

**Special Notes**

• **Location: Hilton Westchase
(Beltway 8 and Westheimer)**

• Workshops 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

• Networking 6-7 PM

• Dinner 7 PM

• Speaker 8 PM

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Monthly Meeting October 5, 2006**UNIFAC and Thermophysical Data—The Latest Buzz**

Speaker: Kai Fischer, Laboratory for Thermophysical Properties (LTP GmbH)

Abstract: Mr. Kai Fischer joins the South Texas Section on the eve of the UNIFAC Consortium to be held in Houston on October 6 (Refer to details on Page 4). Mr. Fischer is the CAST workshop speaker as well.

For the dinner presentation, Mr. Fischer will discuss:

- The history of the development of group contribution methods and UNIFAC in particular.
- Research and development of the UNIFAC industrial consortium.
- Proper use of UNIFAC for the estimation of G^E -model binary interaction parameters when experimental Vapor-Liquid Equilibrium data are not available, to provide reliable process simulation results.
- Assistance to consortium member companies to link their sponsor version of group contribution methods to process simulation software.

More information on the Laboratory can be found at their website:

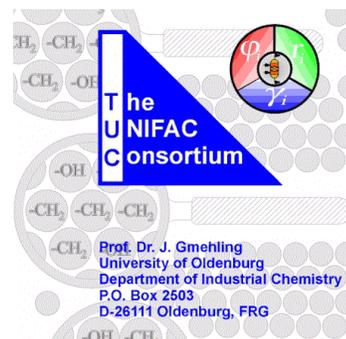
<http://www.ltp-oldenburg.de/> .

Information on the UNIFAC Consortium and the Dortmund Databank can be found at:

<http://www.epcon.com/ddbst/>

The South Texas Section thanks Epcon International for their support of this month's speaker.

Bio: Detailed biographical information on Mr. Fischer is provided on Page 4. He is the co-founder of the Laboratory for Thermophysical Properties (LTP GmbH), a commercial laboratory engaged in the measurement of thermophysical data also at extreme conditions. He is co-author of more than 70 scientific articles and a data compilation for azeotropic data. His recent research interests focus on accurate equations of state for a consistent correlation of thermodynamic data. Mr. Fischer enjoys water sports and inline skating.

**October 2006 Workshops (For more detail, see page 2)**

CAST	Thermophysical Property Data and the Dortmund Data Bank (UNIFAC)	Kai Fischer, Laboratory for Thermophysical Properties (LTP GmbH)
PSM	Process Safety in Safety Management	Jack Vernon, Risk and Safety Institute
PE/PO	No workshop this month.	
Environmental	No workshop this month.	

Workshop Details: Workshops begin at 5:30 PM

C.A.S.T. (Computing And Systems Technology): Thermophysical Property Data and the Dortmund Data Bank (UNIFAC)

Speaker: Kai Fischer, Laboratory for Thermophysical Properties (LTP GmbH)

Abstract:

Mr. Fischer arrives fresh from the European UNIFAC Consortium held in Germany the week of September 18, 2006. During this presentation, he will discuss:

- The importance of thermophysical property data for the design, simulation and optimization of industrial separation and conversion processes.
- The role of group contribution methods for property estimation.
- Provide a demonstration of the Dortmund Data Bank and its integrated Software Package

Mr. Fischer is also the **dinner speaker** for the October meeting.

Bio: Detailed biographical information on Mr. Fischer is provided on Pages 1 and 4. He is the co-founder of the Laboratory for Thermophysical Properties (LTP GmbH), a commercial laboratory engaged in the measurement of thermophysical data also at extreme conditions. He is co-author of more than 70 scientific articles and a data compilation for azeotropic data. His recent research interests focus on accurate equations of state for a consistent correlation of thermodynamic data. Mr. Fischer enjoys water sports and inline skating.

Process Safety: Process Safety in Project Management

Speaker: Jack Vernon, Risk and Safety Institute

Abstract: The application of process safety principles in a project will be discussed. The presentation will not cover the detail that large petrochemical companies have in their project planning from concept through startup, but rather will concentrate on the principles. When is it advisable to start implementing the elements of process safety, when and how you implement Management of Change (MOC), and getting management's attention at the right time.

