

# The South Texan

2003 Marx Isaacs Award for Outstanding Large Section Newsletter



## Special Notes

- Location: Renaissance Greenway Plaza
- Workshops 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Dinner 7 PM
- Speaker 8 PM
- Additional Music/Entertainment **until 10 PM**

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## Monthly Meeting December 7, 2006 It's Spouse/Significant Other Night!

### Chemical Engineering In Space

**Speaker: Jack Bacon Ph.D., P.E.**

**Abstract:** Human space flight presents numerous challenges to processes that we take for granted here on Earth. Without convection or buoyancy, for example, fluid flows easily transport three phases of matter simultaneously, basic transport processes are either externally forced or else become purely diffusive, and convective processes grind to a halt, or to a greatly altered state (like fire, for instance).

Meanwhile, the extremes of temperature, pressure, and even of highly reactive molecules in the low Earth orbital environment call for extremes in chemistry and physics in the engineering solutions to many spacecraft and human requirements. In this presentation, we'll explore the unique constraints that space flight puts on systems, and explore the effects of those constraints on the materials selection and the processes involved in the operation and construction of the International Space Station.

**Bio:** Jack Bacon has often been called "A New Carl Sagan." He is an internationally-known motivational speaker, a distinguished lecturer (emeritus) of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and one of the most requested speakers in the country for topics concerning technology and the factors that shape human society. His lectures have captivated tens of thousands, and he has appeared on numerous radio and television broadcasts. In his daily work, he is on the management team overseeing the construction and operation of the most complicated technical project in history: the International Space Station.

For more information on Mr. Bacon, see page 4.



## December Meeting Special Entertainment

Our members have many talents! Our Executive Committee member (Position 1, Education) and Workshop Chair, Steve Haynie, is an accomplished musician. Steve has generously volunteered to provide his entertainment services to augment our meeting. Steve will play background music during the social hour and then ~1hr entertainment after the speaker, ending at 10pm. Plan to stick around!

For more information on Steve's talents, visit his website at: <http://stevehaynie.com/>. Our thanks to Steve!



**Reminder: The next meeting is January 11 (the 2nd Thursday).**

## Workshop Details: Workshops begin at 5:30 PM

### Process Safety: Safety Culture as part of Process Safety

**Speakers:** Drs. Stephanie Payne and Mindy Bergman, Texas A&M

**Abstract:** Understanding safety culture and the safety climate it provides is an expanding topic of study in trying to improve our understanding of process safety. Safety climate is defined as shared employee perceptions of the policies, procedures, and practices concerning safety. These perceptions can influence the way employees behave and perform their work and can have a direct impact on safety outcomes such as accidents, near misses, and everyday safety behaviors. We will discuss how we define it, how we measure it, why we are interested in quantifying it, and share some of the research that we are currently conducting to further our understanding of how to facilitate a strong safety climate.

**Bio:** Stephanie C. Payne is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Texas A&M University and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center. Her research interests include the measurement and prediction of efficient behaviors in the workplace, individual differences, organizational commitment, work-family balance, error training, performance appraisal, and safety climate. She has presented papers in past Global Process Safety Symposia and has her research has been published in the Journal of Applied Psychology, Personnel Psychology, Academy of Management Journal, and Organizational Research Methods. She is a member of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and the Human Resource Management, Organizational Behavior, and Research Methods Divisions of the Academy of Management. Stephanie has a PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from George Mason University.

Mindy Bergman is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Texas A&M University. Her research interests include organizational climate, sexual and racial harassment, employment testing, and organizational commitment. Her research has been published in the Journal of Applied Psychology, Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, and Journal of Organizational Behavior. She is a member of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, where she serves as Placement Center Chair, the Academy of Management, and the Houston Area Industrial/Organizational Psychologists. Mindy has a PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): Keys to Cooling Water System Reliability

**Speaker:** Alan "Butch" Carlisle, GE Water and Process Technologies

**Abstract:** Achieving process reliability not only hinges on using best practices in the fundamental plant operations, but also on the supporting utility systems such as the cooling water system. This presentation will provide guidelines to achieving system reliability in industrial cooling systems. Proper selection of treatment chemicals for control of corrosion, deposition and biological activity will be discussed.

The topics of proper design of automated chemical feed equipment, performance monitoring techniques and upset response protocols will be covered. The presentation will also include a specific discussion on selecting the best operating pH range for a particular system and a brief review of some new advances in on-stream chemical cleaning methods.

