



Meeting At-A-Glance

- **Location: Hilton Hobby Hotel**
- Workshops 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Dinner at 7 PM
- Awards Night!
- Speaker at 8 PM

Monthly Meeting October 4, 2007

Location: Hilton Houston Hobby Airport

What is the AIChE Sustainability Index?

Speaker: Dr. Calvin B. Cobb

Abstract: AIChE launched the Institute for Sustainability in 2004 and has made significant progress in a number of activities. A new initiative has been initiated and was recently introduced in CEP - the AIChE Sustainability Index. This index tracks performance of companies along a sustainability journey and will become a standard in the industry for measuring progress in sustainability. The initial companies that have been analyzed are in the chemical sector and results for that part of the process industries will be presented and discussed.

Bio: Dr. Calvin B. Cobb is President of Calvin Cobb & Co., a management consulting firm he established in 2005. He was Vice President and General Manager of Invensys Process Systems and established and led the firm's Global Hydrocarbons consulting business from 2003 until his retirement in 2005.

Dr. Cobb began his career with Monsanto where he served in engineering and software development and marketing roles. He began his long consulting career with The Pace Company Consultants & Engineers in 1974. A senior group of consultants from Pace formed Wright Killen & Co. and he joined as President in 1982. He became a Partner of Ernst & Young in 1996 and led various practices for the firm including North American energy and chemicals. He joined Invensys in early 2003 to form a new consulting business for the company.

He is known throughout the energy and chemical industry as a strategy expert. During his 33 year career he has consulted for a wide range of clients spanning the entire range of business activities in the industry.

Dr. Cobb received Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in chemical engineering for the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1964, 1965, and 1967. Dr. Cobb was awarded the Professional Degree of Chemical Engineer in 1986 by his alma mater in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the field and the 1995 Alumni Achievement Award. In 2001, he received a Doctor of Engineering Honoris Causa degree and was the university's commencement speaker.

Dr. Cobb is active in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and was the 2001 President of the organization. He served as National Director in 1995-97 and was the Board representative to the Engineering & Construction Contracting Division. Dr. Cobb received AIChE's Fuels and Petrochemical Division Award in 1995 and the Marketing Division Award in 1986. He currently is chair of AIChE's Institute for Sustainability.

He serves as Chairman of the Board for the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas.



Inside this issue:

Workshop Details	2
Meeting Signup Details	3
Meeting Prepayment	5
Call for Papers	6
Workshop Chairs	7
From the Editor/Elections	9
Contact Information	11
Subscribe/Unsubscribe	11

Workshop Details: Workshops begin at 5:30 PM

CAST: Process Synthesis Software

Speaker: Dr. Jürgen Rarey, Prof. h.c.

Abstract: Running distillation separation processes under azeotropic conditions means that purity cannot be improved no matter what additional energy is added to the process. A column analyzed and optimized with Distillation Synthesis can have significantly reduced overall energy demands – directly, positively impacting NO_x reduction and environmental compliance. Process Synthesis Software help the engineer find totally new innovative solutions whereas classical process simulation approaches mostly only lead to gradual improvements of existing technology.

Bio: Dr. Jürgen Rarey completed the Study of Chemistry at University of Dortmund in 1985. He began his career as a scientific co-worker in the group of Prof. Gmehling (Institute for Chemical Engineering, Univ. of Dortmund), receiving his PhD in 1991. In 1989, he became the scientific co-worker with Prof. Gmehling at University of Oldenburg; in 1994 he was Managing Director at DDBST GmbH, Oldenburg. In 2004 he became the Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Chemical Engineering, University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. In 2005, he became Honorary Professor (Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa). Dr. Rarey is the co-author of DECHEMA Chemistry Data Series (4 books), with approximately 30 publications in scientific journals.

Process Safety: Operational Discipline at DuPont: A Key Ingredient to PSM

Speaker: Doug Fergusson, DuPont

Abstract: The history, current practices, and performance of PSM and the current Operational Discipline program in DuPont will be discussed. DuPont has had a core value for personnel safety and process safety since its founding in 1803. Those core values have been expanded and improved based on experience from major industry incidents, regulatory requirements, industry guidance, and learnings from company experience.

