

**Meeting At-A-Glance**

- Location: HESS
- No workshops
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Dinner at 7 PM
- Comedian at 8 PM

**Monthly Meeting December 6, 2007****Location: HESS (Houston Engineering and Scientific Society Club)****Runaway Laughterification Reactions  
(A social event—bring a friend or loved one!)****Speaker: Sai Ranade, Comedian**

**Abstract:** Don't be a humor inhibitor. Be a part of the Runaway Laughterification Reaction initiated by Comedian Sai Ranade at the December STS-AIChE dinner meeting.

You may have heard Sai's comedy bits while listening to Sirius Satellite radio (Channel 150). He is the two-time finalist of Houston's funniest person competition and the winner of Ed McMahon's Next Big Star Comedy Competition. In this special presentation, heat exchanger-whisperer Sai Ranade, who was once attacked by a goose while riding his safety bike at a chemical plant, will dispel many societal misconceptions such as "Engineers are not romantic," "Engineers do not get politics," etc. For more information about Sai visit : [www.mirthmystic.com](http://www.mirthmystic.com).



**Bio:** Sai Ranade has over 15 years of chemical process consulting experience. He has held many positions including a Senior Process Engineer for an operating company and an EPC company, a technical support engineer for a software company, and most recently, the Director of Technical Services. Sai obtained his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston where he also taught undergraduate Thermodynamics. He has published over 20 papers and made over 150 technical presentations on topics ranging from Mathematical Modeling to Cost Estimation. Dr. Ranade's areas of expertise in the Chemical Process domain are varied and numerous.

Visit his website <http://mirthmystic.com> for Sai's many other talents and capabilities.

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There will be no workshops in December.

Join us for more workshops at our January 10, February 7, March 1, and May 1 meetings. We will host a second Energy Forum prior to the April dinner meeting.

## Meeting Registration Information

Pre-register for the monthly meeting at:

<http://sts-aiche.org/register.php>. *(Note: New web address!)*

Reservations are accepted until 4 pm the Tuesday of meeting week.

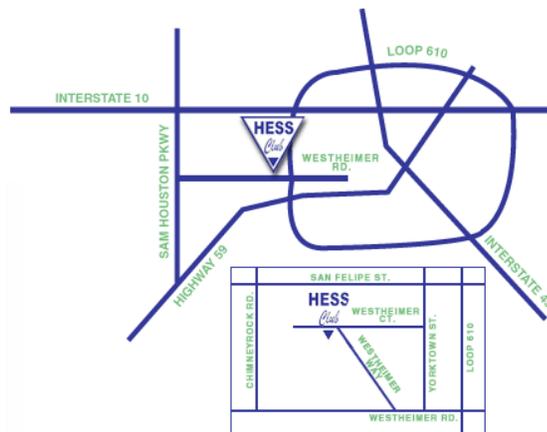
You may also **cancel a reservation** using this link. Please cancel your reservation if you have made one and find that you are unable to attend.

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

## Meeting Location - HESS

The December meeting will be held at the Houston Engineering and Scientific Society Club (HESS), 5430 Westheimer Road, Houston, 77056. Click on the map to the right to open the map site.



## Revised Pre-Registration Procedure

As of November 2007, the pre-registration procedure for our monthly meetings has changed. For the full policy, please see Page 3.

There is a new web address for meeting preregistration—[register.php](http://register.php). This will confirm that registration is still open, and direct you to the proper page. Preregistrations will not be accepted past 4 pm on the Tuesday of meeting week.

While preregistration is open, you can Preregister or Cancel a preregistration. When you preregister, you must prepay with a credit or debit card (V/MC/AmEx/Discover). You will be taken to our credit card acceptance policy, which you must accept to proceed. After selecting your registration type and details, you will be taken to our new Online Store to review your order before Checking Out. You will provide an email address that will ONLY be used to send you a receipt for your transaction. This will NOT sign you up for our newsletter email distribution.