Bio: Mr. Jack Vernon PE, President of the Risk and Safety Institute, has more than 13 years of professional engineering experience in the chemical industry and 16 years in risk consulting and has a strong background in process plant design and operations. Mr. Vernon has provided support for a broad spectrum of process safety and safety and health activities. These include developing process safety management systems, developing and implementing management of change procedures, conducting process hazards analyses, and developing operating procedures and training programs for engineers and management.

Mr. Vernon's industrial experience includes work in petrochemical industry, upstream oil and gas, semi-conductor, electric power generation and conventional weapons assembly and manufacturing.

Volunteer Needed!

The South Texas Section is looking for a new **Environmental Workshop Chair**. The workshop chair locates speakers for the 'pre-dinner' workshop before meetings. The Environ workshop focuses on speakers that are relevant to environmental and health concerns as they affect engineering practice. Responsibilities include lining up a few speakers for meetings throughout the year, attend those workshops to make sure the room is set up properly, and interfacing with speakers and the Executive Committee as required.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Steve Haynie at Steve.Haynie@Equistarchem.com.

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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.

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 meetings is:

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

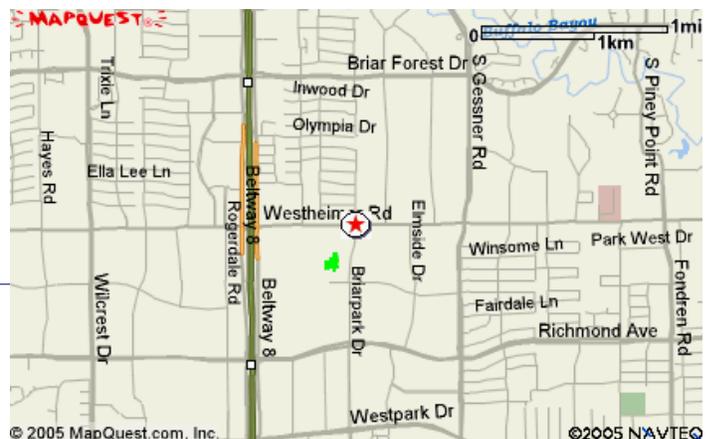
Workshops are free to attend.

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

October Location - Hilton Houston Westchase

The October meeting will be held at the Hilton Houston Westchase. To use your own mapping program for directions, the address is 9999 Westheimer Blvd., Houston, 77042.

The phone number is 713-974-1000.



Young Professionals Outing

A Young Professionals evening is planned by the Engineering, Science, and Technology Council of Houston (ECH) at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in late October. It is for Young Professionals (up to ~35 years of age). It will be held in conjunction with the Benjamin Franklin special exhibit at the museum. It will be primarily social. The date will be firmed up soon, and the information will be posted on the STS website when available.

This is the first of a few joint meetings for young members between several organizations in the Houston area. We hope that one or two meetings organized by ECH will show the Young Professionals the benefits of joint meetings, and that a joint committee of young professionals will ultimately be created.

We hope to have the details available in about a week. Information will be posted on the STS, ECH and HMNS web sites when available.

STS: <http://www.sts-aiche.org>

ECH: <http://www.echouston.org>

HMNS: <http://www.hmns.org>

STS NOTE:

Susan Kerr and Peter Strasser will be assuming the responsibilities of the Young Professionals Group. Congratulations to them!

We will have contact information for them in future newsletters.

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Dr. Kai Fischer - coming to Houston on October 5-6, 2006



Kai Fischer studied Chemistry at the Universities of Cologne and Oldenburg, obtaining his Diploma and Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1990 and 1993, respectively, from the University of Oldenburg. Between 1993 and 1996, he was scientific co-worker at the University in Oldenburg in the research group of Prof. Dr. J. Gmehling, engaged mainly in the experimental determination of thermophysical properties in cooperation with industry partners. Since 1994, he is one of the Directors of DDBST GmbH. In 1996 and 1997, he performed scientific work in the Phase Equilibrium Laboratory of Ecole des Mines de Paris, France.

