



**Special Notes**

- **Location: Saudi Aramco Facility**
- Workshops 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Speaker 7 PM
- Done at 8 PM!

## Monthly Meeting September 7, 2006

### New Meeting Format!

Speaker: **Rebecca Rentz** - Air Quality Director, Region 12, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Legal Counsel to the Executive Director

**Abstract:** Ms. Rentz will provide a brief overview of her position and why TCEQ created this unique position for the Houston area. Additionally, she will review the current status of the ozone state implementation plan, any preliminary findings from the Texas Air Quality Study II (TexAQS II) begun on August 1, 2006 and to be completed on September 30, 2006.

**Bio:** As the region's top administrator for air issues, Ms. Rentz is responsible for strategic planning, enforcement, monitoring and toxicological data evaluation for TCEQ. Ms. Rentz also coordinates with environmental and industry stakeholders and other state and local agencies to help implement the State Implementation Plan. Previously, Ms. Rentz served as an environmental law attorney, and as policy director for environmental health issues and legislative coordinator for Harris County Judge Robert Eckels.

The September meeting will be at the Aramco facility. See map on page 3. We are introducing a **new format** – Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided during the networking hour, **the meeting will start at 7pm, with dismissal at 8pm. There will be no dinner.**

Special pricing is in place for this month's meeting due to the shortened format:

	Advance	@Door
Students	\$5	\$10
Unemployed	\$5	\$10
Retired	\$7.50	\$12.50
Regular	\$10	\$15

Register now!

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

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### September 2006 Workshops (More detail, see page 2)

<b>CAST</b>	Physical Properties and Phase Equilibria: From A Practitioner's Perspective	Ashok Dewan, Shell Global Solutions (US); also DIPPR Technical Director
<b>PSM</b>	Explosion under an LNG Tank	Jack Vernon, Risk and Safety Institute
<b>PE/PO</b>	Tackling Common Process Issues – A Review of Chemical Treatment Options	Wendy C. Young, Baker Petrolite
<b>Environmental</b>	No workshop this month.	

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

### C.A.S.T. (Computing And Systems Technology): Physical Properties and Phase Equilibria: From A Practitioner's Perspective

**Speaker:** Ashok Dewan, Shell Global Solutions (US); also DIPPR Technical Director

**Abstract:** This seminar will introduce Physical Properties and Phase Equilibria for real-world refinery / chemical applications. The focus will be on recognizing the need for "good" physical properties and phase equilibrium data in troubleshooting and modeling process units and how to avoid pitfalls. This seminar is a kick-off to a series of such talks to follow in the future.

To help the practicing engineer/scientist in their daily routine, demo CD's will be made available to attendees, for back-in-the-office use of DIPPR databases (DIPPR is the Design Institute for Physical Properties, under the American Institute of Chemical Engineers) and the API (American Petroleum Institute) Technical Database.

**Bio:** Ashok Dewan is Team Leader for PETSIM (Process Engineering Tools, Simulators & Ionic Models) and Principal Engineer, in Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc.'s Upstream Fluid Flow Group. He is responsible for the rollout, license management, support, vendor liaison, & in-house training for a portfolio of Process Engrg. Tools / Simulators in the Americas for Shell companies.

### Process Safety: Explosion under an LNG Tank

**Speaker:** Jack Vernon, Risk and Safety Institute

**Abstract:** The presentation will be from a study conducted on a LNG re-gasification plant with a raised LNG tank. A primary concern on the project was a flammable gas cloud reaching and extending beyond the LNG tank, the possibility of getting a gas cloud under the tanks, the cloud igniting from some external source and the a resulting explosion under the tank due to the confinement of the gas cloud. It appears possible to develop a gas cloud that occupies a volume under the LNG tanks. The purpose of this modeling effort is to quantify potential hazards in order to provide a basis for hazard prevention, mitigation, and control. This information will also assist in determining if it is possible for a gas cloud to travel from the send out pump area to the area underneath the LNG tanks.

**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.

### Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): Tackling Common Process Issues – A Review of Chemical Treatment Options

**Speaker:** Wendy C. Young, Baker Petrolite

**Abstract:** There are many problems encountered in a chemical process unit that restrict your ability to maximize its production capabilities. Some examples of these problems are corrosion, fouling, foaming, and emulsions. Often there are design or equipment modifications that can help address these problems. In addition, there are chemical treatments that can be used in place of design modifications and to enhance performance further even after equipment changes have been implemented. These chemical treatment options will be discussed in more detail during the workshop.

**Bio:** Wendy C. Young is an Account Manager with Baker Petrolite in Houston. Prior to joining Baker in January 2005, her experience included positions in chemical manufacturing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and technical sales. She began her career with BASF after obtaining her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University in December 1997.