## Calendar of Events

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

January 10 '08 (2nd Thurs.)  
February 7  
March 1  
April 3  
May 1

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## The South Texas Section's New Meeting Prepayment Policy (Reminder)

Beginning with the November 2007 meeting, all meeting pre-registrations will require payment with a credit or debit card. The meeting pre-payment policy is 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 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 provided.
- 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 email 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, and we must pay for all those guarantees.
- 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](mailto:chair@sts-aiche.org) or [chair-elect@sts-aiche.org](mailto:chair-elect@sts-aiche.org).
- A receipt of your transaction will be provided to the email address provided when you Check Out. 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.
- You may sign up more than one person per charge.

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.

For questions, comments, and problems, please contact [creditcards@sts-aiche.org](mailto:creditcards@sts-aiche.org).



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- 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

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## 2008 STS Officer Elections—Deadline is November 30!

Elections are currently being held for the South Texas Section 2008 officers.

A web page has been set up, <http://www.sts-aiCHE.org/elections07.htm>, where the candidates and their bios may be reviewed. The voting procedure is posted, and those eligible to vote have been notified by email. The deadline for voting will be November 30, 2007. You must be a paid-up member of National AIChE and the South Texas Section to vote. Ballots must be received in the designated email box or the STS P.O. Box by 5 PM on November 30 to qualify.

Candidates for 2008 officer positions are:

### Chair-Elect

Todd Willman, Epcon International  
Director of Development & Engineering

Jon Worstell, Shell Global Solutions (US)  
Chemical Engineer

### Secretary

Leonard Chinfong, Dow Chemical  
Process Engineer

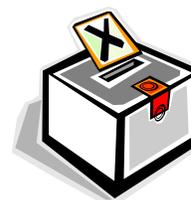
Jasmine Lee, Chemtech (Siemens)  
Process Engineer

### Position 2—Outreach

Michael Pishko, TAMU (Unopposed)

### Position 4—Human Resources

Pete Belmonte, ENSE | AECOM (Unopposed)  
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## Be a Mentor for National Engineers' Week!

The National Engineers Week Houston Area Future City competition is in need of [Engineer Mentors!](#)

The work for this year's Future City competition is just beginning and we want to ensure this team of students doesn't miss out on this great opportunity. Please consider volunteering a small amount of your time to share your engineering experiences with these children as a Future City Engineer Mentor. For a list of schools in need of mentors, open the document at:

[http://www.sts-aiiche.org/Schools\\_in\\_Need\\_of\\_an\\_Engineer\\_Mentor.pdf](http://www.sts-aiiche.org/Schools_in_Need_of_an_Engineer_Mentor.pdf).

The role of mentor may be served by one person or a group of individuals, all of whom must be Engineers. Many times the mentor position is shared by several people from the same company, each taking turns meeting with students. It would not be necessary for the mentor to attend every meeting time.

This is only a three month commitment beginning in November and ending January 19th. The majority of the work is done through student-teacher interaction, so the mentor(s) typically only meet with their team of students once or twice every two weeks for about one hour each meeting. This means a possible minimum time commitment of just 6 hours over 3 months.

The Future City competition is an excellent program and needs the engineering community's support! The list of schools in need of an Engineer Mentor is attached. If you are interested and would like to participate, please contact [andrew.hunt@mustangeng.com](mailto:andrew.hunt@mustangeng.com) or the Future City Regional Coordinator Dr. Zafar Taqvi at [z.taqvi@ieee.org](mailto:z.taqvi@ieee.org) or for additional information. If you are not able to help out this year, please pass this information to others that may be interested.

The mission of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition is to provide a fun and exciting educational engineering program for 7th and 8th grade students that combine a stimulating engineering challenge with a "hands-on" application to present their vision of a City of the Future.

This is accomplished by:

- Fostering engineering skills, such as teamwork, communication and problem solving skills;
- Providing interaction among students, teachers, and engineer mentors;
- Informing the community about the multi-disciplines within the engineering profession;
- Inspiring students to explore futuristic concepts and careers in engineering.

The National Engineers Week Future City Competition requires:

- Problem-solving
- Team work
- Research and presentation skills
- Practical math and science applications
- Computer skills

*The competition uses a team-based approach. All members of the team have an important role that is necessary for the completion of the project.*

At the local school level, a team of 3 students, a teacher, and an engineer mentor complete a SimCity 3000 computer model, create a to-scale display model, and participate in a local competition held January 19th. The winning regional team, with the teacher and students fully sponsored, is sent to Washington D.C. to compete nationally during National Engineers Week.

