



Special Notes

- Location: Park Plaza Hotel Reliant Center
- Distillation Symposium 3-6:30 pm
- Cost if preregistered, \$10. \$15 at the door.
- No Workshops this month
- Social Period 6-7 pm
- Dinner 7 pm
- Keynote Speaker 8 pm: Mr. Stephen P. (Steve) Hart, Vice President, Olefins, ExxonMobil Chemical Company

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Monthly Meeting April 14, 2005 (2nd Thursday in April)

South Texas Section

of the
American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)

Presents the

Third Annual Spring Distillation Symposium

Park Plaza Hotel at Reliant Center – Thursday, April 14, 2005

Starts: 3:00 PM

Honoring: Dr. James R. Fair, The University of Texas at Austin, The John J. McKetta Centennial Energy Chair in Engineering (Emeritus)
College of Engineering

Honoring and Featuring: Mr. Henry Z. Kister, Director, Fractionation Technology, Fluor

See pages 2, 3, 4, 5 for More Information

Register early online for the Symposium at:

<http://www.sts-aiche.org/stsdistsymp2005/stsdistsymp2005registry.htm>

****Please note:** The fee to attend the Distillation Symposium will be \$10 per person to defray the room rental, refreshments, and other expenses.

Dinner Meeting

Guest Speaker: Mr. Stephen P. (Steve) Hart, Vice President, Olefins, ExxonMobil Chemical Company

Topic: The Outlook for Energy

This presentation provides a view of world energy demand in the coming decades, a discussion of current and future energy sources, the challenges energy companies face in supplying the world's needs, and the role of technology. It also addresses the function of governments in resource development and discusses the future of energy--including an overview of new technologies, such as fuel cells.

Reserve your space online at:

<http://www.sts-aiche.org/reservations/sts-aichereservations.htm>

Or call (713)-295-4847 to make reservations until 4:00 PM April 12.

The dinner is \$22 with reservation, \$24 without, 1/2 price if student, retiree, or unemployed.



Third Annual Spring Distillation Symposium - Symposium Details

The Distillation Symposium is a joint effort of the South Texas Section Workshop Special Interest Groups. **The symposium will start at 3:00 PM** to accommodate five or six presentations.

Register on-line at <http://www.sts-aiche.org/stdistsymp2005/stdistsymp2005registry.htm>.

This will NOT make your Dinner Meeting Reservation.

A fee of \$10 will be collected from early registrants until April 13, 2005 to defray expenses for the symposium, including refreshments. Questions or comments on registration should be directed to Jim Morris

(ejmorris@vonl.com, 281-358-7986) or Shane Tierling (shane.tierling@halliburton.com, 713-753-6892).

On-site late registration is \$15 and will start at 2:30 PM on 14 April 2005. Seating will be limited to 150 - 200, so register early.

If you must cancel, do so as early as possible on the registration entry page above, or send an e-mail to webmaster@sts-aiche.org.

Dr. James R. Fair will be honored for achievement in chemical engineering, academia, mainly at the University of Texas

(UT) at Austin, notably in mass transfer for distillation, absorption and stripping processes, and for the creation of the Separations Research Program at UT.

Mr. Henry Z. Kister will be honored for his achievement in chemical engineering practice for his contributions in distillation equipment design, rating, operations and troubleshooting. He will also sign his texts sold at cost.

Tabletop displays of fractionation equipment, diagnostic tools, and simulation models are by contributing Exhibitors. Excess funds will go to the STS Education Program, mainly for scholarships.

Interested in Exhibiting?

If your company is interested in exhibiting at the Distillation Symposium, please call Jim Morris at 281-358-7986 or send an e-mail to ejmorris@vonl.com.

The meeting and arrangements are co-chaired by Shane Tierling, John Cheng, Steve Haynie, David Karesh, and Jim Morris. For interested Exhibitors or Corporate Sponsors, contact Jim Morris (ejmorris@vonl.com, 281-358-7986).