DuPont defines Operational Discipline (OD) as a deeply rooted dedication and commitment by each member of the organization to carry out each task the right way, each time. Originally, eleven organizational characteristics were used to help evaluate and drive continuous improvement of operational discipline. These eleven have now been simplified to four primary characteristics. DuPont's program now includes a new emphasis on individual characteristics of operational discipline, based on knowledge, commitment, and awareness.

Bio: Doug Fergusson joined DuPont in 1968 at the Savannah River Plant where he stayed for four years. After spending an additional year as a Senior Supervisor in the Maintenance Engineering section he transferred to DuPont's Engineering Department in 1973 and worked as a project process engineer for the following 17 years. Doug began working in the Process Safety and Fire Protection Engineering group as a Process Hazard Analysis and Consequence Analysis consultant in 1990. Doug received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and spent an additional year doing graduate work in Nuclear Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the area of Mechanical Engineering.

Environmental: Sand Ballasted High Rate Clarification Process for Treatment of Process Water and Wastewater

Speaker: Charles D. Blumenschein, P.E., DEE N.A. Water Systems, LLC; Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies

Abstract: The presentation will focus on the use of a Sand-Ballasted high rate settling technology, known as ACTIFLO® for the treatment of industrial wastewater and surface water prior to use by industries for industrial supply water, particularly as an effective pretreatment system prior to membrane systems used to produce high quality water. Sand-ballasted settling is a high-rate coagulation / flocculation / sedimentation process that utilizes microsand as a seed for floc formation. The floc settles very fast, allowing for compact clarifier designs with high overflow rates and short detention times. This design results in system footprints between 5 and 30 times smaller than conventional clarification systems of similar capacity. The use of microsand also permits the unit to perform well even when the inlet flow rate and influent water quality dramatically change either separately or in tandem, while still producing high quality treated effluent. A number of case studies which highlight the performance of the ACTIFLO® process will be discussed. Other Veolia technologies such as MBBR and OPUS will be briefly discussed with those interested.

Bio: Charles Blumenschein is employed by N.A. Water Systems, LLC, a Veolia Water Solutions and Technologies Company. He currently manages the Process Engineering group in Pittsburgh, PA. He is responsible for evaluating industrial wastewater and process waste treatment systems, developing approaches innovative improvements to these systems and evaluating the use of new technologies for potential commercialization. Mr. Blumenschein's experience includes the design of contaminated groundwater recovery and treatment systems; physical/chemical wastewater treatment for the steel, electroplating, and chemical industries; biological treatment of contaminated wastewaters from the chemical, food processing, and steel industries; as well as advanced treatment technologies for water and wastewater recycle systems. Mr. Blumenschein has published more than 30 papers on a variety of topics pertaining to water and wastewater treatment.

Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): The Next Generation of Wet Electrostatic Precipitators

Speaker: Hardik Shah, Southern Environmental, Inc.

Abstract: Multi-pollutant control technologies will become more important in the future. The Membrane Wet ESP system is ideally suited to, and very cost effective for, removing PM_{2.5}, SO₃ and Hg+2 after limestone Wet FGD Scrubbers in the Utility Industry. This paper details how membrane WESP is different from metal plate WESP. This paper will also document the advantages of a Membrane WESP to remove PM_{2.5}, SO₃ and Hg+2 emissions and present detailed performance results of full scale and pilot units installed and operated in different flue gas conditions.

This first commercial unit was constructed using three different types of stainless steels. The performance of these component parts will be described and cost estimates comparing the membrane design WESP to conventional (metal plate) Wet ESP's will be presented. Recommendations will be made to show how the membrane technology can be used after Utility-size, limestone Wet FGD scrubbers.

Bio: Hardik Shah is an Application Engineer with Southern Environmental, Inc. He has a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Ohio University. He has spent the last three years doing research and development on the use of plastic components electrostatic precipitators.

Meeting Registration Information

Pre-register for the monthly meeting at:

<http://sts-aiche.org/sts-aichereservation.htm>.

Reservations are accepted until 4 pm 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.

