



Special Notes

- **Location: Aramco Services Building**
- Workshops 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Speaker 7 PM
- Done at 8 PM!
- Hors d'ouvres but no dinner
- \$10 charge for everyone, even workshop attendees

Inside this issue:

Workshop Details	2
Meeting Signup Details	3
Obituary	5
December Meeting Highlights	5
Awards Nomination Form	6-7
Vital Links	7
Coming Events/Calendar	9
From The Editor	10
Member Profile *NEW*	11
Contact Information	12
Subscribe/Unsubscribe	12

Monthly Meeting January 11, 2007

Sponsored by Aramco Services Company!

Current Issues in US Patent Law

Abstract: There are several issues currently roiling the U.S. patent system that have significant impact on engineers and scientists. There are four "hot" issues for discussion in depth:

- 1) How is the law that defines patent infringement and permissible patent "design around" options evolving?
- 2) The expanding field of allowable patents: Newly allowed are patents for business methods, computation algorithms, processes that occur entirely in the mind of the inventor, and the human genome.
- 3) Has the law tilted too far in favor of patents? Are PTO examination standards now so lenient that trivial and obvious patents are being allowed? Are courts issuing shutdown injunctions to remedy infringement too routinely?
- 4) Shall patent ownership priority be changed to first to file from the first to conceive?

Bio: Murray Nadler is a Member of the Texas Bar and the U.S. Patent Bar and is a former Senior Engineering Associate for Exxon Chemical Technology. He is also a member of AIChE. Mr. Nadler works as a solo practitioner doing patent drafting and prosecution. In addition, Mr. Nadler does consulting work on strategic planning for intellectual property management. He works primarily in the chemical, petrochemical, and power generation industries.

The January 2007 meeting will be at the Aramco Services Building. See map on page 3. The building is on the EAST side of the loop.

For this meeting, **the attendance fee is \$10 per person, even for workshop attendees. Workshop attendees are requested to pre-register at the website <http://sts-aiche.org/sts-aichereservation.htm>.**

The meeting price includes hors d'ouvres and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be no dinner.

January Workshops (More detail, see page 2)

CAST	Physical Property Information Sources and Industrial Consortia	Dale L. Embry, ConocoPhillips
PSM	New Directions in OSHA's Petrochemical Enforcement Programs	Russ Elveston, OSHA Assistant Area Director, PSM Investigation (retired)
PE/PO	Measurement of Level, Interface, and Density	William Bailey, Ohmart/Vega Process Measurement
Environmental	TCEQ's new rules on Emissions from Maintenance, Startup, and Shutdown Activities	Tara Capobianco, TCEQ

Workshop Details: Workshops begin at 5:30 PM

NOTE: For this meeting, workshop attendees will be charged \$10 admission. If you are planning to attend a workshop, please pre-register at the website <http://sts-aiche.org/sts-aichereservation.htm>.

C.A.S.T. (Computing And Systems Technology): Physical Property Information Sources and Industrial Consortia

Speaker: Dale L. Embry, ConocoPhillips

Abstract: Many practicing engineers are unaware of the numerous resources that are available that contain physical property data. The focus of this talk is to discuss the various sources that are available for locating previously measured data and highlight the current areas of research of several industrial consortia such as AIChE's DIPPR.

Bio: Dale Embry is a Principal Engineer for ConocoPhillips. He has served as a technical representative to several industrial consortia for physical property data collection, measurement and correlation. His primary work focus is in property correlation and prediction for process simulation and evaluation. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M.

Process Safety: New Directions in OSHA's Petrochemical Enforcement Programs

Speaker: Russ Elveston, OSHA Assistant Area Director, PSM Investigation (retired)

Abstract: Changes in OSHA programs significantly impact the nation's refinery and petrochemical industries. This presentation and discussion will address a little of the history of the industry's major accidents and the effect they have had on the current and future regulatory path. This will include an insider's look at the agency's new programs for enhanced enforcement and a few tips on how the industry may prepare for them.