## 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.

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

## September Location - Aramco Facilities

The September 7 meeting will be held at the Saudi Aramco Facilities. To use your own mapping program for directions, the address is 9009 West Loop South, Houston, 77096.

## Meeting FAQ

*Do I have to be a member to attend?*

No. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

*Do I have to pay to attend the workshops?*

No. The workshops are free for all attendees.

*Do I have to stay for the meeting if I attend the workshops?*

No. After the workshops, you are free to go.

*Is this meeting format a permanent change?*

This format is something we are trying out to see how members respond. If members prefer this format, we may adopt it for more meetings. Dinner meetings will resume next month.

*Why are meetings in all these different places?*

We are trying different locations to give members in all areas of Houston easier access to meetings. Want a meeting in your area? Let us know!



## THE NEW WEBSITE

You may have seen by now that the new website is up and running. It was redesigned to have all pertinent information easy to find, be a bit easier on the eyes, and contain updated content.

There are still a few things left to clear up, and there may be a broken link here or there. We will iron out all the wrinkles as we go.

Take a look! Let us know what you think! Any suggestions, corrections, or reports of broken links should be directed to [webmaster@sts-aiche.org](mailto:webmaster@sts-aiche.org).

## 2006 Ship Channel Cruise Review

The annual ship channel cruise was held June 1, 2006. We welcomed visitors in town for the Leadership Development Conference, many of whom had never seen anything like the Ship Channel, even with the extent of our experiences.

I wish we had enough room for all of the great photos taken; a grand time was had by one and all. Don't miss it next year!



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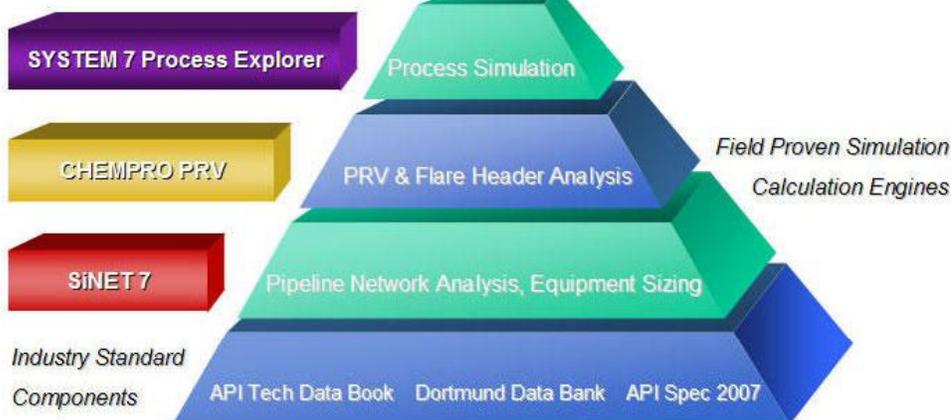
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CAST Workshop Link



AIChE - Houston

**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES and PHASE EQUILIBRIA: FROM A PRACTITIONER'S PERSPECTIVE**

Ashok K. Dewan, Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc. - Thursday September 7, 2006: 5:30 - 6:30pm

This overview seminar will introduce Physical Properties and Phase Equilibria (vapor-liquid, liquid-liquid, solid-liquid) for real-world refinery / chemical applications. The focus will be on recognizing the need for "good" physical properties and phase equilibrium data in troubleshooting and modeling process units, and how to avoid pitfalls.

Ashok Dewan is Technical Director of the Design Institute for Physical Properties (DIPPR) and Team Leader for PETSIM (Process Engineering Tools, Simulators & Ionic Models) and Principal Engineer, in Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc.'s Upstream Fluid Flow Group. At Shell, he is responsible for the rollout, license management, support, vendor liaison, & "in-house" training, for a portfolio of Process Engineering Tools / Simulators, in the "Americas", for Shell companies.

## 2006 OTC AIChE Sponsor Society Booth Report

This year the South Texas Section was charged with the responsibility of staffing and recruiting volunteers for AIChE's Sponsor Society Booth. The following STS Members spent some time in the booth providing time for our New York Office staff guests Ilia Killeen and Joe Kramer to take breaks, see a bit of the OTC, and conduct AIChE business with the OTC and other Sponsoring Societies as well as hawk future AIChE meetings. These STS Members were:

**Darin Cunningham**  
**Raj Kulkarni**  
**Jim (Red)Murphy (With Jim Murphy doing most of the damage.)**

## 2006 OTC Arrangements Committee Report

This year the South Texas Section was charged with the responsibility of staffing and recruiting volunteers for the 2006 OTC Arrangements Conduct Committee. Basically, this is a committee of approximately 98 volunteers to provide "session aide" type coverage for 49 OTC Technical Sessions (2 per session).

