 years with The M. W. Kellogg Company started as Field Engineer, then joined the Process Department in New York City as Process Manager and Process Consultant, later moving to Houston with Kellogg. He retired in 1981. He holds degrees from the University of Kansas, BA in Chemistry, and from the University of Michigan, BSChE and MSChE.

His many projects include Catalytic Cracking Units in U. S., Canada, Brazil and Belgium; Phenol-from-Cumene plants in U. S. and Canada; Cryogenic Processing Unit to extract Helium from natural gas; Ammonia units including training in China for engineers and technicians at a large scale Ammonia plant.

He was co-author of many technical articles on Energy Conservation, Petroleum Processing, Ammonia Plant Optimization, and Phenol-from-Cumene. And with co-workers has a patent on Ammonia Converter Reactor Vessel.

As a member of AIChE, was Chairman of Registration for the 60th Annual Meeting in New York City, and was Chairman of the New York Student Guidance Committee.

**CONGRATULATIONS
FOR YOUR
50 YEARS OF
MEMBERSHIP!**

MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE

Harry West, PhD, PE, CSP

May 8-9, 2000 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

2002 S. Wayside Dr., Houston, TX (TEEX Location)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

OSHA's Process Safety Management standard has identified "*Management of Change*" as a key element in controlling the potential hazards in a chemical processing facility. Management of Change policies and procedures are designed to insure that changes within chemical process plants do not result in operations outside established safety parameter.

The purpose of this course is to explain the concepts and current practice of Management of Change and to present a methodology designed to develop, implement and maintain an ongoing Management of Change program based upon proven engineering management practices and regulatory requirements. In addition to example of existing Management of Change policies and lessons learned from related industries, the course will provide sample Management of Change program outlines and checklists to assist participants in implementing an effective Management of Change program at their respective facilities.

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to develop a customized version of the Management of Change policies and procedures provided herein. Furthermore, participants shall also be well versed in the practical aspects of maintaining an effective Management of Change Program.

DAY 1: Concepts; Definitions; Principals and Examples; Management of Change Practice; Interface to Process Safety Management program

DAY 2: Auditing Management of Change; Risk Management Process requirements; Screening risk ranking techniques; Review example procedures

Audience: This course is designed for corporate safety officers, chemical process design engineers, technical managers, and plant level chemical manufacturing management.

Cost: \$325.00 **CEUs:** 1.2

Instructor: Harry West, PhD, PE, CSP is a consulting chemical engineer, specializing in process safety issues. He began his process safety interest over 25 years ago in the developing LNG industry. West was president of EDG Engineering, a computer-based safety protective control system integrator serving the chemical and petroleum industry. He was co-founder of Energy Analysts, an international chemical process safety consulting company and safety training provider. West was a chemical engineering faculty member at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Pittsburgh. He is a registered professional engineer and a Certified Safety Professional.

Method of Payment accepted: Checks made payable to the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center or if paying by credit card (*MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover*) please send the credit card number, expiration date, and the name as it appears on the card to: **Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center Attention: Mary Cass**, College Station, Texas 77843-3122

If you have any questions or need a registration form sent to you, please contact:

Mary Cass at (979) 458-1863 or send a fax to (979) 458-1493.

The Editor Speaks

It has been said that wisdom is having a lot to say and then not saying it. In this case, as your editor, I have something to say and am very happy to say it. In this month's newsletter you will find photos and biographies of some of our fellow engineers who have been members of AIChE for at least fifty years.

Now to some of us, fifty years may not seem to be a long time, but let's think back for a moment. In 1950, World War II had ended just five years ago, minimum wage was a dollar an hour, a new car cost about \$2,500 and a new three bedroom home in Houston cost around \$12,000. I saw my first major league baseball game – not in the Astrodome, but in Yankee Stadium where the Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles. Sadly, however, another war was poised to enter our lives soon, In that war, the 38th parallel in Korea became a household word. And I remember saying goodbye to my uncle who proudly served in the 45th Infantry Division.