Attendees of the Distillation Symposium will earn 3 PDHs for the Texas Professional Engineer Continuing Education Programs. Remember to track your hours!

Distillation Symposium—Program Summary

Program Number	Program Title	Presenter(s)	Credentials
D1	Thermo Savvy for the Distillation Expert	Dr. Kenneth R. Cox	<i>Lecturer in Chemical Engineering, Rice University</i>
D2	Scan/Simulation Integrated Diagnostics for Distillation Improvement	Mr. Lowell Pless and Dr. Simon Xu	<i>Operations Manager, Process Diagnostic Division, Quest TruTec, Director of Process Solutions, Quest TruTec LP</i>
D3	Advances in Styrene Fractionation with Flexipac HC Structured Packing	Mr. Gail W. Hausch	<i>Manager of Packing Technology Development, Koch-Glitsch, LP.</i>
D4	Push Valve Experience on Distillation Trays	Mr. Daniel R Summers	<i>Sulzer Chemtech U.S.A., Inc., Tulsa, Oklahoma</i>
D5	Trouble-Free Design of Refinery Fractionators	Mr. Henry Z. Kister	<i>Senior Fellow and Director, Fractionation Technology, Fluor, Aliso Viejo, CA</i>
D6	Component Trapping in Distillation Towers: Causes, Symptoms, and Cures	Mr. Henry Z. Kister	<i>Senior Fellow and Director, Fractionation Technology, Fluor, Aliso Viejo, CA</i>

Third Annual Spring Distillation Symposium—Program Details Page 1

D1. *Thermo Savvy for the Distillation Expert*

Speaker: Dr. Kenneth R. Cox, *Lecturer in Chemical Engineering, Rice University*

Abstract: This paper introduces new tools for distillation experts who need to further develop their understanding of thermodynamic property methods used in process simulators. This is not a paper directed at experts in thermodynamics, but rather toward the user who needs simple measures to determine when the phase equilibrium property methods require special attention in their distillation designs.

We present a set of quantitative measures and decision diagrams that will help the nonexperts in thermodynamics to determine when to pay special attention to the thermodynamic packages and chart a path to an accurate thermodynamic description. We give several example situations highlighting special challenges, such as pressure-swing distillation, near azeotropic separations, and separations involving volatile electrolytes. As a part of this discussion, we will review general guidelines for selection of a proper thermodynamic correlation and steps to be taken when existing correlations prove inadequate.

Bio: Dr. Kenneth R. Cox is a Lecturer in Chemical Engineering at Rice University, where he has taught senior level courses in equipment design and separation technology, process design, and process dynamics and control, in addition to chemical engineering laboratories I and II. Prior to joining the faculty at Rice University, Dr. Cox taught for 4 years at The Ohio State University and worked for 17 years as a Research Engineer with Shell Development Company in Houston. As an Associate Professor at Ohio State, he taught courses in process design, colloidal behavior, transport phenomena, research planning, and technical communications. His research was in the simulation of colloidal dynamics and stability, with specific applications to biological systems. At Shell Development Company, Dr. Cox specialized in the areas of colloidal dynamics and stability, phase equilibria of complex systems, applications of molecular simulations, and physical properties for process design. He spent 1-1/2 years as an exchange scientist with Shell Research in Amsterdam.

Dr. Cox served for many years as a member of the Editorial Board for Fluid Phase Equilibria, an international journal. He has also served as chairman of the Chemical Engineering Science and Fundamentals programming committee of AIChE. Dr Cox is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Society for Engineering Education, and the American Chemical Society. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Texas. His educational credits include a B.S.Ch.E. (1974) degree from The Ohio State University, and M.S. (1977) and Ph.D. (1979) degrees from University of Illinois.