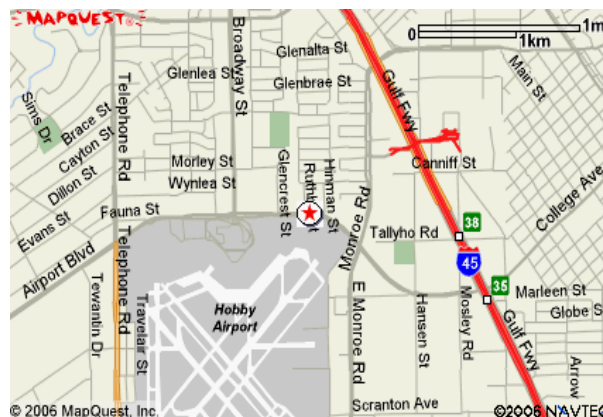
The cost for this meeting, per person, is:

	<u>Pre-registered</u>	<u>At the door</u>
Regular/Retired	\$25	\$35
Student/Unemployed	\$15	\$25

The workshops are free to attend.

Meeting Location - Hilton Houston Hobby Airport

The October meeting will be held at Hilton Houston Hobby Airport. To use your own mapping program for directions, the address is 8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, 77061. Click on the map to the right to open the map site.



Calendar of Events

This year's meetings are scheduled as follows. Mark your calendars!!

November 1 (Energy Forum, Brady's Landing Restaurant)
 December 6
 January 10 '08 (2nd week of January)
 February 7
 March 1
 April 3
 May 1





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Does more than one workshop interest you?

In response to our Member Survey, we'd like to know if you are interested in more than one workshop at any given meeting. If you are, please visit the workshop you would have liked to attend (but chose another), and let the host know of your interest.

If there are enough people showing interest, perhaps that session could be given again at a later meeting. We are also evaluating taping workshops and making them available to members afterward.

Logistics, legal issues, and the need for taping are all being evaluated to determine what is easiest and best for the hosts as well as members. Until we get it all sorted out, please ensure you let additional workshops know you are interested. Thanks!



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Fluor is currently seeking Process Engineers:

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Process Engineer responsible for the front-end and detailed engineering of refinery units, petrochemical & specialty chemical plants, Gas-To-Liquids (GTL) plants, coal gasification units, and oil & gas processing facilities. This role requires creativity, conceptual design capabilities, and sound knowledge of chemical engineering principles. Supervisory experience is a plus.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Prepares overall process designs and specifications of onsite, offsite, and utility systems
- Develops System Design Parameters
- Develops process simulation models and process optimization for various parts or units of the total plant
- Calculates Heat & Material Balances
- Designs Process Flow Diagrams (PFD's)
- Designs Piping & Instrumentation Diagrams (P&ID's)
- Specifies equipment and instrumentation
- Participates in design and safety reviews
- Interfaces with client and project engineering teams

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor Degree (or equivalent) and/or an advanced degree in Chemical Engineering required.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in engineering design or operating plant, front-end engineering experience preferred
- Exposure to software platforms such as Hysys, Pro II, Aspen, Smart-Plant also a plus

SALARIED BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Health & Dental Coverage
- Life & Accidental Coverage
- Retirement & Savings Plans
- Section 415 Plan
- TOWP (Time Off With Pay)
- Tax Savings Account
- Disability Coverage
- EAP (Employee & Family Assistance Program)
- Education Assistance
- Safety



Contact **Chris Moody** - Recruitment Supervisor
281-263-5043

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The South Texas Section's New Meeting Prepayment Policy (Credit Cards)

The South Texas Section is glad to announce that we will soon be accepting credit cards for pre-payment of meeting fees! The web page is being set up and we'll be testing during the month of October. Things should be ready to go for the November meeting.