Bio: Russ Elveston is currently a consultant with Russ Elveston PE, LLC after spending 30 years with OSHA. During his career he conducted several hundred accident investigations, including many in the petrochemical industry. He organized and supervised OSHA's only PSM unit devoted exclusively to the enforcement of the standard after its promulgation in 1992. He or a member of his unit was either the lead investigator or investigation team leader on the 1989 Phillips investigation, the 1990 ARCO investigation, and the 2005 BP investigation as well as most of the major accidents since 1991. The PSM unit developed specific techniques used nationwide by OSHA investigators to quickly identify root causes and standards violations. Russ attended Lamar University and has both a BS and Masters in Engineering and a BA in Psychology. He is a member of ASSE and the Technical Advisory Committee for the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center at Texas A&M.

Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): Measurement of Level, Interface, and Density

Speaker: William Bailey, Ohmart/Vega Process Measurement

Abstract: Measurement of process level and interface has always been one of the most challenging tasks for engineering groups. Non-contact radar and guided wave radar are two of the fastest growing technologies available to achieve accurate and repeatable measurement. The reason for this growth is primarily due to the technologies being impervious to many of the variables that affect some of the more antiquated technologies such as differential pressure, capacitance, and ultrasonic.

However, it is extremely important for these instruments to be applied correctly to achieve reliable measurement on each application. This presentation will cover theory of operation for each technology and some of the most important considerations when applying. In addition, we will cover theory of measurement for nuclear technologies when assessing a continuous level, interface, or density application.

Bio: William Bailey is the Gulf Coast Regional Manager for the Ohmart/Vega Corporation. He has worked with Ohmart/Vega for eight years in both inside and outside technical sales positions. He has experience with many companies and applications associated with the petrochemical and refining industries.

Environmental: TCEQ's new rules on Emissions from Maintenance, Startup, and Shutdown Activities

Speaker: Tara Capobianco of TCEQ

Abstract: Owners and operators must file an application to authorize emissions from planned maintenance, startup, and shutdown activities to maintain the availability of an affirmative defense. For petroleum refineries, the application deadline is January 5, 2007; for chemical plants, applications are due January 5, 2008. This discussion is an overview of the maintenance, startup, and shutdown issue.

Bio: Tara Capobianco began working in the Operating Permits Division of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (now Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) in 1997. She initially developed Title V application forms and supported the Title V program. Tara eventually became one of the Air Permits Division's rule writers, where one of her primary projects was revising the regulations to obtain full Title V program approval from the EPA. Tara now serves as Team Leader of the Rules Development Team of the Air Permits Division. Tara graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering. Prior to her employment with the commission, Tara interned at the Region 3 Office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, working in the Division of Air.

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In Memoriam—Dr. Frank Worley, Jr.

Dr. Frank Lester Worley, Jr. passed away December 13, 2006 following an extended illness. Dr. Worley was a retired Professor of Chemical Engineering and Associate Dean of the Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston.



Born October 09, 1929 in Kansas City, MO, Frank and his family moved to Houston in 1938 and settled in the Park Place area. Frank graduated from Milby High School in 1947. In 1952 he received his BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston. He then worked in industry for several years before making a career change and returning to UH to complete his MS and PhD degrees. His association with the University of Houston, as professor or associate dean, continued until retirement 1992.

A Professional Engineer, State of Texas, Dr. Worley was also a member of Tau Beta Pi, Epsilon of Texas Chapter, and was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Dr. Worley's passion for teaching, for giving guidance and direction to young, inquiring engineering students with eager and receptive minds, was a "first-love" surpassed only by his caring devotion and attention to his family.