D2. *Scan/Simulation Integrated Diagnostics for Distillation Improvement*

Speakers: Mr. Lowell Pless, *Operations Manager, Process Diagnostic Division, Quest TruTec*
Dr. Simon Xu, *Director of Process Solutions, Quest TruTec LP*

Abstract: Both gamma scanning and computer simulation are useful tools for distillation improvement, nevertheless they both have shortcomings used alone. This paper presents an approach of Scan/Simulation Integrated Diagnostics (SSID) that links theoretical modeling and real world scans through hydraulic operation-capacity diagrams. A case study shows how to pinpoint the root cause of column fluctuations by SSID.

Bios: Mr. Lowell Pless has been with Quest TruTec LP since September 1987. He is currently Operations Manager for the Process Diagnostic Division of Quest TruTec LP. He earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas, and a long-time member of AIChE.

Dr. Simon Xu is the Director of Process Solutions for Quest TruTec LP. He earned B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in petroleum processing and organic industry from the University of Petroleum China. Before joining Quest TruTec in 1995, he previously was the Director of Separation Engineering Center for the University of Petroleum Beijing.

D3. *Advances in Styrene Fractionation with Flexipac HC Structured Packing*

Speaker: Mr. Gail W. Hausch, *Manager of Packing Technology Development, Koch-Glitsch, LP.*

Abstract: Structured packing has been used commercially in styrene service for over two decades. New design advances continue to be developed to meet ever-increasing process demands and provide superior tower performance. INTALOX® Packed Tower Systems by Koch-Glitsch combine high performance FLEXIPAC® HC® Structured Packing with state-of-the-art high performance internals tailored to meet specific process objectives. Driven by recent styrene projects, technology improvements have been developed and implemented.

These design improvements were implemented in a recent world- scale EB/SM column revamp with FLEXIPAC® HC® Structured Packing. Packing operating efficiency and pressure drop data are presented for this large scale commercial column and compared to total reflux distillation test data performed in smaller diameter columns. The same type and size structured packing has been tested both in the Koch-Glitsch laboratory column and at Fractionation Research, Inc. (FRI) under similar vacuum conditions. Comparison data from these three sources demonstrates that packing performance can be replicated in commercial installations of large diameter columns that have large numbers of theoretical stages.

Third Annual Spring Distillation Symposium—Program Details Page 2

D4. *Push Valve Experience on Distillation Trays*

Speaker: Mr. Daniel R Summers, *Sulzer Chemtech U.S.A., Inc., Tulsa, Oklahoma*

Abstract: Sulzer Chemtech has developed and employed push valves on all types of trays for the past several years. Numerous towers have employed this technology and the feedback from its use is outstanding. A discussion of this technology, its development, application and operational feedback will be presented.

Bio: Mr. Dan Summers is the Manager of Tray Technology Applications and Technology for Sulzer Chemtech, USA at their Tulsa, Oklahoma facility. He has been involved with Separations ever since he graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1977. He started his career with Union Carbide's Separations Design Group in West Virginia, and has since worked for Praxair, UOP, Stone & Webster Engineering and Nutter Engineering. For the past 27 years, Dan has been involved in the design, operation, and troubleshooting of all forms of tower internals in the hydrocarbon, specialty chemical, refining, air separation, and natural gas industries. He is the author (or co-author) of more than 13 papers on distillation and one US patent. His specialty is high capacity tray devices.

Dan Summers is a registered professional engineer in the states of New York and Oklahoma, a member of FRI's Design Practices Committee, a member of AIChE's Separation Division, and has been a full member of AIChE his entire career.

D5. *Trouble-Free Design of Refinery Fractionators*

Speaker: Mr. Henry Z. Kister, *Senior Fellow and Director, Fractionation Technology, Fluor, Aliso Viejo, CA*

Abstract: Analysis of case histories of distillation towers that fell short of achieving their design objectives provides the key for diagnosing and solving today's problems and avoiding tomorrow's trouble-spots in the refinery's most important fractionators. The presentation goes one by one through the main refinery fractionators, surveying the main trouble-spots reported for each over the years.