In 1950, we had no television, internet, or computer to either entertain us or help us do a better job. Instead, we listened to radio, participated in the neighborhood gossip, and used a hand-cranked calculator or slide rule to do our calculations (*I never could remember where to put the decimal point*). Our President, **Harry Truman**, was famous for saying, "*The buck stops here!*"

In the late 1940's and early 1950's, the petrochemical industry was described as a "growing young giant" with production nearing the 20 billion pounds per year mark. Benzene was produced from petroleum, synthetic detergents replaced soaps, the first offshore oil well was drilled, and the Fisher Tropsch process made hydrocarbons from synthetic gas. And lest we forget, in 1947, hundreds of persons were killed or injured in the Texas City disaster when a tanker carrying ammonium nitrate exploded.

But enough of those bygone days. My message is one of sincere congratulations and appreciation for these honored members. Thank you and bless you for your generous contributions to our Section and our Society. Each and every member of AIChE and our South Texas Section wishes you the very best and deeply thanks you.

Gary Congram

The following Companies sponsored this issue of the STS - AIChE newsletter.
Show your appreciation for our sponsors with your patronage, and mention that you read about them in The South Texan

For Advertising
Information Contact

Stann Stirling

Work (713) 744-2815

Fax (713) 744-2880

E-mail: spstirli@uop.com

Engineering Software

Flash Calculations (PR, SRK, AK)
Phase Diagrams
Bubble Points & Dew Points
Physical Properties

Flash Calc™

Momentum Engineering Software Inc. **409-239-1315**
www.com.momentumware.com

AD SPACE
AVAILABLE



Gamma Surveys

16511 Space Center Blvd
Houston, Texas 77058
(281) 461-3997

gamma@gammascan.com

*Innovative scanning technology
with an emphasis on service*



Tru-Tec Services, Inc.
"Integrated Industrial Diagnostics"

- ▶▶ Column Scanning
- ▶▶ Neutron Backscatter
- ▶▶ CAT-Scans
- ▶▶ FCC Diagnostics
- ▶▶ Radioactive Tracing
- ▶▶ Infrared Steam Air Decoking
- ▶▶ Global Pipe Inspections - EMATS
- ▶▶ Helium Leak Testing
- ▶▶ PSM Programs
- ▶▶ Electric Motors Predictive Maintenance

**Increase Production... Optimize
Production, Extend Run Times
Avoid Surprises... Anticipate Problems
Before They Reach A Critical Point
Save Money... Avoid Unplanned
Shutdowns**

Corporate Headquarters:

11005 W. Fairmont
La Porte, TX 77571
281-471-8970
(800)288-8970
www.tru-tec.com

Divisions:

Process Diagnostic
Infrared Surveys
GFS/NDE
Iris Power Engineering
Magna-Tec

ARE YOU YOUR OWN "BOSS"

For chemical engineers facing a change in their business career, be they "downsized", wanting to be their own boss, consultant, independent contractor or whatever, it can be important to learn the "in's and out's" of starting and running your own business. The Service Corps of Retired Executives, SCORE, sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), provides a powerful, one-day seminar packed with information, tips and techniques to start your own business. The all-in-one seminar guides you through the startup process. Many engineers, including those working as independent contractors, have already benefited from this program.

The workshop agenda includes Personal Factors and Management, Business Opportunities, Marketing, Organization/Regulations/Insurance, Requirements and Sources of Funds, Business Records, and Business Plans. The workshop leaders are professionals with over 20 years of business experience.

A \$25 registration fee, payable in advance, or at the door, includes a 100-page Reference Manual. The 8-hour seminars are held twice a month in the Hilton Hotel Conference Center on the University of Houston Campus.

Saturday May 13, Wednesday May 24 Saturday June 10, and Wednesday June 21 are the dates for the upcoming conferences.

Plus, SCORE provides unlimited free and confidential counseling, and a library with computers, programs and videos, at the SBA Business Information Center, 9301 Southwest Freeway, Suite 365, Houston TX 77074. It's on the corner of Bissonnet and US 59, Monday - Friday. 9AM to 3PM.

For information: 713-773-6565, or 773-6549, Fax: 713-773-6550
e-mail: score37@insync.net or visit webpage:
www.insync.net-score37

Bill Stadig

SENIOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERS' LUNCHEON

Last month about twelve "available, senior engineers" - whatever that means - indicated an interest in joining with the local section American Chemical Society to attend a luncheon, monthly, for fellowship, exchange of ideas, and perhaps a speaker. Although no specific date or location has been set, the first luncheon may take place sometime in May, probably at Luby's Cafeteria, on the West or Southwest side of Houston, about 1PM (to avoid the crowd).