The meeting pre-payment policy will be as follows:

- **All pre-registrations for dinner meetings will require prepayment with credit card.** This decision was made based on the overwhelming response we received during the summer survey. Nearly all respondents stated they would prepay for meetings using credit cards.
- We will be able to accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover.
- If you do not wish to prepay with a credit card, payment of the higher fee at the door is accepted in the form of cash or check. Credit cards will not (yet) be accepted at the door.
- No refunds will be available.
- If you have prepaid for a meeting and do not attend, the payment is forfeited.
- If you have prepaid for a meeting and find that you cannot attend, you may transfer your meeting payment to another person. In this case, you must print your receipt and write a short note stating that you allow your designee to attend in your place. The designee must be specifically named. You must sign this receipt and the designee must bring it to the meeting. *Any payment exchange for this transference will be solely between you and your designee.*
- Cancellations after 4 PM Tuesday of meeting week will forfeit the payment. We are required to provide a guaranteed number of dinners 48 hours prior to meeting time, it is costly to cancel after that.
- If you must cancel after you have prepaid due to extenuating circumstances, please contact the Chair or Chair-Elect. You may be allowed to apply your payment to a future meeting, within 3 meetings of the cancelled meeting. If the payment is not applied within the 3-month allowance, it is forfeited. This allowance may be carried over the non-meeting summer months. Approval is at the Chair/Chair-Elect's discretion. You may reach them at chair@sts-aiche.org or chair-elect@sts-aiche.org.
- A receipt of your transaction will be provided. You may print it and bring it to the meeting, but it is not required.
- You will be required to sign in at the meeting to verify that you did attend.

There were about as many survey respondents stating they would **not** use Paypal as those who said they would use a credit card; therefore we are not currently pursuing Paypal as an option for meeting prepayment.

We hope that our new policy makes it easier for you to pay for meetings and takes care of some of the congestion at the sign in desk.



Call for Papers: 10th Process Plant Safety Symposium

The 10th Process Plant Safety Symposium (PPSS), organized by the AIChE Safety and Health Division, Group 11B, will be held as part of the 4th Global Congress on Process Safety in New Orleans, LA. The PPSS was originally organized by the South Texas section of AIChE, and today continues to focus on process safety and risk issues and solutions for immediate application at process plants and throughout industry.

Papers are selected based on the abstracts submitted by authors. Manuscripts must be well written, contain new technical content or applications, and be immediately useful to the industry. Accepted papers will be published in the Symposium Proceedings and presented at the PPSS in New Orleans. The technical sessions are:

- I. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Tools
- II. Conduct of Operations for Process Safety
- III. Plant Process Safety Management Systems
- IV. Applications of Safety Culture
- V. Maintaining Instrument and Mechanical Integrity
- VI. Case Histories and Lessons Learned

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the PPSS, please contact [Jack Chosnek](#), or the persons listed for the topical session of interest and submit a 150-300 word abstract. We will accept abstracts **through September 30, 2007** or until all sessions are filled with high quality materials. Early submittal of abstracts is highly encouraged.

Details and contact information may be found in the file posted online at <http://www.sts-aiiche.org/2008PPSS.pdf>.

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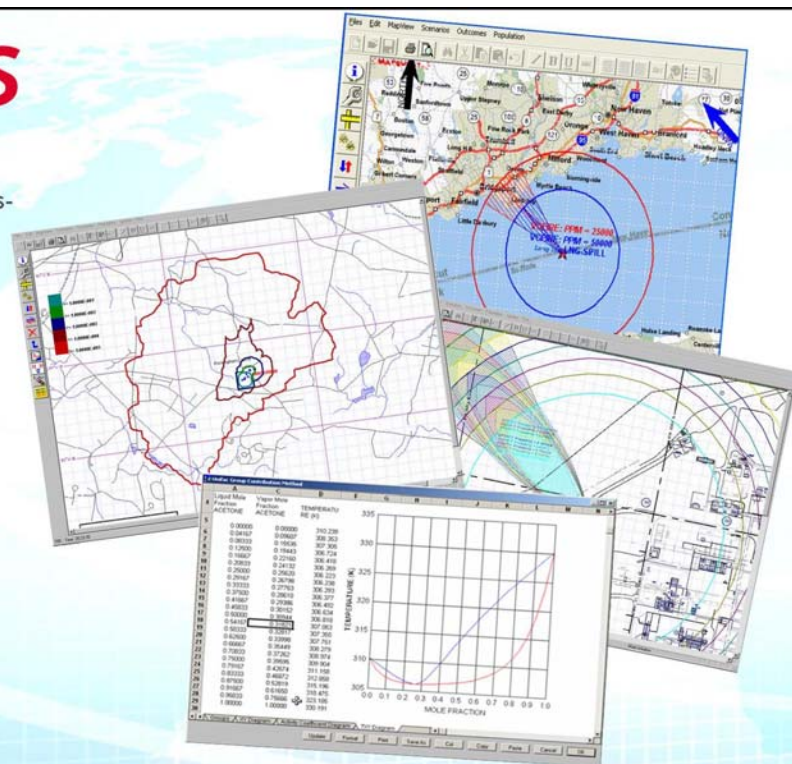
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Workshop Chairs