**Bio:** Mr. Carlisle worked for seven years as a process engineer for a Gulf Coast petrochemical plant. He joined Betz Laboratories in 1975 as a technical sales representative, and moved into a technical support role in 1978 in the Beaumont Regional Engineering office. He moved to Pennsylvania in 1985 as Northeast Regional Engineering Manager, then moved into Trevose in 1986 as cooling manager for the HPI/CPI industries. Since then, Mr. Carlisle has held various technical support roles in the Trevose Technical Marketing department. Since April 2002, he has worked as a Senior Technical Advisor in GEWPT's HPI/CPI Cooling Technical Marketing Group.

**CAST (Computing and Systems Technology) and Environmental Workshops will not be held this month.**



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## Dinner Registration Information

Make your dinner reservation online at:

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

Reservations are accepted until 4pm the Tuesday of meeting week. **Please make a separate reservation for each person in your party.**

You may also **cancel a reservation** using this link. Please cancel your reservation if you have made one and find that you are unable to attend.

Phone reservations are not accepted.

The cost for this meeting, *per person*, is:

Regular Attendee	\$25 with reservation	\$35 without
Retired	\$25	\$30
Student/Unemployed	\$15	\$25

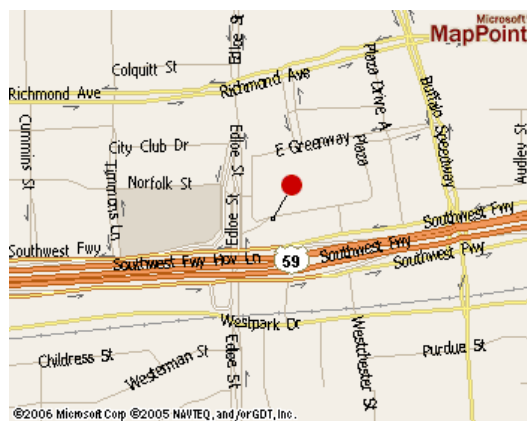
Workshops are free to attend.

## Meeting Location - Renaissance Greenway Plaza

The December meeting will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, Greenway Plaza. To use your own mapping program for directions, the address is 6 Greenway Plaza East, Houston, 77046. Their phone number is (713) 629-1200.

Click on the map to open the map site.

**NOTE: Parking validation will be provided *only* to those pre-registered for the meeting. There is a parking fee at the hotel for those not pre-registered.**



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

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### Minimum Qualifications

- B.S., Chemical or Mechanical Engineering
- Five years' engineering experience in the petroleum, chemical, or petrochemical industry
- Skilled in prospect identification, development of sales leads, and negotiation
- Excellent communication and presentation skills (oral and written)

Prefer candidates with

- Working knowledge of HTRI products; basic understanding of HTRI research methods and software
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- Knowledge of marketing principles/practices and proven sales/marketing record

*Individual must be able to travel up to 50% of the time and possess permanent authorization to work in the United States.*



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EOE/m/f/h/v



## The December Meeting Speaker—Dr. Jack Bacon, P.E. (Continued)

A graduate of Caltech (B.S. '76) and the University of Rochester (Ph.D. '84) Dr. Bacon's extensive career includes roles in the development of many cutting edge technologies, including controlled thermonuclear fusion, the development of the electronic office, factory automation, and the globalization of business. He pioneered the deployment of several artificial intelligence systems, learning his craft at the famed Xerox Palo Alto Research Center.

He was the United States' lead systems integrator of the *Zarya*—the jointly-built spacecraft that forms the central bridge and adapter between all US and Russian technologies on the Space Station. This landmark in technological history was built in Moscow by American and Russian engineers and launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in November 1998.

Jack is a fellow of the Explorer's Club, a member of the AIAA and of the National Speakers Association, and was a founding member of the board of directors of the Science National Honor Society ([www.ScienceNHS.org](http://www.ScienceNHS.org)). Among his numerous awards, he is a recipient of NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal, the Director's Special Commendation, and the coveted Silver Snoopy award—the only award to fly in space. He routinely advises numerous academic programs and institutions, and he is a champion of education throughout the world.

A noted futurist and a technological historian, he has written three popular books entitled *"My Grandfathers' Clock," "My Stepdaughter's Watch,"* and *"The Parallel Bang."*

When he's not on the road, Jack supports his stepdaughter Crystal in her graduate studies and international modeling career along with his wife Janeane from their home in Houston, Texas, which they share with a bemused black cat.

For more information about Dr. Bacon, please visit his website at <http://www.drjackbacon.com/>.