Bio: Henry Z. Kister is a Fluor Corp. Senior Fellow and Director of Fractionation Technology (phone 1-949-349-4679, email henry.kister@fluor.com). He has over 25 years experience in design, troubleshooting, revamping, field consulting, control and startup of fractionation processes and equipment. Previously, he was Brown & Root's staff consultant on fractionation, and also worked for ICI Australia and Fractionation Research Inc. (FRI).

He is the author of the textbooks *Distillation Design* and *Distillation Operation*, as well as 70 published technical articles, and has taught the IChemE-sponsored "Practical Distillation Technology" course 250 times. A recipient *Chemical Engineering Magazine's* 2002 award for personal achievement in chemical engineering, and of the AIChE's 2003 Gerhold Award for outstanding contributions to chemical separation technology, Kister obtained his BE and ME degrees from the University of NSW in Australia.

He is a Fellow of IChemE, a Member of the AIChE, and serves on the FRI Technical Advisory and Design Practices Committees.

D6. *Component Trapping in Distillation Towers: Causes, Symptoms and Cures*

Speaker: Mr. Henry Z. Kister, *Senior Fellow and Director, Fractionation Technology, Fluor, Aliso Viejo, CA*

Abstract: Column feed often contains components whose boiling points are intermediate between the light and heavy key components. In some cases, column top temperature is too cold, and column bottom temperature is too hot, to allow those components to leave the column at a rate sufficiently high to match their feed rate into the column. Having nowhere to go, these components accumulate in the column causing flooding, cycling, and slugging. If the intermediate component is water or acidic, it may also cause accelerated corrosion; in refrigerated columns it may cause hydrates. A high temperature difference between column top and bottom, a large number of components, and high tendencies to form azeotropes or two liquid phases are conducive to intermediate component accumulation.

Although component accumulation has troubled many distillation columns, until now it not been extensively addressed in the literature. This presentation reviews the phenomenon and describes guidelines on anticipating, troubleshooting, and overcoming component accumulation problems.

Bio: Henry Z. Kister is a Fluor Corp. Senior Fellow and Director of Fractionation Technology (phone 1-949-349-4679, email henry.kister@fluor.com). He has over 25 years experience in design, troubleshooting, revamping, field consulting, control and startup of fractionation processes and equipment. Previously, he was Brown & Root's staff consultant on fractionation, and also worked for ICI Australia and Fractionation Research Inc. (FRI).

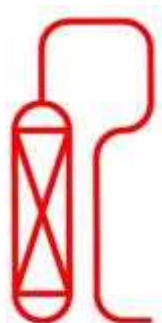
He is the author of the textbooks *Distillation Design* and *Distillation Operation*, as well as 70 published technical articles, and has taught the IChemE-sponsored "Practical Distillation Technology" course 250 times. A recipient *Chemical Engineering Magazine's* 2002 award for personal achievement in chemical engineering, and of the AIChE's 2003 Gerhold Award for outstanding contributions to chemical separation technology, Kister obtained his BE and ME degrees from the University of NSW in Australia.

He is a Fellow of IChemE, a Member of the AIChE, and serves on the FRI Technical Advisory and Design Practices Committees.

Another Thank You to Corporate Sponsors of the Second Annual Spring Distillation Symposium



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Dinner Meeting Speaker

Speaker: **Mr. Stephen P. (Steve) Hart of ExxonMobil**

The Outlook for Energy

This presentation provides a view of world energy demand in the coming decades, a discussion of current and future energy sources, the challenges energy companies face in supplying the world's needs, and the role of technology. It also addresses the function of governments in resource development and discusses the future of energy—including an overview of new technologies, such as fuel cells.

Bio: Mr. Hart's current business area is one of two major businesses that have such a large interaction between refining and petrochemicals. Many streams from the refineries and the olefins plants are interchanged to produce products for both businesses. Economic decisions about feedstock slates, products, operating rates, etc. are extremely complex and affect both sides of the business. Distillation is a major part of both complexes.

