



**Special Notes**

- **Location: Aramco Services Building**
- Workshops 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Dinner at 7 PM
- Speaker at 8 PM
- Full Dinner Meeting

**Monthly Meeting May 3, 2007**

**Location: Aramco Services Company!**

**Net Unrealized Appreciation (NUA) and Employer Stock Diversification or How I Gave All My Money Away**

**Speaker: Randy Brocher, Vice President, Wachovia Securities**

**Abstract:** Employees need to understand their investment options. New employees have to make wise decisions and seasoned employees have to keep theirs. Sometimes employees make costly decisions regarding company held stock in ESOP and Profit Sharing Plans with no understanding of little known investment tool. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 along with other recent legislative changes have made 401K, IRA, and other retirement savings plan (SEP, SIMPLE IRA, Defined Benefit, etc.) investment decisions more beneficial, but also more confusing and difficult. As always, a little time spent planning early in the process can prevent a big loss later.

**Bio: Randy Brocher** is a vice president with Wachovia Securities. He received his BS in Chemical and Petroleum Refining Engineering from The Colorado School of Mines in 1973, and has worked as a process engineer for Conoco and E I DuPont. Randy has also held positions in sales, sales management, marketing, and marketing management with E I DuPont and Nalco Chemical. He held a Nalco Chemical company management position in Europe involving locations in eight countries just prior to joining the financial services industry.

As a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley beginning in 1998, he earned the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation. Now with Wachovia Securities, Randy brings his engineering problem solving background to analyses of current financial situations, and helping people reach future goals.

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

The May meeting will be a full dinner meeting. For pricing, see page 3.

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**May Workshops (More detail, see page 2)**

<b>CAST</b>	No CAST workshop in May	
<b>PSM</b>	PSM Issues Surrounding Litigation Issues	Mike Sawyer, Apex Consulting
<b>PE/PO</b>	BioDiesel: Current Trends and Opportunities	Dr. Sanjeev Saraf and Dr. Ben Thomas of Exponent, Inc.
<b>Environmental</b>	Recent Success Stories of the TCEQ Region 12 Air Section	Joel Anderson, TCEQ

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

**C.A.S.T. (Computing And Systems Technology):** *No CAST workshop in May*

**Process Safety: PSM Issues Surrounding Litigation Cases**

**Speaker: Mike Sawyer, Apex Consulting**

**Abstract:** This presentation will provide examples of past litigation cases involving process safety management issues. The fundamental challenges of opining on process safety management will be discussed from the prospective of having to identify evidence, preserve evidence, prepare an engineering report, and provide testimony.

**Bio:** Mike Sawyer has over 24 years of experience in industrial and process safety projects. Currently, he provides expertise in applications relating to occupational safety, loss control/prevention, hazard analysis, risk assessments, and litigation support. He has facilitated numerous hazard analyses for the process industries. In addition, he has provided expert testimony in various cases, ranging from support of OSHA to international litigation.

**Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): Biodiesel: Current Trends and Opportunities**

**Speaker: Dr. Sanjeev Saraf and Dr. Ben Thomas of Exponent, Inc.**

**Abstract:** Biodiesel production in the United States is anticipated to double by 2010. Biodiesel's characteristics and performance as a fuel vary depending on its composition, and has to be stringently monitored to avoid adverse impacts on the environment and engines. This presentation will discuss processing technologies and economics for Biodiesel production from different feedstocks. In addition, we will identify key technological research needs for improving Biodiesel manufacturing.

**Bio:s** Dr. Sanjeev Saraf is a Senior Engineer in Exponent's mechanical engineering and materials/metallurgy practice in Houston. His primary focus is on evaluating processes / products for increased safety, reliability, risk tolerance and economic feasibility. Dr. Saraf holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Texas A&M University, where he worked at the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center (MKOPSC). Dr. Saraf is a contributing editor for Hydrocarbon Processing. His research interests include molecular modeling, financial risk modeling, and open innovation.

Dr. Ben Thomas is a Senior Managing Scientist in Exponent's Health Sciences practice. He has over 30 years of wide-ranging experience in toxicology, pathology, risk assessment, risk management, regulatory negotiations, litigation support, strategic planning, program development, and program management. In addition to his consulting work, Dr. Thomas holds an academic appointment as Professor (adjunct) at the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston.

