

The South Texan

2003 Marx Isaacs Award for Outstanding Large Section Newsletter



Meeting At-A-Glance

- Location: Aramco
- No Workshops in March
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Dinner at 7 PM
- Speaker at 8 PM

Inside this issue:

Meeting Signup Details	2
New PE/PO Workshop Chair	4
YP Technical Workshop	5
Seminars Offered	7
Volunteer—OTC	8
2008 Science Fair Judges Needed	8
Catlysis Course	10
Petticoats & Slide Rules	12
Contact Information	13
Subscribe/Unsubscribe	13

Monthly Meeting March 6, 2008 Location: Aramco Services Facility

Cogeneration in Texas: Past, Present, and Future Speaker: Tommy John, P. E.

Abstract: 30 years ago, cogenerators pioneered market deregulation and energy efficiency in Texas. Today Texas has 20% of the nation's cogeneration capacity, some 16,000 MW of electrical generating capacity, representing 16% of the total, most associated with the process industries. Yet there is potential for much more. It is the cheapest option for baseload generation, in addition to improving the reliability of energy supply, reducing load on the transmission and distribution system, reducing water consumption, improving air quality, and spurring economic development. The need for additional generating resources in Texas will be reviewed as well as integrating with the open power market and renewable resources.



The barriers to more widespread implementation of cogeneration will be reviewed. Important changes are underway in the regulatory and political climate that influence the implementation of cogeneration and has important implications for the optimization of energy use for the process industry.

Bio: Tommy John, P.E. is a Consulting Engineer to the process, power, and energy industries. His 40 year career includes project development, project management, process engineering and business development. He worked for Atlantic Richfield, Tenneco, Waste Management, and Texas Petrochemicals.

Mr. John's accomplishments include development, design and implementation of cogeneration, energy conservation, combustion including byproduct fuels and wood, heat recovery, process and reliability improvement, and water treatment projects. He developed the first landfill gas to electricity project in Texas and directed public relations program for landfill gas projects resulting in positive media coverage in three major markets as well as contacts with public officials, residents and environmental groups. He has extensive experience with environmental issues including projects to reduce water discharge, control noise, reduce flare emissions, measure and reduce NOx and CO emissions, and air permitting.

Mr. John holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Texas Tech and a Masters of Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston and is a Registered Professional Engineer. He is currently serving as Vice Chair of the Texas Combined Heat and Power Initiative and was a founder and past President of the Gulf Coast Cogeneration Association, past President of the Gulf Coast Energy Conservation Society, and served as **Chair of the South Texas Section in 2005**. He presented and published technical papers on the subjects of process technology, combustion, cogeneration, and energy conservation.

There will be **no workshops** in March.

Join us April 3 at Brady's Landing for our Energy Forum prior to the dinner meeting. Watch the website and the newsletter for full details.

Meeting Registration Information

Pre-register for the monthly meeting at:

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

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

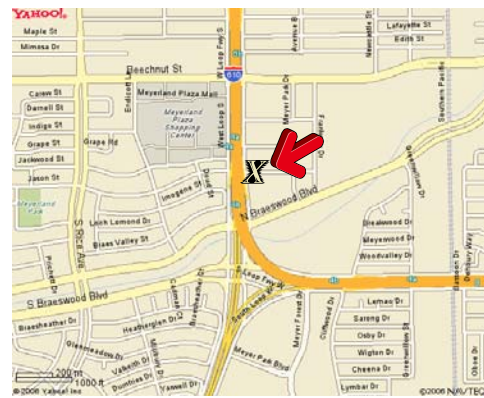
You may also **cancel a reservation** using this link. Please cancel your reservation if you have made one and find that you are unable to attend.

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 - Aramco Services

The March meeting will be held at the 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 the right to open the map site. The building is on the East side of the highway.



Pre-Registration Procedure

The web address for meeting preregistration is <http://www.sts-aiche.org/register.php>. This will confirm that registration is still open, and direct you to the proper page. Preregistrations will be accepted until 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 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.

Our new shopping cart requires the use of COOKIES. If you have cookies turned off, you may get a "session timed out" error. Please refer to the FAQ page in the shopping cart for details on how to turn cookies on.

Mark Your Calendars!