### Vital Links

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

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](http://www.sts-aiche.org/Texas_PE_CEP_Rule.html)

Download the CEP log form: [http://www.sts-aiche.org/STS-AIChE\\_CEP\\_Log.xls](http://www.sts-aiche.org/STS-AIChE_CEP_Log.xls)

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

Link to THIS newsletter: <http://sts-aiche.org/newsletter/news2006/news1206.pdf>

## Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to volunteer to help out with South Texas Section AIChE activities?

Our Volunteer Coordinator is Matt Kolodney, and he knows about all the possible ways you could help out with your professional organization.

Please phone Matt at (713) 767-3752 or by email at [mkolodne@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:mkolodne@tceq.state.tx.us).

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## AIChE National Board of Directors—A Local Representative!

Congratulations to our own Wendy Young on being elected to the Board of Directors for the National AIChE!

The 2007 National AIChE elected officers are:

President-Elect: Dale Keairns

Secretary: Scott Love

Board of Directors:

Liese Dallbauman

Ignacio Grossmann

Cheryl Teich

Wendy Young



---

## Texas Technology Showcase

"The Engineer's Energy Toolbox: Practices, Technology and Management"

The STS-AIChE is a co-sponsor of the 2006 Texas Technology Showcase, and the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division invites you to attend the conference. The theme of the showcase is "The Engineer's Energy Toolbox: Practices, Technology and Management." The showcase will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort on Wednesday and Thursday, December 6 and 7.

The Texas Technology Showcase will answer the question "How can energy management contribute toward your plant or business achieving its lowest long-term manufacturing cost?" This will be one key to success in **chemical manufacturing** and **refining** in the coming decade. The conference will examine the tools in the Engineer's Toolbox, from the **best practices** in **programs** and **new technologies** that are proving themselves today to the **management strategies** that sustain results.

Session topics will address issues of interest to engineers in the chemical manufacturing and petroleum refining industries that are facing high energy prices, while continuing to meet stricter NOx emission standards on their combustion units. In addition to the sessions on energy management topics, a special series of sessions will highlight **NOx reduction technology implementation** case studies by end-users.

The event is hosted by Texas Industries of the Future, Texas State Energy Conservation Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the US Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Co-sponsors include the STS-AIChE and the AIChE.

For the complete program, to register or to exhibit, visit the Showcase website at [www.ShowcaseTexas.org](http://www.ShowcaseTexas.org)





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Houston Office  
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Houston, TX 77057  
Tel: 1.713.490.5220  
Fax: 1.713.490.5222

## 2006 Annual Awards Nomination Form (Page 1 of 2)

It's awards time! Use this form to nominate a member for the Outstanding Young Professional Award, Distinguished Service Award, or the Best Fundamental or Applied Paper Award. Print out this page, complete it, and mail to one of the addresses shown. Submissions should be sent via email.

### South Texas Section – AIChE 2006 Annual Awards Nomination Form

**THIS NOMINATION FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 13, 2007 TO BE ACCEPTED!**

*E-mail the completed form to:*

Thomas E. Menn  
P. O. Box 458  
Pearland, Texas 77588-0548

281-485-3719

[ThomasMenn@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:ThomasMenn@SBCGlobal.net)

or  
Chen Ramachandran, Ph.D.  
CRI U.S. LP  
Westhollow Technology Center  
3333 Highway 6 South  
Houston, Texas 77082  
281 - 544 - 7589  
281 - 544 - 7817 (Fax)

[chen.ramachandran@shell.com](mailto:chen.ramachandran@shell.com)

Once the nomination is submitted, you will receive an email from the STS Awards Committee confirming receipt of the nomination.

**NOTE: ONLY ONE PERSON OR PAPER MAY BE NOMINATED PER FORM!**

NOMINATOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter Name of Nominee or Title of Paper on the above line.)

ENTER CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NOMINEE OR AUTHOR:

NOMINEE or AUTHOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF NOMINATION: (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE SPACE BELOW.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2006 STS Outstanding Young Professional Award (Under age 35)\*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2006 STS Distinguished Service Award (Over age 35)\*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2006 STS Best Fundamental Paper Award (*Please complete page 2*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2006 STS Best Applied Paper Award (*Please complete Page 2*)

\*For STS Outstanding Young Member or Distinguished Service Awards, please provide a supporting document stating the reason you feel that this person is deserving of this award. E-mail the completed form and recommendation to one of the addresses above.

Page 2 of the Nomination Form may be found on Page 8 of this newsletter.

## 2006 Annual Awards Nomination Form (Page 2 of 2)

Please enter the name of the Best Paper again: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sorry to trouble you but this is in case the sheets get separated.)

Enter the contact Author's name again: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sorry to trouble you but this is in case the sheets get separated.)