Frank met Joan Clutter in 1950 when both were members of Park Place Methodist Church. They married in 1952, and eventually made Houston their home residing in West University Place for 49 years. He led an active life, filling his time with such interests as hunting and fishing, gardening, genealogy, reading and travel. He especially enjoyed music and the theater. Those of us who knew Frank best will remember him as a self-made man, one who learned at an early age the value and rewards of hard work.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Frank L. Worley, Jr. Scholarship Fund at the Cullen College of Engineering in care of Vita Como, 302 Engineering Bldg. One, Houston, TX 77204-4028. Arrangements are under the care of Jeter Memorial Funeral Home, 311 N. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77546, (281) 992-7200, <http://www.jeterfuneralhome.com> Condolences can be made to the Worley Family in care of Jeter Memorial Funeral Home at jeter@flash.net.

Dr. Worley's obituary may be viewed on the Houston Chronicle website [via this link](#).

December meeting highlights



Bob Alexander is all smiles!



Dennis Griffith and Alan Rossiter



Our 2007 Chair, David Karesh, and December speaker Jack Bacon, NASA



Shane Tierling (2007 Treasurer) brought his wife to Significant Other Night



Tommy John, past Chair

Thanks Steve Haynie!

Thanks to Steve Haynie, Workshop Chair, for entertaining us at the December 7, 2006 meeting. Steve played guitar and sang various songs before dinner and after the speaker.

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



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

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

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 7 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:

	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	
	<u>AICHE</u>	<u>STS</u>
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.

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://sts-aiche.org/Texas_PE_CEP_Rule.html (Texas_PE_CEP_Rule.html)

Download the CEP log form: http://sts-aiche.org/STS-AIChE_CEP_Log.xls (STS-AIChE_CEP_Log.xls)

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

Link to THIS newsletter:

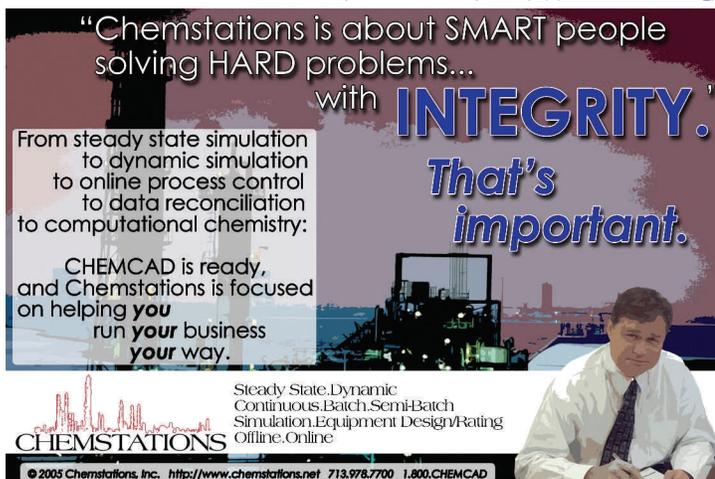
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Would you like to volunteer to help out with South Texas Section AIChE activities?

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.

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Fax: 1.713.490.5222

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 or 281-544-7907 for details about these sessions.

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Date	Tentative Location	Tentative Speaker	Tentative Subject
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.	National Meeting	State of the Union/Ship Channel Tour
April 30-May 3	Reliant Center	2007 Offshore Technology Conference	
May 3	Sheraton Brookhollow		Awards Night

From the Editor

Another year is upon us. Welcome, 2007!

We have new officers. David Karesh takes over the position of Chair, and David Silarski won the election for Chair-Elect. Congratulations to David S! I know we are in for another great year. Members may not be aware that the Chair-Elect is responsible for the meeting arrangements, and David K has done a great job making arrangements for the 2006 meetings. Meetings were located around Houston to provide those who work all over better access to at least one meeting. We intend to maintain this philosophy through 2007.

We also have two new officers for Position 1 (Education) - Chris Knudsen, and Position 3 (Communications) - Sam Pathak. We encourage new, younger members to become involved in the organization, and filling an elected position is an excellent way to become familiar with how our organization works. It is also a great way to meet the wonderful folks that keep us going, keep things organized, and bring new things to our meetings.