Since the OTC has never been high on most of our employers' agendas, it is difficult to recruit volunteers from STS – AIChE. In an effort to provide staffing for this and other large Conduct Committee assignments in the past and future, we have been collecting the few volunteers that had an interest in the OTC and peddling them to other societies with the thought in mind that they might reciprocate when we needed help. This year when we discovered at a very late date that we needed a lot of volunteers, everyone that we had e-mail addresses for was e-mailed, the STS newsletter was used, and finally an e-mail blast was sent. We did receive an offer of help from Sandor Karpthy of the Marine Technology Society. (We had helped Sandor when MTS had the Registration Committee in 2004.) Not only was Sandor very helpful, other members of the local MTS Section beat the bushes for volunteers. Their efforts were successful as they accounted for more than 50 of the 105 volunteers.

A break down of the 2006 OTC Arrangements Committee is as follows:

AAPG	2	2 %
ASME	2	2 %
AIChE	30	29 %
MTS	51	49 %
SEG	12	11 %
SNAME	2	2 %
SPE	6	6 %
Total	105	100%

The 30 STS-AIChE volunteers provided the highest involvement of AIChE members since the STS the 1996 Registration Conduct Committee. While there were 105 volunteers, we were about 10 volunteers short of covering all 49 sessions with 2 volunteers per session.

We would like to recognize those AIChE volunteers that worked at the 2006 OTC by serving on the OTC Arrangements Conduct Committee. Some of these are not STS or AIChE members or even Ch. E.'s but they have been around as one of the volunteers that we know we can call on, they are considered "honorary" members for the OTC.

**Robert Alexander**  
**V. K. Arora**  
**Ewald J. Burckhardt**  
**Norman Carnahan**  
**Darin Cunningham**  
**Caleb Davis**  
**Mark W. Demark**  
**Galen Dino**  
**Frank Driskill**  
**Clayton O. Finney**  
**Kamel Fotou**  
**Daniel A. Hamill**  
**Robert Karesh**  
**Vas Kenyen**

**Raj Kulkarni**  
**James Menn**  
**Tom Menn**  
**Jim (Red) Murphy**  
**T. David Pay**  
**Symal Poddar**  
**Tom Rodkey**  
**Mirelle Rosca**  
**Robert Shanley**  
**Aziz A. Siddiqi**  
**Nina Taylor**  
**Roger Trandell**  
**R. D. Vakharia**  
**Robert F. Wolfe**

We also would like to give special thanks to Susan Cannon, STS Newsletter Editor, Karen Kabin, STS Web Master, and David Hill STS Executive Committee Member & Communications Director for their help in this effort.

In closing on this subject we would like to add that we will be recruiting volunteers for another society next year - 2007 (SPE for Registration and ASCE for Arrangements) if either sponsor society will let us. In 2008, AIChE has the responsibility for the Registration Conduct Committee.

For our efforts in behalf of the OTC, the South Texas Section received a \$1000 honorarium check from the OTC.



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## 2005 South Texas Section Distinguished Service Award

### Matt Kolodney

The 2005 South Texas Section Distinguish Service Award Recipient received his BS in Chemical Engineering University of Virginia and his MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts.

His first job was with Texaco-Research in Beacon, NY Research Lab doing process evaluation. Later he moved to Port Arthur, Tx and ran a pilot plant. He soon tired of research and took a job with Davy Mckee (Later John Brown E&C) as a process engineer on small plant revamps.

After a few years, he decided that he preferred to go back into R&D and wound up at the UTC Fuel Cell Facility doing Process Evaluation. Then he became a consultant with Dynamac Corp – a DC Consulting Firm doing process modeling and evaluation. He became involved in the Space Program doing process modeling.

At this time he met his fiancée/wife in Houston. After two years working around NASA, the space program went into a 3-yr squeeze, and he lasted thru 2.5 years. At this time he decided to seek more stable employment and took a job with the State of Texas in the predecessor to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This has been a long term environmental opportunity in the Houston Area and he is now your “Friendly Neighbor Refinery/ Petrochem Plant Inspector.” In this latest job, he makes good use of his Chemical Engineering experience & AIChE contacts (names will be withheld to protect the “informants”). Even though the TCEQ gets him to work 45-hour work weeks, he has time to do a lot of volunteer work for the South Texas Section.

His Volunteer Work at STS includes:

Multi-Session Programming chair at a session of the 1997 National Meeting

Environmental Workshop Chair - 1995 thru 1999

Executive Position 3 - 1997

1997 Robert L. Churchwell Environment Award

Executive Position 1 - 1998

Secretary -1999

Treasurer - 2001 & 2

South Texas Section Chair Elect - 2003

South Texas Section Chair - 2004

South Texas Section Past Chair - 2005

Leadership Development Conference Programming  
Chair - 2006



He is also one of our representatives to the Engineers' Council of Houston, being the STS-AIChE Representative 2003-4. Then the ECH elected him to the position of ECH Vice President for 2004-5 and he is now the Engineer's Council of Houston President and will conclude that rotation in 2008.