If you are already on the list, **Bill Stadig** will e-mail or call you when the "kick-off" meeting will happen. Otherwise, to get on "the list", please e-mail stadig.wp@worldnet.att.net or phone (281) 893-5803, between 9AM - 9PM.

For updates, please check the webpage www.sts-aiche.org.

**JOIN
AIChE
South Texas Section
Today!**

1999 - 2000 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONTH	DAY	LOCATION	TOPIC	SCHEDULED WORKSHOPS
MAY	4	ASTRODOME	BRUCE FINLAYSON NATIONAL AIChE PRESIDENT	GIC, CAST, PS, PEPO
JUNE	1	PORT OF HOUSTON	BOAT TOUR	NONE

All changes will be posted on www.sts-aiche.org

CAST = Computer Applications; ENV = Environmental Issues; GIC = Government Interaction;
PD = Professional Development; PS = Process Safety, PEPO = Process Engineering / Plant Operations

JUNE 1 HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL TRIP

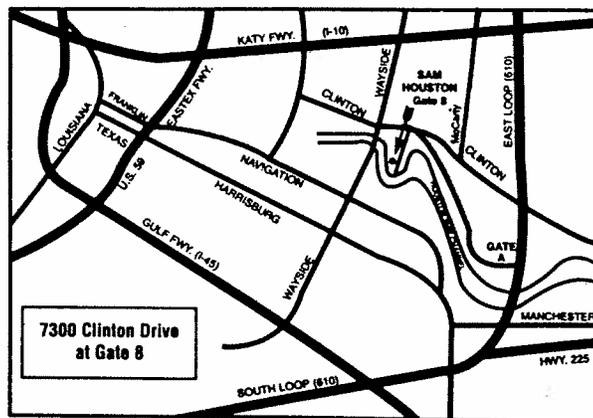
The South Texas Section will once again journey down the Houston Ship Channel in the fully air-conditioned M/V Sam Houston on the evening of Thursday, June 1. Barbecue and free beverages will be served on the trip which is intended to be enjoyed by one and all, so please bring your spouse or significant other. Sorry, but because the trip is intended for a technical organization, no children under the age of 16 are allowed. The cost of the trip, the barbecue, and the beverages (open bar) is \$10.00.

Reservations for attending are required since the M/V Sam Houston will accommodate only 75 people, so please call 713-295-4847 or log onto the STS-AIChE Web site at <http://www.sts-aiche.org/> at any time from now until 2:00 PM, Tuesday, May 30. Reservations are being taken on a first come, first serve basis. For last year's trip, over 120 members responded to make reservations. However, we could only take the first 75 of those who called in to make their reservations; so make your reservations early! Be sure to leave your telephone number so we can reconfirm your reservation; we must reconfirm your reservation in order to guarantee it. A wait list will be established for those who are not reconfirmed.

The M/V Sam Houston will leave the dock at 6:00 PM sharp and return to the dock at approximately 8:00 PM. The parking lot access is through Gate 8, 7300 Clinton Drive. Directions: Exit I-10 at McCarty and proceed south on McCarty to Clinton Drive. Turn right on Clinton and proceed west to Gate 8 which has a signal light and is just before Wayside. (You cannot get to Clinton from Wayside.) Enter Gate 8 and stay to the right; signs will direct you to the pavilion. Please refer to the map.

The Houston Ship Channel is the "aorta" of the chemical industry with more than 50 chemical processing facilities located along either side "pumping" their products into commerce around the world. The ship channel has more than 50% of the nation's basic petrochemical manufacturing capacity and nearly 50% of the capacity of first stage derivatives - almost three times larger than its closest competitor. Each year, port activity has a three billion dollar impact on the Houston economy. The list of companies that are located along the Houston Ship Channel reads like a who's who of the process industries. The Port of Houston is the largest port in the nation for foreign tonnage and is directly responsible for more than 75,000 jobs plus another 130,000 related jobs in the Houston/Harris County area not including those who work in the refineries, chemical plants and petrochemical complexes that line the Houston Ship Channel.

We hope to see you onboard the M/V Sam Houston when we set sail..



**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
CHEMICAL ENGINEERS
SOUTH TEXAS SECTION**

c/o Holly Pro Graphics, Inc.
3108 Houston Ave
Houston Texas 77009