Kai returned to the group of Prof. Gmehling in 1997 and developed experimental techniques for the determination of thermophysical properties, acted as a consultant for Chemical Industry, and continued his research activities related to group contribution equations of state. Together with Prof. Gmehling, he founded the "Laboratory for Thermophysical Properties (LTP GmbH)" in 1999, a commercial laboratory engaged in the measurement of thermophysical data also at extreme conditions regarding temperature, pressure, and hazard-

ous nature of compounds for the design, simulation and optimization of industrial separation and conversion processes. He is co-author of more than 70 scientific articles and a data compilation for azeotropic data. His recent research interests focus on accurate equations of state for a consistent correlation of thermodynamic data. He is dreaming of an extension of the triangle partnership of the University of Oldenburg, DDBST and LTP towards an international polygon competence centre for applied thermodynamics offering teaching and training, research and development, and experimental and software services following technological demands and organized as business.

Kai also enjoys any kind of water sports like swimming, boating and scuba diving in liquid and downhill skiing on solid water, as well as inline skating.

October 5, 2006 – Local Houston Section Meeting of the AIChE

Cast Workshop and Dinner meeting

CAST workshop (1 hour)

- Importance of thermophysical property data for the design, simulation and optimization of industrial separation and conversion processes.
- Role of group contribution methods for property estimation.
- Demonstration of the Dortmund Data Bank and its integrated Software Package

Dinner-Presentation (1 hour)

- History of the development of group contribution methods and UNIFAC in particular.
- Research and development of the UNIFAC industrial consortium.
- Proper use of UNIFAC for the estimation of G^E -model binary interaction parameters when experimental Vapor-Liquid Equilibrium data are not available, to provide reliable process simulation results.
- Assistance to consortium member companies to link their sponsor version of group contribution methods to process simulation software.

October 6, 2006 – US-UNIFAC meeting in Houston

This will be the first joint summary meeting of the UNIFAC Consortium and DDBST in the US. This condensed, one-day meeting format will provide a convenient way for US UNIFAC Consortium Members to attend who are not able to come to the Global UNIFAC meeting in Oldenburg, Germany on September 19-20, 2006. The meeting is open to anyone interested in the advances in phase equilibrium thermodynamics - there are no requirements to be a current UNIFAC Consortium member or DDB user.

A review of the latest progress on group contribution models UNIFAC, modified UNIFAC, and PSRK will be provided. An overview of the new model VGTPR will also be given that allows the use of temperature dependent mod. UNIFAC interaction parameters in an equation-of-state mixing rule. A new expert parameter fitting program that can automatically provide NRTL parameters based on the component list from your simulation will also be reviewed.

Afternoon

- Demonstration of the Distillation Synthesis software
- Applications of UNIFAC in process simulation
- Presentation of new software technologies from DDBST including their Distillation Synthesis software designed to pinpoint azeotropic limits and significantly reduce overall energy costs
- Summary of LTP's experimental measurement capabilities

Contact EPCON International at 800-367-3585 for information and reservations

Are you getting our email? Issues with the South Texan Newsletter Distribution List

You are probably familiar with the phrase, "Garbage in, garbage out." In many aspects of life, what we get out of things is often equal to what we put into it. This is also true of our newsletter, and its recipient database. At the end of last season, we switched email distribution providers. There were some growing pains along the way; I believe the last 3 newsletter notifications were sent out by 3 different email addresses! But we are now settled into our new provider, 1and1.com, and things should flow smoothly from this point forward.

One thing that most email distribution providers do is keep track of email addresses that are "bounced," rejected, or otherwise give errors when our notices are sent to them. We have many bounced addresses on our list. [Are you one of them?](#)

[It only takes one person at a company to mark a message as spam and force a company to reject all messages from that address.](#) Now that the newsletter will be sent from one email address consistently, this is important to note. There is nothing that STS-AICChE can do about this – the company's computer services group must be informed, and the spam filter removed for members at that company to receive our newsletter and other email notices.

There are a few companies listed in our bounced email list where this may have happened. Some companies in this category are kingwoodcable.com, sbcglobal.net, and bordenchem.com. Another option is that your company or email provider may block ALL emails from distribution lists or certain list servers.

Also, with the amount of company switching, merging, and renaming going on, it's important to remember to [take us with you if your email address changes](#). It is not necessary for you to unsubscribe the old email address, although we appreciate when you do, but at least subscribe with the new one. When Chevron and Texaco merged, ultimately all "@chevron.com" or "@texaco.com" addresses got rejected. If a member did not sign up with their new "@chevrontexaco.com" email address, they're no longer getting the newsletter.