The Regional Competition on Saturday, January 19th will be held at San Jacinto Community College.

I can be reached at: [andrew.hunt@mustaneng.com](mailto:andrew.hunt@mustaneng.com)  
713-350-7643 – Office Direct  
979-324-0022 – Mobile Phone  
Thank you for your help!

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## Wind Technology Seminar—December 6

Engineers Without Borders is sponsoring a seminar on Wind Technology: Past, Present and Future on December 6, 2007 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Upper Kirby District Center located at 3015 Richmond. Jeff Bishop and Vanessa Kellogg from Horizon Wind Energy will be giving the presentations.

A certificate for **two professional development hours** will be provided to all attendees.

The attendance cost is \$35 for non-members, \$25 for members, with a **\$5 discount for anyone who RSVP's by December 3**. Contact Alex Cuclis at [acuclis@harc.edu](mailto:acuclis@harc.edu) if you plan to attend.

For more information on this seminar, open the PDF document [http://www.sts-aiche.org/EWB\\_Wind\\_Energy\\_Seminar\\_Dec\\_6\\_2007.pdf](http://www.sts-aiche.org/EWB_Wind_Energy_Seminar_Dec_6_2007.pdf).

*Editor's Note: This meeting is scheduled at the same time as our STS monthly meeting. If the comedian isn't your thing, please consider attending this worthwhile seminar. –SC*



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### Vital Links

- South Texas Section website: <http://sts-aiche.org>
- National AIChE website: <http://www.aiche.org/> (Needs Flash Plug-in)
- Earn CEP credits at AIChE functions: [http://www.sts-aiche.org/Texas\\_PE\\_CEP\\_Rule.html](http://www.sts-aiche.org/Texas_PE_CEP_Rule.html)
- Download the CEP log form: [http://www.sts-aiche.org/STS-AIChE\\_CEP\\_Log.xls](http://www.sts-aiche.org/STS-AIChE_CEP_Log.xls)
- Previous Newsletters (PDF format): <http://sts-aiche.org/newsletterArchives.htm>
- Link to THIS newsletter: <http://sts-aiche.org/newsletter/news2007/news1207.pdf>

## Volunteer to help science/math teachers in your school district!

The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) currently has an initiative for the Teacher In Service Program (TISP) and is holding 3 separate workshops on December 8, 2007, January 12, 2008 or February 2, 2008 on the campus of University of Houston, University Park. You may attend any one of these sessions. Each session should last about 6 hours, from around 8:30 am to around 3:30 pm, including lunch. IEEE will provide lunch and snacks at NO COST to attendees. There is no charge to attend the workshop.

They are interested in engineers/scientists to participate in these workshops. The idea is to expose/train volunteers so that as our program expands into the individual school districts, they will have a slate of volunteers to work with these school districts. Our goal currently is to have about 80% teachers/educators and 20% of engineers/scientists in the workshops.

For information about the lesson plans TISP has available for use by teachers throughout the world, visit the website <http://tryengineering.org/home.php>. These lesson plans can be adapted by not just science/math teachers but teachers K – 12, in particular in the elementary grades.

Please register online for the session you would prefer to attend. IEEE will contact those registered at a later date with the details for each session. As space is limited, please register at the website: <http://www.ieee-houston.org/Societies/EduCommittee.htm>

Also, please feel free to distribute this information to colleagues you know within and outside your school district. The Houston Section of IEEE serves an area from Freeport to College Station, with the exception of the Galveston Bay area.



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## South Texas Section AIChE

South Texas Section  
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Deer Park, TX 77536-1741

### 2007 Officers and Contact Information

#### Officers

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

**Past Chair** Lawrence Chriswell, Keelson Co.  
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**Secretary** Kevin Hagan, S&B E&C  
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#### Executive Committee

**Position 1: Education**  
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**Position 2: Outreach**  
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**Position 4: Human Resources**  
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#### 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

*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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#### — 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:

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 1-800-AIChemE (1-800-242-4363)  
 AIChExpress Service Center  
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New York, New York 10016-5991

## 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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