Important upcoming dates for the STS are:

- April 3—Monthly meeting at Brady's Landing, with Energy Forum!
- April 6-10—Spring National Meeting in New Orleans
- May 1—Monthly meeting
- May 5-8—OTC at Reliant Center
- May 31—Annual Ship Channel Cruise (watch for details to come!)

- September 4—Monthly meeting
- October 2—Monthly meeting
- November 6—Monthly meeting
- November 16-21—Annual Meeting in Philadelphia
- December 4—Monthly meeting

What is your simulation software vendor aiming for?



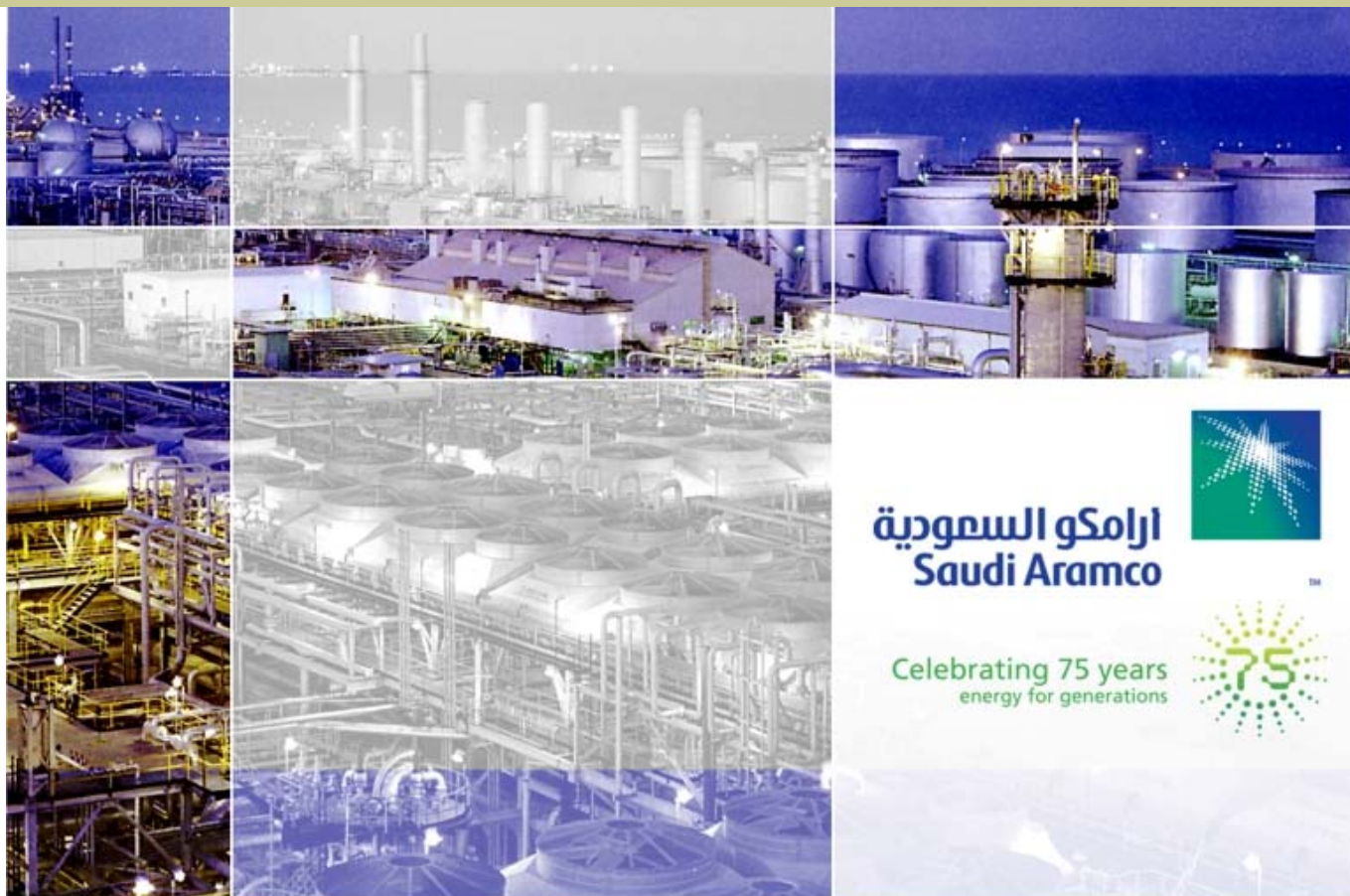
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New PE/PO Workshop Chair

The STS welcomes Gary Gildert as the new Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO) Workshop Chair. Gary takes over responsibility from Steve Haynie. You may remember Gary as our January dinner speaker and PE/PO Workshop presenter.