**Environmental: Recent Success Stories of the TCEQ Region 12 Air Section**

**Speaker: Joel Anderson of TCEQ**

**Abstract:** Mr. Anderson will provide a general overview of the TCEQ Region 12 Air Section and highlight recent success stories. He will also discuss Emission Event Regulations as well as those governing Start-up, Shutdown, and Maintenance. He will review reportable quantities versus emission limits, as well as reporting requirements (including the new stream lining process). He will attempt to answer the question, "Why is my environmental manager in such a hurry?" as well as explain how the affirmative defense is applied.

**Bio:** Joel Anderson is currently one of two Air Section Managers at the TCEQ Houston Region Office. His responsibilities include managing Environmental Investigators and Emissions Evaluators tasked with investigating Emission Events and Stack Testing activities in the Houston Region. Mr. Anderson has held his current position with the Agency since October of 2006. Prior to that, he was the Team Leader for Emission Evaluator (Stack Testing), LDAR, and Cooling Tower investigations team. Joel has a BS in Biochemistry from the University of Oklahoma and a Masters in Engineering from Texas Tech.

## New Young Professionals Chair—welcome!

The South Texas Section is glad to welcome a new Young Professionals Chair—Hui Zhao (KBR)! She introduces herself:

I am very excited to be the new STS AICHE Young Professional Chair. Our industry is hot right now. A lot of young engineers are joining the Houston Engineer Group. I am happy to see new faces in the STS AICHE monthly meetings and show interests in Young Professional groups. It is our goal to create networking and professional development opportunities for young engineers. This will be an exciting and prosperous year.

I would take this chance to thank everyone who volunteers for YP planning committee. Several activity ideas are being laid out. We welcome new volunteers. Please shoot me an email ([hui.zhao@kbr.com](mailto:hui.zhao@kbr.com)) if you want to join YP planning committee, or you have great ideas for YP board, or you are interested in any volunteer work in this YP.

## Meeting Registration Information

Pre-register for the monthly meeting at:

<http://sts-aiche.org/sts-aichereservation.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 this meeting, per person, is:

Regular/Retired	\$25 pre-registered	\$35 at the door
Student/Unemployed	\$15	\$25

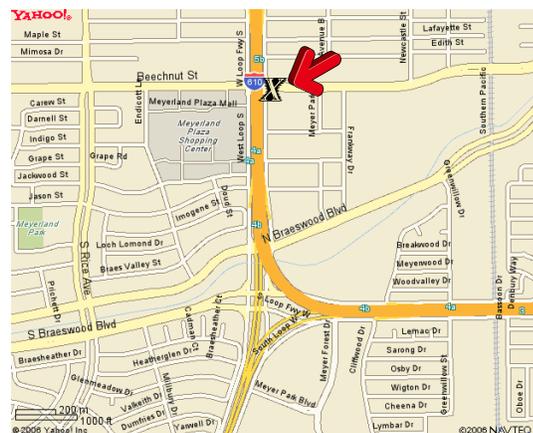
The workshops are free to attend.

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

## Meeting Location - Aramco Services Building

The May meeting will be held at Aramco Services Building. To use your own mapping program for directions, the address is 9009 West Loop South, Houston, 77096.

Click on the map to open the map site.



## Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to volunteer to help out with South Texas Section AIChE activities? Our Volunteer Coordinator is Matt Kolodney, and he knows about all the possible ways you could help out with your professional organization.

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

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## Annual Ship Channel Tour, June 9, 2007

2007 ANNUAL STS-AICHe HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL TRIP

6:00 PM, SATURDAY, JUNE 9

### SECURITY NOTICE

Because of the increased security requirements at the Port of Houston, the annual STS-AICHe Houston Ship Channel Trip is subject to cancellation at the last minute by the Port of Houston Authority. If this happens, we will notify all people with reservations and put a notice on our Web site:

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

Your understanding about this situation is appreciated.

Once again, the South Texas Section will journey down the Houston Ship Channel in the fully air-conditioned M/V Sam Houston on the evening of Saturday, June 9. The M/V Sam Houston will leave the dock at **6:00 PM sharp** and return to the dock at approximately 8:00 PM.