FOR BEST PAPER NOMINATIONS, LIST THE NAMES OF THE AUTHORS AND CHECK ALL BLANKS THAT APPLY:

		MEMBERSHIP	
		AICHE	STS
Note: At least one author must be an STS Member.			
Co-Author #1:	_____	_____	_____
Co-Author #2:	_____	_____	_____
Co-Author #3:	_____	_____	_____
Co-Author #4:	_____	_____	_____
Co-Author #5:	_____	_____	_____
Co-Author #6:	_____	_____	_____
Co-Author #7:	_____	_____	_____
Co-Author #8:	_____	_____	_____

[Add additional authors on an attached sheet if necessary.]

For Best Paper nominations, please provide following information:

NAME OF PUBLICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF PUBLICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUME NO. (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH AN ELECTRONIC VERSION (\*.PDF) OF THE PUBLISHED ARTICLE.

Once the nomination is submitted, you will receive an email from the STS Awards Committee confirming receipt of the nomination.

## Engineers' Week coming February 2007

Engineers' Week is coming February 18-24, 2007.

Engineers' Week is an annual event sponsored by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. The local Houston chapter organizes the myriad of events that are held throughout the week. It is a great opportunity to meet with other engineers, not just chemical engineers, in the local area, and have a great time as well.

Information about the events for the week will be posted on the South Texas Section website as it comes available. For a review of last year's events, visit their website at <http://www.tspehouston.org>.

## 2007 Spring National AIChE Meeting—Call for Presentations

The Spring 2007 National AIChE meeting will be held in Houston April 22-26, 2007. Division 12, "Process Development," of the AIChE is actively recruiting practicing plant and process chemical engineers to participate in this meeting and in the national organization. Section D, "Manufacturing," of Division 12 is sponsoring the following sessions at the Spring 2007 National AIChE meeting at Houston:

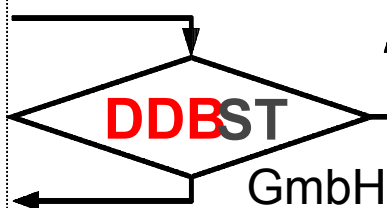
1. To Toll or Not to Toll: That Is the Question
2. Trace Chemistry Contamination at Production Plants
3. Heat Exchanger Fouling: A Messy Business
4. Process Safety and Runaway Reactions

The goal of these sessions is to provide a forum for discussing common plant problems and for identifying practical solutions to such problems.

Jon Worstell, chairperson of "Manufacturing," is recruiting presentations for the above sessions. Please contact him at [Jon.Worstell@Shell.com](mailto:Jon.Worstell@Shell.com) or 281-544-7907 for details about these sessions.



# Selection, Synthesis & Design of Thermal Separation Processes



EPCON International is pleased to offer the popular 2-day Selection, Synthesis and Design of Thermal Separation Processes training taught by Dr. Juergen Rarey of Oldenburg University in Germany- being held for the first time in the US (only \$950 – limited space available):

**Location:** *Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston, TX.*

**Date:** *December 7-8, 2006*

**Instructor:** *Dr. Juergen Rarey, Prof. h.c.*



## Course Description

A sound knowledge of process engineering fundamentals becomes increasingly important due to the broader application of process simulation software for the development (synthesis), design and optimization of chemical processes. Within this course participants from industry and academia should become familiar with the possibilities and limitations of currently used methods and models. The course will focus on those aspects, which we consider to be of primary importance for the successful modeling of single separation units or whole chemical plants.

Besides the thermodynamic properties of pure components, especially the behavior of multicomponent mixtures will be covered with special attention to phase equilibria, also those of electrolyte systems.

Various approaches to process engineering problems using modern thermodynamic methods will be presented. These include for example the selection of suitable entrainers for special separation processes like azeotropic and extractive distillation, extraction as well as hybrid or pressure swing processes and a discussion of reactive distillation.

Following the first day the second day offers a workshop on thermophysical properties including data retrieval, examination and evaluation, regression and estimation, parameter verification for use in process simulation as well as process synthesis tools. As software, the Dortmund Data Bank (DDB) together with the integrated software package are used.

## Registration

Space is limited and early registration is recommended. The number of participants is limited to 25. Registration fee is \$950 including course material, and morning and afternoon refreshments, snacks. After the first day, a get-together party at a local restaurant will allow you to further discuss the course materials with the course instructors and other students. A certificate of completion will be provided that indicates your proficiency in the use of the Dortmund Data Bank Process Synthesis software package and related databases.

## Contact

The most current information can be found at:

[http://www.epcon.com/training.htm#Selection, Synthesis, and Design of Separation Processes](http://www.epcon.com/training.htm#Selection,_Synthesis,_and_Design_of_Separation_Processes).