The 2005 South Texas Section Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mr. Kolodney at the May 2006 meeting.

## 2005 South Texas Section Special Service Award

### Jack Chosnek, Phd, P.E.

The South Texas Section - AIChE recognized Jack Chosnek, Phd, P. E. of KnowledgeOne for his Process Safety Committee efforts in the past years by awarding him the 2005 South Texas Section Special Service Award. This Award was presented at the May 2006 meeting.

Several other awards were given at the May meeting; watch for the remaining summary in the October newsletter.



## 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/>.

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## 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>.

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## 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](mailto:Jon.Worstell@Shell.com) or 281-544-7907 for details about these sessions.

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### 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](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](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/news0906.pdf>

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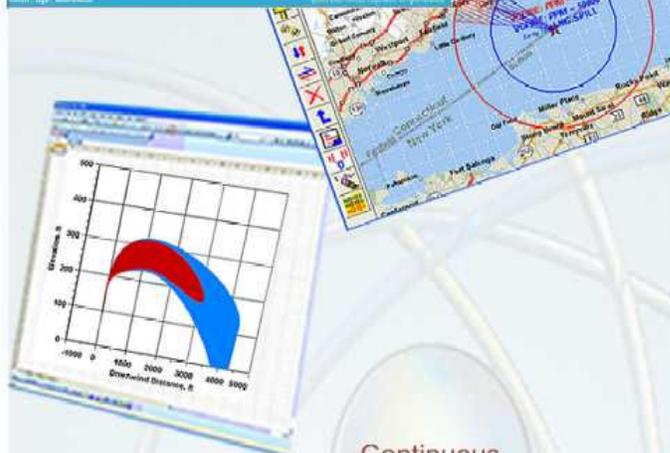
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## From the Editor

We're back! Welcome to the new season of the South Texan. We are trying some new things this year, including a new meeting format. This is to help members get home a little sooner. This is always helpful during the work week.

We will also be having meetings in several locations throughout the Houston area, in order to make it easier for our members to get to at least one meeting over the year.

These decisions were made in response to suggestions made by you, our members. Keep them coming!

Even though there has been no newsletter over the summer, the AIChE team has been busy behind the scenes. We had the annual Ship Channel Tour, the Leadership Development Conference, and the ExComm annual summer planning meeting. Topics for the year's meetings and workshops have been gathered, presenters contacted, and locations arranged.

We are looking forward to being the host section for the Spring National Meeting next April. There will be many activities to participate in. There is always a lot going on with the AIChE South Texas Section. There are plenty of things to volunteer for (hint, hint)!

As always, we appreciate hearing suggestions from members on meeting topics, events, training, or other needs you may have. We'll even listen to a complaint or two if need be. We have an expanded contact list on Page 14 of this newsletter, so let us hear from you.

It has been a quiet summer, and that is a good thing. The weather has been hot but hurricane-free (knock on wood), and safety incidents have not been all over the news. Let's continue to be diligent in taking good care of ourselves, coworkers, and fellow human beings. Not that our coworkers aren't human beings... that didn't come out right... well you know what I mean.

Here's to a great new year!

Susan Cannon, Editor

[SusanCannon119@aol.com](mailto:SusanCannon119@aol.com) or [newsletter@sts-aiche.org](mailto: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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# 2006 AIChE National Leadership Development Conference Review



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2006 AIChE President John Chen



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Murray Nadler is a Member of the Texas Bar and is a registered U.S. Patent Attorney. He retired from ExxonMobil Chemical Technology as a Senior Engineering Associate prior to opening his patent law practice. He is also a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).

Mr. Nadler works as a solo practitioner doing patent drafting and prosecution. In addition, Mr. Nadler consults with companies on strategic planning for intellectual property management. He works primarily in the chemical, petrochemical, and power generation process industries. Mr. Nadler has been a speaker at conferences, including conferences sponsored by the AIChE on intellectual property management.

Mr. Nadler has developed an industrial training program to teach engineers and scientists how to use the patent laws system and to develop intellectual property assets for their company, based on his experience in bridging communication between corporate technologists and patent lawyers.



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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Date	Tentative Location	Tentative Speaker	Tentative Subject
October 5	Beltway 8/Westheimer	Kai Fischer	UNIFAQ
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	



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## South Texas Section AIChE

South Texas Section  
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### 2006 Officers and Contact Information

#### Officers

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**Past Chair** Tommy John  
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#### Executive Committee

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#### Volunteers

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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

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

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

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Contact the New York office for PERMANENT ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:

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

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

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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](mailto:newsletter@sts-aiche.org) with comments, questions, suggestions, and ideas for next month.

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