The STS extends a huge Thanks to Steve for his years of dedicated service.

Gary would like to ask all STS members to send any suggestions for topics or speakers for the PE/PO workshops to him, Chris Knudsen, or any member of the STS-AIChE Executive Committee. We will do our best to include them in the schedule as soon as possible. Gary's email address is grg@customcatalytic.com, and you may reach Chris at position1@sts-aiche.org.

Gary's Bio: Gary Gildert received his Bachelor of Applied Science (Ch.E.) from the University of Waterloo in 1981 and his MBA from Rice University in 2005. He is a registered professional engineer in Ontario, Canada (1986) and Alberta, Canada (1990) and a member of AIChE since 1997. He is an internationally recognized expert in hydro treating with 24 patents, over 40 publications, and numerous international presentations.



Mr. Gildert started his career with Petrosar (Polysar, Novacor Chemicals) in operations support and process design. He continued his work in distillation and hydrogenation technology at Chemical Research and Licensing (CDTECH) in Houston, TX as the process development manager for their emerging hydrogenation technology. After eight years of R&D, Mr. Gildert joined Süd-Chemie Inc. as Regional Sales Manager with sales in the US Gulf Coast and technical support globally for olefins purification catalysts. Shortly after earning his MBA from Rice, he co-founded Custom Catalytic Solutions, where he is responsible for marketing, sales, technical service, finance, etc.

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YP: Free Technical Workshop

When: **Thursday, February 28** at 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Where: Rice University (check <http://yp.sts-aiche.org/> for exact location)

Cost: FREE

Two presentations will be given at this technical workshop.

Presentation 1: "The Inside Scoop on Chemical Engineering: A Look Inside the Equipment in an Acrylonitrile Plant" by Scott Moffatt, PE

Have you ever wondered about what it is like to work at a chemical plant? How the process equipment (e.g. distillation column, reactors) look like on the inside? How these equipment really work? What to look for during equipment inspections? Then come to this presentation to get some answers for your questions.

Scott Moffatt graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1998 and a M.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1999 both from Texas A&M University. He has worked for Solutia, Inc. at their Chocolate Bayou Plant since 1999, primarily in the Acrylonitrile business. Scott has experience with fluidized bed reactors, distillation, heat transfer, and other unit operations. He is currently a Process Engineering Specialist working in the Acrylonitrile Process Technology group in the area of fluidized bed reactor design and operation. Scott is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas.

Presentation 2: "Cooling Tower Basics" by Chris Agostinelli, Nalco Company

Cooling towers are essential in most plant operations. This presentation will cover some of the basics that a chemical engineer should know about the cooling towers and their operations.

Chris Agostinelli is an Area Manager for Nalco Company and has been employed with Nalco for 8 years. His focus is primarily in the chemical processing industry both in the areas of water treatment and process additives. He spent the first part of his professional career in environmental consulting prior to joining Nalco. Chris received his bachelor of science degree in Chemical Engineering from Louisiana State University in 1997 where he was Magna Cum Laude and the recipient of the Edward McLaughlin award as the top graduate in the college of engineering. Chris is married and has one son.

YP Events are open to everyone, not just YP members. For more information about this workshop, please go to our young professionals website at <http://yp.sts-aiche.org/>.

It's Awards Time!

It is once again time to nominate an STS member for our annual awards:

- Outstanding Young Professional Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Best Fundamental Paper
- Best Applied Paper Award

For requirements of each award, visit the web page: http://www.sts-aiche.org/list_of_awards.htm. The page provides a summary of the awards, and contains links to more detailed descriptions of each award.

To nominate a member for an award, complete the online form at the web page http://www.sts-aiche.org/nominate_awards.htm.