There are also volunteer opportunities for those who wish to just get their feet wet, or perhaps have just a few spare hours. Contact Matt Kolodney (See page 7, or the back cover of this newsletter).

There are exciting things in the works for 2007. Our local section is the host for the Spring National Meeting, where we will combine our regular April monthly meeting as well as the annual Ship Channel Cruise. It is another excellent opportunity to network with others in our area and from around the country.

This month we introduce a new feature, highlighting some of the fascinating people that make up the AIChE. This month, it is National Board Member Deb Grubbe. If you would like to recommend a person to spotlight in our newsletter, drop me a line!

Happy new year to everyone.

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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Introducing National AIChE Board Member, Deb Grubbe

One of the highlights for The South Texas Section in 2006 was the AIChE Leadership Development Conference in June. This event brought nearly 100 people, including top AIChE leaders, from around the country to Houston. One of the many interesting people we got to meet was AIChE National Board Member Deborah (Deb) Grubbe. We asked her to share a little about herself. First, the formal stuff...



Deborah Grubbe is Vice President–Group Safety and Industrial Hygiene for BP plc. Based in London, she is accountable for providing global safety leadership in all business areas: exploration and production, refining and marketing, gas, and renewables. Formerly, Deborah was employed for 27 years by DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware, USA. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with Highest Distinction from Purdue University, and a Certificate of Post-Graduate Study in Chemical Engineering from Cambridge University in England. She is a registered professional engineer in Delaware. She is married to James B. Porter, Jr., of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Deb has held many positions in professional and community service. Past and present roles include Chair of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Visiting Committee for Advanced Technology, member of the NASA Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, member of the Purdue University School of Chemical Engineering New Directions Executive Committee, president and board member of the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council, and board member of the Women in Engineering Program Advocates Network (WEPAN), the Delaware Zoological Society, the YWCA of New Castle County, and the Delaware State Board of Pharmacy. She was the first woman and youngest elected member on the State of Delaware Registration Board for Professional Engineers (1985-1989), and of course is currently a member of the AIChE Board of Directors.

We asked Deb share her thoughts on factors that have affected her career. First, the Glass Ceiling:

It is real – and it is there for men, too. It is there because others put it there; it is there because YOU put it there! Sometimes you just have to go around it. Is always broken from the top - never by banging on it from the bottom.

Some advice for people starting out in their career:

Be yourself, and know your "stuff". Look for the good in people and situations, and think "positive change." Do not let folks run over you. Listen - Think Gross, Speak Net. Find mentors; keep finding mentors all along. Understand insecurities - in you, in others.

As your career progresses:

There are two kinds of people - those that MAKE dust and those that EAT dust! Work SMART and work HARD! Friends come and go, and enemies accumulate. You have two ears and one mouth; use them in that proportion. Many people have failed in life because they had wishbones when they needed backbones.

The view only changes if you are the lead dog... Get to know others who are different from you - life will be more fun! Be BAAAAADDD to the bone!

And some closing comments:

Get a solid education, and then keep on learning. You can have it all, just not at the same time. "Big jobs" require "big time." Beware of "poison people." Keep your life in balance - or your work will fall apart. SMILE and keep 'em guessing! GO FOR IT!!!!

Thanks to Deb for coming to the LDC, and for sharing her insights on how to develop our careers and ourselves.



South Texas Section AIChE

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Houston, TX 77271-0773

2007 Officers and Contact Information

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chair@sts-aiche.org; 832-351-6944

Chair Elect David Silarski
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Past Chair Lawrence Chriswell, Keelson Co.
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Treasurer Shane Tierling, KBR
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Volunteers

Arrangements Richard Newman, Criterion Catalysts

Membership Jerry Gresham, Gresham & Gresham

Young Professionals Susan Kerr
Peter Strasser

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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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.

Newsletter Editor

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SusanCannon119@aol.com

Submit an article! Contact:

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