An alternate is to sign up with a personal email address. About half of our list is made up of personal addresses. [If you change email addresses, you'll need to sign up again.](#)

When entering your email address in our newsletter subscription form, [be careful of mistyping](#). Previously, a confirmation email was sent to the email address and you were required to click on the link in the email to confirm your subscription. That is no longer happening. A confirmation email IS sent to the email address, but only as a notification that the email address has been added to our list. So if you have typed in "@yaho.com" or ".cam" instead of "@yahoo.com," there's no indication that you have mistyped. We have some addresses like "kinggoodcable", "exonmobil", and "worldnet.aft.net."

We also get errors like Quota Exceeded, Quota Violation, Mailbox Suspended, Mailbox Unavailable (particularly from hotmail.com addresses), and of course No Such user. With over 1800 email addresses in our current list, it is not feasible to manage it address by address. [It's up to you.](#) Our policy is to remove email addresses that are bounced on a regular basis. If you used to get the newsletter and are no longer getting it, this may be an indication that there is some sort of problem with the address you have supplied.

Of course if you are reading this newsletter, it is likely that your email address works just fine. We hope that you will help get the word out and ask your coworkers and fellow AICChE members if they get the email about the newsletter. We love our members and want to get the word out to as many as we can. You can always contact me (the editor) for questions and assistance. SusanCannon119@aol.com.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Date	Tentative Location	Tentative Speaker	Tentative Subject
November 2	Saudi Aramco Building		Overview of Saudi Aramco Today
December 7	Greenway Plaza/Sig. Other Night	Jack Bacon	Chem Eng/Engineering In Space
January 11, 2007	Saudi Aramco Building	Murray Nadler	Patent Law
February 1	Clear Lake Hilton		
March 1	Brady's Landing		
April 22-26	George R. Brown Conv. Ctr.	National Meeting	State of the Union/Ship Channel Tour
May 3	Sheraton Brookhollow	Awards Night	

NOTE! At the November meeting, we will provide a 1-hour Ethics Workshop. This special course will have a small fee, and will count toward the TBPE CE Ethics requirement. It will take place during the workshop hour. Registration will be required. Keep watching for details!! They'll be on the website as soon as we have them, and of course in the November newsletter.

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South Texas Section Awards (Part 2)

In the September newsletter, we identified the two major awards presented at the May 2006 South Texas Section meeting. Here we recognize additional awards presented at that meeting.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to the following:

Thomas E. Menn	Chairman of the Awards Committee
Richard Newman	Co-Chairman of the Arrangements Committee
Steve P. Haynie	Chairman of the Workshops Committee
David Silarski	Co-Chairman of the Arrangements Committee
Susan Cannon	Newsletter Editor

Winners of the Science Fair awards were:

Junior Division

Winner: Ellen E. Hammett
 Title: Biodiesel: Mother Nature's Fuel
 Category: Junior Chemistry
 Teacher: Kara Stockton
 School: McCullough Junior High School, Conroe I. S. D.

Ninth Grade Division

Winner: Ashley T. Ajala
 Title: Managing CH₄ and CO₂ Emissions in Constructed Wetlands
 Category: Ninth Grade Environmental Science
 Teacher: Ismail Ayyildiz
 School: Harmony Science Academy, a charter school

Senior Division (2 winners)

Winner: Jameson K. Hackbarth
 Title: Effects of Weathering and Substrate Preparation on Coating Integrity and Adhesion
 Category: Senior Chemistry
 Teacher: Thomas Miskelly
 School: Hightower High School, Fort Bend I. S. D,

Winner: Jenna K. Howe
 Title: Imidazolium Salt Batteries: The Next Generation
 Category: Senior Chemistry
 Teacher: Larry Walker
 School: The Academy of Science and Technology, Conroe I. S. D.

College Scholarships were awarded to:

Prashant Setty	Rice
Maria Jauregi	Rice
Lauren Flores	UH
Crystal Bothun	Texas A&M
Omroy Farquharson	Prairie View A&M
Kaurian Butler-Edward	Prairie View A&M

Receiving scholarships but not in attendance were Elizabeth Nguyen - UH and Mike Retif -- Texas A&M.

Congratulations to all winners!