The Houston Ship Channel is the largest concentration of chemical industry in the United States with more than 50 chemical processing facilities located along either side providing their products to commerce around the world. The list of companies that are located along the Houston Ship Channel reads like a who's who of the chemical process and refining industries. The ship channel has more than 50% of the nation's basic petrochemical manufacturing capacity and nearly 50% of the capacity of first stage derivatives - almost three times larger than its closest competitor.

**Barbecue and free beverages** will be served on the trip which is intended to be enjoyed by one and all, so please bring your spouse or significant other. Lenox Barbecue will again be providing beef, chicken and rib barbecue dinners with all the fixings including beans, potato salad, cole slaw, pickles, and lots of jalapenos plus dessert for those who are still hungry.

Because the trip is intended for a technical organization, **no children under the age of 16 are allowed**. The cost of the trip, the barbecue, and the beverages (open bar) is only **\$15.00**. Because of the popularity of this annual trip, we regret that must impose a limit of only two (2) people per reservation. Also, people who fail to cancel their reservations by 12:00 noon on Friday, June 1, to allow others who are on the wait-list to go on the trip are subject to being billed for the \$15.00 per person cost.

Because of Port of Houston security requirements and the limited space available, reservations are required for the trip since the M/V Sam Houston can take **only 65 people**. Please make your reservation preferably by visiting the STS-AICHe Web site at <http://www.sts-aiche.org/> and following the links to the STS-AICHe Houston Ship Channel Trip. Reservations will be accepted starting on the night of the Thursday, May 3, STS-AICHe monthly dinner meeting until 2:00 PM, Thursday, June 7. Attendees of the May 3 STS-AICHe meeting will get to sign up during the meeting. When the reservations list is full, a wait-list will be started. Reservations can be canceled at any time up to 12:00 noon on Friday, June 8, online on the STS-AICHe Web site.

Reservations are limited to members of the STS-AICHe and one guest per member for a total of two people for each reservation. Please include the names and the telephone numbers or e-mail addresses for yourself and your AICHe membership number with your reservation so we can contact everybody to confirm all of the reservations and notify everybody in case the trip is cancelled (**see the security notice above**). Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis; however, we will maintain a wait list in case there are cancellations. Remember: reservations will be accepted beginning with the Thursday, May 3, STS-AICHe monthly dinner meeting.

**All people going on the Houston Ship Channel Trip must have a picture ID to show to the guard at Gate 8 and to the crew member before boarding the M/V Sam Houston. Names will be compared to the reservations list by the guard.**

We hope to see you on board the M/V Sam Houston when we weigh anchor.

### Directions

The parking lot access is through Gate 8 of the Port of Houston, 7300 Clinton Drive. Exit I-10 (Baytown East Freeway) at McCarty and proceed south on McCarty to Clinton Drive. Turn right on Clinton and proceed west to Gate 8, which has a signal light and is just before Wayside. Turn left and enter Gate 8, then proceed to the pavilion at the Turning Basin, staying to the right. Once there, park in the parking lot and join us on board the M/V Sam Houston.

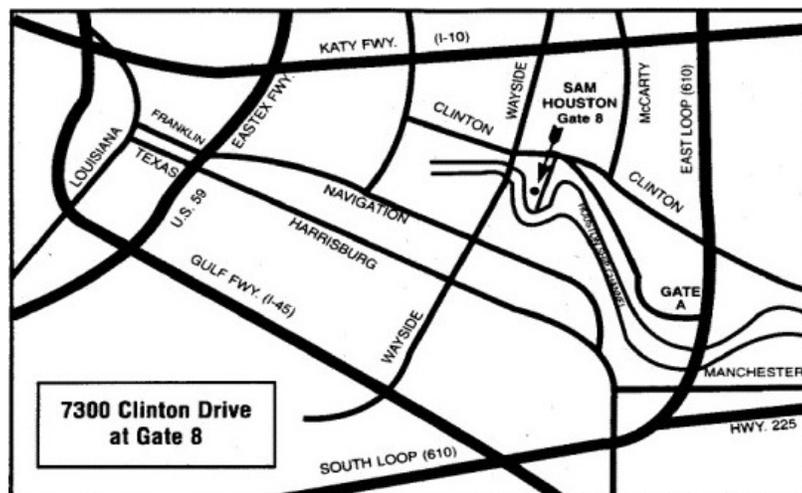
DO NOT EXIT AND GO DOWN WAYSIDE; THERE IS NO STREET CONNECTION FROM SOUTHBOUND WAYSIDE TO CLINTON.