Stephen P. (Steve) Hart is the Vice President for ExxonMobil Chemical Company's Olefins Global Business Unit, located in Houston. In this position, Steve directs ExxonMobil's global olefins business with responsibilities for optimization of manufacturing, business planning, feedstock procurement and supply, product marketing and distribution, and technology.

Steve joined Exxon in 1977 as a chemical engineer at the Baytown (Texas) Refinery. Over the past 27 years, he has held positions of increasing responsibility in technical and management assignments in refining, supply and distribution. Steve has been the manager of ExxonMobil's Billings (Montana) Refinery and Baytown Refinery. He has also worked in California, Virginia and England. Before being named to his current assignment in November 2003, Steve was the Vice President of Supply and Distribution for ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Company.

Steve has a B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the University of Houston - Clear Lake. Steve has been active in various civic organizations in the cities where he has lived and worked. He and his wife, Vicky, have three daughters and live in Houston.



Dinner Meeting Registration

You must register separately for the Distillation Symposium and the Dinner Meeting. Registration details for the Symposium are found on Page 1. Register for the Dinner Meeting online at:

<http://www.sts-aiiche.org/reservations/sts-aichereservations.htm>.

The dinner is \$22 with reservation, \$24 without, 1/2 price if student, retiree, or unemployed.

Attendees of the Dinner Meeting will earn 1 PDH for the Texas Professional Engineer Continuing Education Programs. Remember to track your hours!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 28, 2005

Young Members Activity—Steam Basics Seminar. See Page 8.

May 3, 2005

Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) Meeting. See Page 7.

May 5, 2005

Monthly Meeting 7 pm

Awards Night—Presenting the Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Young Member Award

June 2005

The monthly meeting will be the Annual Ship Channel Cruise. Details to follow.

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OTC 2005 Save the Date and Agenda Input Request

Dear AIChE members;

First, thanks to all for their assistance in preparing for OTC 2005. We are on course for a great conference.

This is a 'save the date' and 'request for agenda input' notice for OTC 2006 planning.

As most of you are aware, we schedule our planning meeting during OTC to try and get as large a turnout as possible. We will be meeting **at the Reliant Center on Tuesday 3 May 05 from 4:00 - 5:30pm.**

In past years we have tried meeting in the morning before the show - and have experience some difficulties in getting into the facility. Hopefully the 4:00 pm start time will not cause undue problems. The main objectives for the meeting are:

1) Meet and greet. We communicate mostly via email, and this is one of the few meetings where we have a chance to get face-to-face. Without promises, it appears that our Director of Technical Programming, Mr. Joe Cramer, will be able to participate. As such, we will also get a chance to meet Joe and get his latest updates.

2) Program development for OTC 2006

a) Update from OTC Program Committee with respect to schedule and general themes

b) Development of AIChE 'special session' topics

c) Development of AIChE 'luncheon' topics.

To the extent that you have ideas going into the meeting, please email me the topics and I will include them on the agenda. I will send out the detailed agenda with the room number around the middle of April.

For more information, Scott Rothchild is maintaining an OTC page on the AIChE website.

<http://www.aiche.org/conferences/otc/index.htm>

Best regards,

Art Schroeder - AIChE Subcommittee Chair

George Montgomery - AIChE Subcommittee Vice Chair

Announcements and Activities

News from The Texas Industries of the Future

The Texas Energy Planning Council has finalized the "Texas Energy Plan 2005", which includes 10 recommendations to the Legislature on ways Texas can build a secure energy future. Recommendations range from clean coal to LNG to renewables. You can see the report at <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/tepc/>

The Texas Industries of the Future is holding several workshops in Houston, Austin, and other parts of Texas about combined heat and power at facilities and about utilities best practices.