Every so often, we will provide contact information for our four workshop chairs. If you have a suggestion for a workshop, or would like to present one, please contact the respective workshop chair. Workshops fall under the STS office Position 1, Education, currently held by Chris Knudsen.

Overall

Chris Knudsen

position1@sts-aiiche.org

CAST (Computing & Systems Technology)

Todd Willman, Epcon International 281-398-9400

tjw@epcon.com

PE/PO (Process Engineering/Plant Operations)

Steve Haynie, Equistar Chemical 713-336-5221

steve.haynie@equistarchem.com

PSM (Process Safety Management)

Jack Chosnek, KnowledgeOne 281-538-0220

jc@knowledge1.net

Environmental—The STS welcomes a new Environmental workshop chair, Alessandra Carreon.

Alessandra Carreon, ENVIRON Int'l Corp 405-664-6992

alessandra.r.c@gmail.com

The advertisement features a dark, dramatic background on the left side showing a gas mask and industrial smokestacks emitting thick smoke. At the bottom left, the text 'What if it happened today?' is written in white. The 'SAFER SYSTEMS' logo is prominently displayed at the bottom left in red and white. The right side of the advertisement has a textured, brownish background with the title 'FIVE QUESTIONS... WHEN SECONDS COUNT' in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, a list of five numbered questions is provided, each preceded by a red circle with a white number. At the bottom right, there is a paragraph about 'SAFER Real-Time®' software and a line of contact information for SAFER Systems, including address, phone numbers, email, and website.

What if it happened today?

FIVE QUESTIONS... WHEN SECONDS COUNT

If a major release occurred right now - in your facility, could you:

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- 2** Ensure you are using your key and limited resources effectively during the event?
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- 4** Quickly assess the impact to sensitive locations such as a school or elder care facility?
- 5** Document and defend your decisions?

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3 Things Chemical Engineers Don't Want to Miss this Month from a World-Leading, German Thermodynamics Expert

1. *One-Hour Process Synthesis CAST Workshop at the October STS-AIChE Meeting*

Running distillation separation processes under azeotropic conditions means that purity cannot be improved no matter what additional energy is added to the process. A column analyzed and optimized with Distillation Synthesis can have significantly reduced overall energy demands – directly, positively impacting NOX reduction and environmental compliance. Process Synthesis Software help the engineer find totally new innovative solutions whereas classical process simulation approaches mostly only lead to gradual improvements of existing technology.

You know you can attend this workshop – it's Free!

2. *Two-Day Training on Selection, Synthesis and Design of Separation Processes*

An indepth course on the Selection, Synthesis, and Design of Thermal Separation Processes will be provided by Dr. Juergen Rarey, Managing Director of DDBST, at Moody Gardens on October 3-4. A sound knowledge of thermodynamics and physical properties 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 chemical engineers become familiar with the possibilities and limitations of currently used thermodynamic 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. 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.

Special ½ price to local AIChE Members – only \$475 (just ask your boss – you are worth it!)

3. *Second US-UNIFAC meeting at Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX, October 5th*

Dr. Juergen Rarey, Managing Director at DDBST in Oldenburg, Germany will be providing the second annual joint summary meeting of the UNIFAC Consortium and DDBST in the US on October 5th, 2007 at the Moody Gardens Hotel, sponsored by EPCON International. This condensed, 3 hour 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 18-19, 2007. 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 (limited space)

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.

Call EPCON International at 800-367-3585 to register today!



Dr. Jürgen Rarey, Prof. h.c.