For additional information, please e-mail Dennis Griffith at [dennisgriff@sbglobal.net](mailto:dennisgriff@sbglobal.net) or call him at 713-656-7794 (work) or 713-465-9347 (home).

**Remember, a picture ID is required for all attendees.**

Bon voyage!

Dennis Griffith



## Offshore Technology Conference - call for 2008 subcommittee participants

### Planning session scheduled Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Founded in 1969, the Offshore Technology Conference is the world's foremost event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection. OTC is held annually at Reliant Center in Houston.

OTC ranks among the largest 200 trade shows held annually in the United States and is among the 10 largest meetings in terms of attendance. Attendance consistently exceeds 50,000, and more than 2,000 companies participate in the exhibition. OTC includes attendees from around the globe, with more than 110 countries represented at recent conferences.

OTC is sponsored by 12 industry organizations and societies who work cooperatively to develop the technical program each year. OTC also has two endorsing organizations and six supporting organizations. OTC is governed by a Board of Directors made up of 13 representatives, 11 from OTC's sponsoring organizations and two from OTC's endorsing organizations.

AICHE's co-sponsorship of *this year's* Offshore Technology Conference, to be held from April 30 - May 3 right after the Spring National meeting, continues the Institute's tradition of reaching out to this vital sector of the energy industry.

Each year the Program Committee of the OTC organizes the technical sessions and topical luncheon speakers for the conference. The Program Committee is made up of subcommittees from each of the 11 sponsoring organizations.

AICHE's subcommittee has scheduled a planning session for the 2008 OTC. The meeting is scheduled to take place during the 2007 OTC, on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 5:00 to 6:00 pm, in Reliant Center, Room 503. All interested parties are invited, but please call and / or email George Montgomery (281-870-5413, email: [gjmontgomery@mcdermott.com](mailto:gjmontgomery@mcdermott.com)) to advise of your attendance plans or for more information on how to get involved with AICHE's subcommittee of the OTC Program Committee.

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- ▶ International LNG Regulations
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- ▶ Major LNG Incidents Summary
- ▶ Facility Siting and Layout
- ▶ Facility Hazards Assessment
- ▶ Risk Mitigation Measures

**Day 2:** LNG Properties & Potential Hazards — Designed to provide a technical review of test results and modeling techniques.

### Topics

- ▶ Flammability & Explosion Properties of LNG Components
- ▶ LNG Rollover
- ▶ Large Scale LNG Spill Tests
- ▶ LNG Release Rates
- ▶ The Spreading of LNG on Land & Water
- ▶ Rapid Phase Transition
- ▶ Flammable Vapor Cloud Dispersion
- ▶ Fires & Explosions
- ▶ Thermal Radiation from LNG Pool Fires



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## Call for Volunteers—2007 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) - 1 of 2

It is again time to think about volunteering for the 2007 Offshore Technology Conference which will be held at Reliant Center beginning on Monday, April 30 and ending on Thursday, May 3, 2007. While the South Texas Section of AIChE had no direct involvement in the OTC this year, I am still looking for OTC volunteers.

Gordon Sterling of the ASCE, this year's Arrangements Chair, has given us permission to recruit volunteers for 2007 Arrangements Conduct Committee. I realize that some of you prefer to volunteer for the Registration Committee and we will try to obtain the same permission to recruit volunteers for the 2007 OTC Registration Conduct Committee. Please indicate your preference on the information form on the following page.

As usual, volunteers will receive a complimentary OTC registration and parking pass, both of which are valid all four days of the OTC. In return, you will be asked to attend a short orientation meeting prior to the OTC. You will be given a badge and parking pass in return for working either a morning or afternoon Arrangements Committee assignment to a technical session or a Registration Committee shift during the OTC. For more information on the 2007 OTC, visit the site <http://www.otcnet.org/2007/>.