If you do not have web access or prefer the printed form, request the form in an email to newsletter@sts-aiche.org.

Nominations must be received by **April 18, 2008** to be considered. Thank you!

Did you know.... More STS Awards

The STS has many other awards, also! There are 8 awards that may be presented at any time. We have an Academic Achievement Award, Chemical Engineering Practice Award, Leadership Award, and Friend of STS Award to name a few. Nominations may be accepted at any time for any of these awards. The Executive Committee votes on recipients, and they are presented at

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The Billion Dollar Dilemma: Under-reported Petrochemical Emissions– Alex Cuclis, HARC

Professional Licensing and Certification and Ethical Issues – Lisa Gossett, J.D., UHCL

Both Presentations Given on Two Different Days in February

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, **Tuesday, February 26, 2008**, at the Upper Kirby District Center, 3015 Richmond, Suite 100

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, **Wednesday, February 27, 2008**, at the HGAC Offices, 3555 Timmons, second floor, Room A

Fee: \$30 (\$20 for EWB Members)

RSVP Required

Alex Cuclis will discuss the aircraft flights and optical remote sensing data that indicate refineries and chemical plants emit 10 to 40 times the volatile organic compounds that are reported using standard, regulatory agency approved emissions estimating techniques. Alex will use delayed cokers as a case study to describe how this may ultimately cost industry (and consumers) billions of dollars and the impact on cap and trade programs for pollutant emissions, including greenhouse gases.

Lisa Gossett holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a law degree. She is an Associate Professor of Environmental Management at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and has included discussion of ethical issues in several courses. She is currently researching ethical issues relating to licensing of engineering and science professionals.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend in person **or participate by phone** by sending a reply to acuclis@harc.edu. Indicate in the email which session you plan to attend (Tuesday, Feb. 26 or Wednesday Feb. 27). A Certificate for 2 Professional Development Hours will be provided to all attendees. Electronic copies of the presentations will be provided prior to the meeting upon request. Pay at the door by check or cash. For those who wish to call in to the meeting in the afternoon on Feb. 27, you can send a check made out to Engineers Without Borders to Alex Cuclis, Houston Advanced Research Center, 4800 Research Forest, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

Future seminars currently scheduled include:

Residential Energy at 6:00 pm, **April 10** Presented by Phillip Hamilton and Sam Telleen from ProGen.

Shell Biofuels at 6:00 pm, **June 5** Presented by David Austgen of Shell

YP Event–Pi Day March 14

March, 14th is known as Pi Day (3/14). It is also Albert Einstein's birthday. For those of you who want to strut your Pi stuff or for those that just like pie, check out the YP website closer to the date for more information about this event. It is sure to be filled with lots of fun, facts, and pi(e)!

The YP website is <http://www.yp-sts-aiche.org>. Details of this event are not yet known at press time.



Online Free Webinar February 27, 12 noon CST

5 Keys to Supercharging Collaboration in Online Meetings

Get people to stop multitasking and start interacting in your online meetings. Learn five key strategies from virtual team guru, Dr. Jaclyn Kostner CEO of Bridge the Distance. Explore how leaders in global businesses effectively communicate, collaborate, and connect, even when they're NOT face-to-face. Join Dr. Kostner for a live interactive session as she explains:

- Why collaboration will supercharge the productivity of your entire team.
- How to identify a problem that is hurting your employees and your bottom line.
- How to implement the five action steps that will give your organization a competitive edge.

[Register now](#) and attend this webinar to learn critical strategies for improving productivity with employees located around the globe. The presenter is **Jaclyn Kostner**, Ph.D., best-selling author and virtual team guru, Bridge the Distance, Inc.

If the link above does not work, the registration site is:

http://www.webex.com/web-seminars/enroll_event/668976766?sid=WD0227B

Call for Volunteers—2008 OTC Registration Conduct Committee

The Offshore Technology Conference is coming to Houston, **May 5-8, 2008**. It will be held at Reliant Center adjacent to Reliant Stadium at Loop 610 between Fannin Street and Kirby Drive.