- 1979 - 1985 Study of Chemistry, University of Dortmund
- 1985 - 1989 Scientific co-worker in the group of Prof. Gmehling (Institute for Chemical Engineering, Univ. of Dortmund)
- 1991 PhD at University of Dortmund (Chemical Engineering)
- Since 1989 Scientific co-worker with Prof. Gmehling at University of Oldenburg
- Since 1994 Managing Director at DDBST GmbH, Oldenburg
- Since 2004 Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Chemical Engineering, University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
- Since 2005 Honorary Professor (Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa)
- Co-author of DECHEMA Chemistry Data Series (4 books), approx. 30 publications in scientific journals.

From the Editor

I realized it's been a while since I wrote a "From the Editor" column. The newsletter has been just so chock-full of good information, there wasn't room for my ramblings. But we have a little bit of breathing room this month, so I thought I'd summarize a few important points about the South Texas Section.

- It's great to get out of the house once in a while and commiserate—I mean mingle—with your peers, get to know some other Chem E's in the area, network, and learn about some great Chem E topics. Either with the free workshops or the paid dinners, it's all good stuff.
- For those of us who are PE's, it's a great way to get some of those required CE hours. Attend one workshop and the dinner meeting, voila, 2 hours right there! Remember to track your own hours.
- The STS is run by volunteers. This sometimes means things happen at a snail's pace, but it also means that those who are in office and those who do volunteer do so because we love our organization and we want to ensure that all the Chem E's in the greater Houston area have the opportunity to participate in educational and fun activities.

This is now my 3rd year of editing the newsletter, and I get just as much enjoyment out of it now as I did when I began. Knowing that the newsletter is well-received and appreciated helps a lot too. I've been able to learn many new things (an important thing to do all throughout our lives), and exercise my right brain's creative side. So often we get stuck in that left-brain analytical thinking process and we forget there's another half a brain that needs to let loose every so often.

So be sure to exercise your right brain, too—even if it is something as simple as looking at a cloud and turning it into a recognizable shape. Take a different route to work. Play a goofy game with the kids. There are many options!

Thanks for reading.

Susan Cannon, editor

newsletter@sts-aiiche.org or SusanCannon119@aol.com

Vital Links

South Texas Section website: <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/news2007/news1007.pdf>

Elections are coming soon!

Elections are coming soon for the South Texas Section 2008 officers. Are you interested in running for an office in the STS? Contact the existing officer and discuss what they do, and how much work would be involved.

Officers hold positions for 2 years, except for Chair-Elect, which is a 3-year commitment (Cycles through Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair). Officer positions up for grabs this year are:

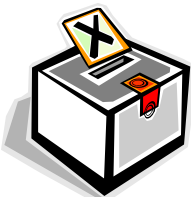
Chair-Elect

Secretary

Position 2—Outreach (Universities, schools)

(Special requirements—contact Ken Cox for details)

Position 4—Human Resources



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South Texas Section AIChE

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2007 Officers and Contact Information

Officers

Chair David Karesh, Jacobs Engineering
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Chair Elect David Silarski
chair-elect@sts-aiche.org

Past Chair Lawrence Chriswell, Keelson Co.
past-chair@sts-aiche.org

Secretary Kevin Hagan, S&B E&C
secretary@sts-aiche.org

Treasurer Shane Tierling, KBR

Executive Committee

Position 1: Education
Chris Knudsen
position1@sts-aiche.org

Position 2: Outreach
Ken Cox Rice University
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Position 3: Communications
Sam Pathak
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Position 4: Human Resources
Alan Rossiter Rossiter & Associates
position4@sts-aiche.org

Volunteers

Arrangements Richard Newman, Criterion Catalysts

Membership Jerry Gresham, Gresham & Gresham

Young Professionals Hui Zhao, KBR

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.

—— SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION ——

Our newsletter subscription list is by invitation only.

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—— MAINTAIN YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH STS ——

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

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

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

Select the link to [View/Update Your Online Directory Listing](#).

Contact the New York office for PERMANENT ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:



xpress@aiiche.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 with comments, questions, suggestions, and ideas for next month.

Newsletter Editor

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Submit an article! Contact:

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