Details on the 2007 OTC Technical Program may be found at <http://www.otcnet.org/2007/technical/index.html>.

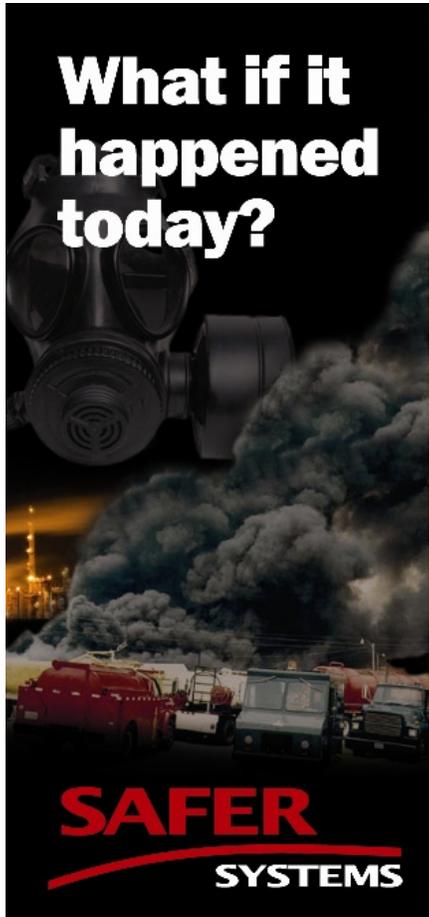
If you wish to participate as a volunteer for a 2007 OTC Conduct Committee, complete the form on the next page, and email to [thomasmenn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomasmenn@sbcglobal.net).

We also may need about 5 or 6 volunteers to help **staff the AIChE Booth** in the Lobby of Reliant Center. As in the past, AIChE will reimburse for parking for the day you staff the booth and provide one day free passes to cover the registration. Contact me at the email address below if you are available to staff the booth.

Again, thanks for volunteering for the OTC in the past.

Tom Menn, STS AIChE OTC Contact

[thomasmenn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomasmenn@sbcglobal.net)



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## Call for Volunteers—2007 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) - 2 of 2

Below is a form designed to provide enough information to allow an OTC Conduct Committee Chairman to complete and submit each OTC Conduct Committee Volunteer’s Registration Form. Technical Session or Shift assignments will be made at a later date when the technical program and the volunteer’s input have been received.

### 2007 Offshore Technology Conference Arrangements or \_\_\_\_\_ Conduct Committee Reliant Center -- Houston, Texas April 30 thru May 3, 2006

**Arrangements or \_\_\_\_\_ Committee Volunteer Information Form (Committee Use Only) *Please Print:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrant’s Last Name (Family Name)                      First Name (Forename)                      Middle Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Position                      Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company P.O. Box or Mailing Address or Personal Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State/Province                      Zip/Postal Code                      Country

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number (include area code and/or country and city code)                      Facsimile (include area code and/or country and city code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone or Pager Number                      **< Optional & for Committee Use Only!**