Winners of the Science Fair Awards Ashley Ajala, Keith Hackbarth, and Ellen Hammett

10th Annual Hot Air Topics Conference—October 9, 2006

The **Gulf Coast Chapter of Air & Waste Management Association** is pleased to announce the **10th Annual Hot Air Topics Conference** to be held on Monday, October 9, 2006. Hot Air Topics is the leading conference devoted to air quality issues of current interest and importance to the Houston area. Speakers at the conference, representing a wide range of perspectives, present on a diverse array of topics. This year's conference will be held at the beautiful Hilton Americas Houston in downtown Houston.

We anticipate in excess of 250 attendees with more than 20 companies exhibiting. Attendees will include a broad range of environmental professionals from local regulated industry, the legal community, technical consulting firms, regulatory agencies, environmental and public health advocates, state and local government and academia. The proceeds from the conference are used to fund scholarships at local universities and to support environmental education programs within local school districts.

The origins of the conference started in 1994 with a one-day conference, co-sponsored by AWMA's Southwest Section and the Gulf Coast Chapter. This first conference addressed Title V Operating Permit issues only. It was not until 1997 that an annual conference, sponsored by the Gulf Coast Chapter, was initiated and it has continued with increasing attendance each year since.

For more information, registration, and details of events, visit <http://www.hotairtopics.org/>.

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 currently recruiting presentations for the above sessions. Please contact him at Jon.Worstell@Shell.com or 281-544-7907 for details about these sessions.

Vital Links

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

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

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

Download the CEP log form: http://www.sts-aiiche.org/STS-AIChE_CEP_Log.xls

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

Link to THIS newsletter: <http://sts-aiiche.org/newsletter/news2006/news1006.pdf>

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The collage features several key components:

- Top Left:** A screenshot of the ioXpress web interface showing a dashboard with navigation tabs (Overview, Analysis, Communication, Reports, Tools) and a list of active items.
- Top Right:** A map view showing a geographical area with red and blue hazard zones overlaid on a road network.
- Bottom Left:** A graph showing a bell-shaped curve with a red peak and a blue base, plotted against 'Directional Distance, ft' on the x-axis and an unlabeled y-axis.
- Center:** A central diagram with several overlapping circles representing software modules: 'Action Tracking & Reporting', 'QRA', 'Relief & Flare Systems Design & Rating', 'Facility Siting', 'MOC Workflow', and 'Continuous PHA Revalidation™'. A double-headed arrow connects 'QRA' and 'MOC Workflow'.

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Fax: 1.713.490.5222

To The Editor

To: newsletter@sts-aiCHE.org
Subject: FEEDBACK FROM KUWAIT

Dear Susan,

Great job on the newsletter and it is read world-wide. There was one very interesting subject and I have already contacted the individual.

Someday I will make another meeting in Houston, last one was November of 04.

Best regards,
 Stan Gustas

Thanks Stan! We all wish you a very safe and productive time in Kuwait, and hope you get home soon.

Susan Cannon, Editor

From the Editor

It is always a thrill to know that people are reading the South Texan, but to find that it is making its way around the world to places like Kuwait gives me additional warm fuzzies.

It is a difficult assignment to be away from home, and possibly family/friends/familiar surroundings. I've been there myself. Not Kuwait, but on assignment in a foreign country away from everything I was used to. If this newsletter brings a little glimpse of home as well as good information to our readers, that is even better.

This newsletter compiles the work of many people. While I cut and paste and insert and edit, the finished product represents the efforts of the executive committee, volunteers, advertisers, and our guests to get the right data to me on time so I can get it to you on time. We're still working on a couple of them for that "on time" part, but we will make it!

So for this month, here's a huge THANK YOU to all the contributors, advertisers, members, readers, supporters, and my patient hubby for all they do to allow me to have such a fun time doing this. It is a great opportunity for me to exercise my creative juices and do something for the AIChE as well.

Susan Cannon, Editor
SusanCannon119@aol.com or newsletter@sts-aiCHE.org

Submit an article or idea! Include your name and contact information (phone, email, or fax). Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Your company name may be omitted if you prefer. Entries may be edited for length and content (grammar, punctuation, etc.).

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Arrangements Richard Newman, Criterion Catalysts
David Silarski

Membership Jerry Gresham, Gresham & Gresham

Young Professionals Wendy Young, Baker Petrolite

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/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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The South Texan Newsletter Crew

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