Visit <http://sts-aiche.org/tiofnews.htm> for more information.

Energy Forum Presentations

You can download the presentations from the Third Texas Industrial Energy Management Forum at the website: <http://texasiof.ces.utexas.edu/>.

The links are embedded in an Adobe Acrobat PDF document.

Young Members' Activities

AISC

Steam Basics Seminar

April 28th, 5:30-7:00 PM

1413 Brittmoore Rd., Houston, TX 77043

This seminar is designed for designers, project engineers, project managers, or anyone involved in steam and condensate systems, steam-heated processes and tracing applications.

- * Review of Steam Fundamentals
Steam & condensate loop (generation to recovery)

- * Steam Piping
Water demonstration
- * Steam Trap Functions & Condensate Removal
Trap & Heat Exchanger demonstration
Troubleshooting
Preventive Maintenance
- * Trap Stations & Solutions

Texas Steam will provide afternoon coffee & snacks. We are limited to 24 people, so please RSVP to Wendy.Young@bakerpetrolite.com.

Welcome to Your New Newsletter / From the Editor

The South Texan has gone electronic. This is the first issue of our new newsletter. It is assembled and issued by volunteers, members of the STS-AICHE.

I am pleased to have been selected as Editor. I am Susan Cannon, and have been a member of AIChE since my college days in the mid 80's. AIChE brought many things to my life, including camaraderie with other Chemical Engineers. That is the largest benefit to my membership in my opinion. My membership continued once I began working in Florida, and when I moved to Houston I looked forward to the exciting chapter I knew I would find here.

Most organizations are facing tougher challenges as the world changes. Maintaining membership and finding volunteers are only part of those challenges. I volunteered for this position because I believe strongly in the benefits of membership in AIChE, and I believe in what the organization does and stands for. I believe that a well-informed organization operates better and more efficiently. I also believe that the STS deserves a world class newsletter.

It is my hope that I can continue the tradition from previous versions that won the 2003 Marx Isaacs Award for Outstanding Large Section Newsletter, while taking advantage of today's technology to produce an informative and exciting newsletter.

I am interested in your feedback. What do you think? Would you like to suggest a topic? Have you found an error? Have you found a link that is invalid? Is the information clear, or confusing? Please let me know. You can submit comments, praise, questions, kudos, concerns, or accolades to newsletter@sts-aiche.org. :)

Vital Links (Links within PDF file are not active)

Main South Texas Section site: <http://sts-aiche.org/index.htm>

National AIChE website: <http://www.aiche.org/> (Needs Flash Plug-in)

Earn CEP credits at AIChE functions: http://www.sts-aiche.org/Texas_PE_CEP_Rule.html

Download the CEP log form: http://www.sts-aiche.org/xls/STS-AICHE_CEP_Log.xls

Update your contact information: <http://sts-aiche.org/memberinfo.htm>

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Previous Newsletters (PDF format): <http://sts-aiche.org/newsletter/newsletter.htm>

Link to THIS newsletter: http://sts-aiche.org/newsletter/news_05/news0405.pdf

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As a section of AIChE, we serve chemical engineering professionals in the South Texas region through education, professional development, and networking.

Vision 2008

We will become an organization with a strong and active membership. We will accomplish this through:

1. Increasing awareness of the South Texas Section of the AIChE
2. Improving relevancy of our programs
3. Improving our governance
4. Hospitality/Welcome/Social

The South Texan is issued monthly, except June, July and August, by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, South Texas Section. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not of AIChE. The newsletter is published electronically.

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Maintain your contact information with the South Texas Section using the online community:

<https://www.memberconnections.com/olc/pub/CHM/>

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Select the link to View/Update Your Online Directory Listing.

Contact the New York office for PERMANENT ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:



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The South Texan Newsletter Crew

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEWSLETTER? We want to know!

Contact us at newsletter@sts-aiche.org with comments, questions, suggestions, and ideas for next month.

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