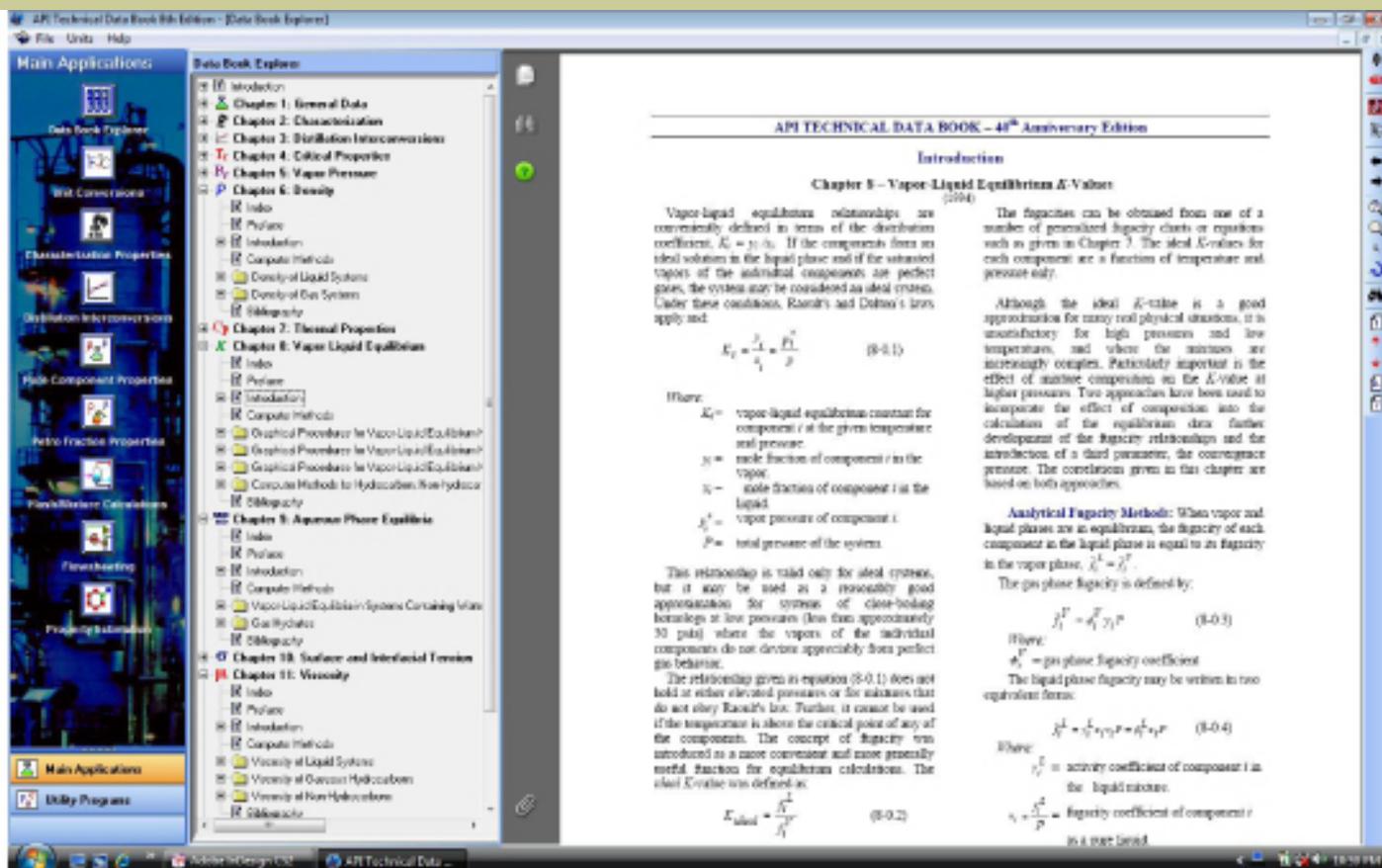
Day & Time that you wish to work: \_\_\_\_\_  
If Arrangements, indicate at least three session numbers

**Sponsoring Societies (Check all those that you are a member of):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ American Association of Petroleum Geologists
- \_\_\_\_\_ American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- \_\_\_\_\_ American Society of Civil Engineers
- \_\_\_\_\_ ASME International Petroleum Technology Institute
- \_\_\_\_\_ Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—Oceanic Engineering Society
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marine Technology Society
- \_\_\_\_\_ Society of Exploration Geophysicists
- \_\_\_\_\_ Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration Inc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Society of Petroleum Engineers
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society

This form is intended to provide enough information for the Arrangements Chairman to fill out an OTC Conduct Committee Registration Form for you. If you wish to purchase tickets to certain events or proceedings, please use another form.

Copy, Complete, and E-Mail this completed form to [thomasmenn@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:thomasmenn@SBCGlobal.net)



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Washington, DC 20005-4070  
USA  
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## Advantages to Joining a Professional Society

**Your Professional Home** – Once upon a time, when many engineers spent most of their time at one corporation, you could build up a network of friends and colleagues to meet your needs. Furthermore, the corporation tried to meet you half way. They looked for a job where you fit fairly well, and they cared about your long-term development. Can you say that today?