Concerning further information please contact

Todd J. Willman, PE  
EPCON International  
16225 Park Ten Place, Suite 660  
Houston, TX 77084

Tel.: 281-398-9400, ext 811  
Fax: 281-398-9488  
E-Mail: [tjw@epcon.com](mailto:tjw@epcon.com)



## STS-AICHe Elections

It's time to vote for 2007 officers and Executive Positions. There are no unopposed elections, so we need votes to select section leadership.

We have sent out ballots via email and via regular mail. You can submit your ballot by email or by regular mail. Ballots and candidate bios may be found at <http://www.sts-aiche.org/Ballot2007.pdf>. Only STS-AICHe members can vote. Note that AICHe Membership Numbers will be used to authenticate ballots.

Please send in your ballot to be **received** by end of business, Dec 3. Candidates are:

CHAIR ELECT:	. David Silarski	. Todd Wilman
TREASURER:	. Shane Tierling	. Lonnie Vincent
POSITION 1 (Education):	. Pete Garside	. Chris Knudsen
POSITION 3 (Communications):	. Parshant Patil	. Sam Pathak

### Thanks to David Hill, exiting Postion 3—Communications chair

David Hill is exiting the Executive Committee Position 3, Communications, when his 2-year term expires this December. I would like to thank David for the assistance, guidance, and clarity that he provided to me in my position as newsletter editor. His humor kept me sane during stressful times, and his experience made my job easier.

David received the 2004 Outstanding Young Member Award from the South Texas Section. I think we will be seeing much more of David in years to come. Here are some parting comments from David.



Q: How did you benefit from serving on the Executive Committee?

DH: Volunteering for a leadership position is wonderful practice for group projects and management. Volunteers don't have as much time as you are used to spending on a project, so you learn to plan efforts more carefully. It's like project management in slow motion. I learned a lot that can be applied to my professional career. I also developed a larger network of contacts. An HR staffer once told me that 50% of [experienced] engineering jobs are filled through networking. It's good to expand your network while the market is doing well.

Q: Any regrets or failures?

DH: Business has been good in the Gulf Coast, so there isn't as much time to volunteer as I would have liked. When I was first elected, I had several discussions with seasoned leaders from the section. They cautioned me that I should try to focus on just a few goals and achieve those before working on the rest of my list of ideas. I would have liked to accomplish more...but I'm proud of what I could achieve. I am happy to challenge my successor to choose some of my ideas along with some of his own.

Q: What's the best position up for election?

DH: In my opinion, Executive Position 3. The nominating committee has been actively pursuing younger members for this position. This is a great chance for someone young to quickly become involved in the local section. This is a biased answer; that was my position.

Q: Would you serve again?

DH: Absolutely. I'm taking a break this year to help the section train more leaders. After this break... maybe I'll run again.

## 2007 Offshore Technology Conference

This is an early reminder that the 2007 OTC will be held April 30 thru May 3, 2007 at its usual location, the Reliant Center in Houston, Texas, USA.

While the AIChE and the STS have no formal conduct committee role in the 2007 OTC, we see if arrangements may be made for STS members to volunteer to assist one or more of the local sections of the other sponsor societies that have committee roles in the 2007 OTC as we have done before.

For more information, please contact Tom Menn at 281-485-3719 or e-mail [thomasmenn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomasmenn@sbcglobal.net).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 3	—	Deadline for Election ballots to be received
December 6-7	—	Texas Technology Showcase (See page 5)
December 7	—	Monthly Meeting

Mark your calendars! Information is subject to change as the year progresses.

Date	Tentative Location	Tentative Speaker	Tentative Subject
January 11, 2007	Aramco Services Company	Murray Nadler	Patent Law
February 1	Clear Lake Hilton		
February 18-24	Engineers' Week, Texas Society of Professional Engineers		
March 1	Brady's Landing		
April 13	Deadline for Awards Nomination Forms submission		
April 22-26	George R. Brown Conv. Ctr.	<b>National Meeting</b>	State of the Union/Ship Channel Tour
April 30-May 3	Reliant Center	2007 Offshore Technology Conference	
May 3	Sheraton Brookhollow	Awards Night	

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# South Texas Section AIChE

South Texas Section  
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2006 Officers and Contact Information

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**Awards** Tom Menn

## SOUTH TEXAS SECTION MISSION STATEMENT

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

To update your information, log in, then select [Member Directory](#).

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Contact the New York office for PERMANENT ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:



[xpress@aiiche.org](mailto:xpress@aiiche.org)



1-800-AIChemE (1-800-242-4363)



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