**Multi-Profession Careers** – Once upon a time, the majority of people who got a degree in chemical engineering stayed with the profession throughout their career. Some became managers, sales engineers, etc., but they stayed within the chemical processing industry. That has changed significantly, and will change further with time. Professional societies can help you reduce the number of forced career changes, help you decide where to go next, help you get there, and help you come up to speed in your new career area.

**Job Hunt Networking** – Engineering is a cyclic business. There will come times when you need jobs, and they're hard to find. At those times, the majority of jobs are found by networking. A professional society is a great place to network.

**Active membership** takes it a step further. Somebody you know casually in your professional society will be happy to tell you about opportunities and pass your resume along. Furthermore, if you have worked closely with somebody in your professional society and you have favorably impressed them, they can give you valuable advice and vouch for you with their employer.

**How to Job Hunt** – During hard times, job hunting skills are critical. They aren't taught at engineering school. The professional society and the people you meet there can provide critical information on how to job hunt in your field.

**Source of Mentors** – Once upon a time, every company had plenty of gray-haired engineers around to serve as mentors. That's no longer true. Furthermore, finding a good mentor is like finding a good friend – not everybody is right for everybody else. You can look over lots of potential mentors at your professional society.

**Technical Information** – Once upon a time, there were lots of gray-haired engineers where you worked, and when you had a technical question, they had an answer. That is no longer true. However, there are lots of experienced engineers in your professional society. If you help other people, they will help you.

**Networking for New Ideas** – More people work for smaller companies, where technical resources are slimmer. In addition, people change jobs more frequently, and have fewer old friends to help and advise them at their current job. Your professional society can help fill these gaps.

**Continuing Education** - Professional societies offer continuing education for professional development and licensing requirements. The cost is far lower than commercial and university-sponsored classes.

**Social** – Professional societies offer opportunities for social friendships. For young engineers, there are young professional groups in the societies. Some societies have formal professional development programs for young members. STS-AIChE offers some good opportunities, and the programs of other societies are available through ECH (Science, Engineering & Technology Council of Houston).

**Opportunity to Try New Job Functions** – Interested engineers get to try functions such as sales, marketing, technical writing, teaching, etc., on a low risk basis. You get to learn and test yourself before changing jobs. If a field isn't for you on a full-time basis, you haven't lost much. Or, it gives you a chance to broaden your skills without changing the main thrust of your career.

**Work on Professional Skills** – If you'd like a project to broaden your skills, the society will help you define a project where you can learn something of value to yourself, while you help your profession or society. This could help you explore or get into a new engineering specialty.

**Project Management Experience** – Perhaps you want to try managing a project or two on a low-risk basis, before you try it at work. Or, success at managing a project with your professional society could help convince a reluctant manager that you can handle it at work.

**Supervisory Experience** – Supervision of others is a skill that most engineers don't learn quickly on the job, but it can be learned. Professional societies have courses on it, and you can practice being a committee chair or chapter officer.

**Strategic Planning** – Again, this is something you don't automatically experience on the job, but can learn and practice in a professional society.

**Experience Running Trade Shows & Meetings** – Many businesses have events for advertising, demonstrating their skills, attracting new employees, etc. Again, participating in and running these events, is learned by experience, and professional societies are a great place to learn.

What if you have needs that the professional society doesn't seem to meet? Perhaps the programs that STS-AIChE advertises don't meet your particular needs. First, you can propose an idea that you feel would be mutual beneficial. As volunteer recruiter, you could come to me, and I'll work with you. Second, there are many other professional societies that might meet your needs better. Visit the ECH web site: [www.echhouston.org](http://www.echhouston.org).

B. Porter, Jr., of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.



## South Texas Section AIChE

South Texas Section  
P. O. Box 710773  
Houston, TX 77271-0773

2007 Officers and Contact Information

### Officers

**Chair** David Karesh, Jacobs Engineering  
chair@sts-aiche.org; 832-351-6944

**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  
treasurer@sts-aiche.org

### Executive Committee

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

**Position 2: Outreach**  
Ken Cox Rice University  
position2@sts-aiche.org

**Position 3: Communications**  
Sam Pathak  
position3@sts-aiche.org

**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/Welcome/Social

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