As the American Institute of Chemical Engineers is one of the sponsoring societies for the OTC, the AIChE South Texas Section has been selected to staff the 2008 OTC Registration Conduct Committee. For agreeing to serve as a member of the 2008 OTC Registration "Conduct" Committee for one-half (1/2) day, each volunteer will receive:

1. **One complimentary OTC Registration which is valid for the entire OTC**
2. **Complimentary Parking Pass for the OTC with In/Out Privileges (valid for the entire OTC)**

The Registration Committee has the following duties:

1. Attend a committee meeting **on Monday April 28** from 11:00 AM to 12:00 in Reliant Center (*room to be assigned later*) before the opening of the Conference to review responsibilities, and become familiar with the registration procedures as well as the convention center layout. The complimentary parking passes will also be given out at this meeting.
2. Instruct registrants to complete form and proceed to registration counters. If registered in advance, instruct registrants proceed to Badge-N-Go kiosks.
3. Provide assistance to OTC attendees such as directing those with complimentary Guest Cards to use the Guest Card kiosks and informing the registrants that a separate card for each day registering must be presented as well as directing exhibitors to Exhibitor Registration (Lobby D).
4. Be prepared to give directions and answer general questions.

For more information, please contact:

Tom Menn
281-485-3719
P. O. Box 458
Pearland, Texas
77588-0458
thomasmenn@SBCGlobal.net

To Volunteer, complete the form **on the following page** and submit as indicated on the form. When we have an online form ready, we will let you know.

2008 Science Fair Judges Needed

The 49th Annual Science and Engineering Fair will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center (Hall E) on **March 13, 14, and 15**. The STS provides special awards for displays that are chemical-engineering related. Judging will take place on **March 14** at about 6 PM. To assist in the STS judging, please contact Ernie Althaus ernie.althaus@prodigy.net or ernie.althaus@alumni.utexas.net. He may be reached via telephone at 713-839-7463 or (mobile) 713-410-7434 .

The science fair itself needs judges for the science fair's central awards. Interested parties can contact Matt Kolodney at mko-lodne@tceq.state.tx.us. For more information, visit the Science & Engineering Fair web site, <http://hunstem.uhd.edu/SEFH/>.

The Science and Engineering Fair is an annual event hosted by the Engineering, Science, and Technology Council of Houston, the UofH—Downtown, and the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences.

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2008 OTC Registration Conduct Committee Volunteer Registration Form

2008 Offshore Technology Conference
Registration Conduct Committee
Reliant Center -- Houston, Texas
May 5, 6, 7, & 8, 2008

Volunteer Registration Form (Registration Committee Use Only) – *Please Print:*

Registrant's Last Name (Family Name)

First Name (Forename)

Company

Title or Position

Email Address (a@b.com)

Company P.O. Box or 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)

Cellphone or Pager Number

< Optional & for Committee Use Only!

Preferred Day For Volunteering

(please indicate choices such as 1, 2, 3, ... with "1" being your first choice):

No Preferred Day or Time: _____

Any Day but Only In: _____

Only _____ AM or _____ PM

Monday, May 5th: _____ Either Am or PM

Only _____ AM or _____ PM

Tuesday, May 6th: _____ Either Am or PM

Only _____ AM or _____ PM

Wednesday, May 7th: _____ Either Am or PM

Only _____ AM or _____ PM

Thursday, May 8th: _____ AM

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 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

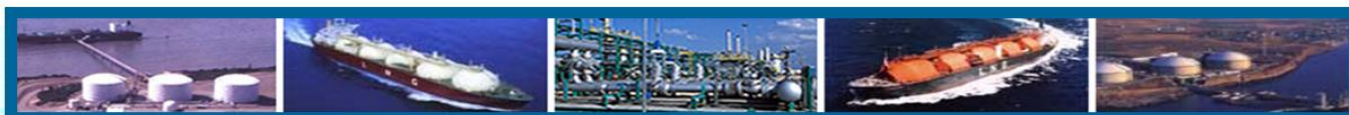
(Please note that this form is **not an official OTC registration form** and provides information useful to the Registration Committee. Your official OTC form will be completed and submitted by an OTC Registration Committee member using the information on this form.)

Applications of Heterogeneous Catalysis

A five-day short course "Applications of Heterogeneous Catalysis" will be given by the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Houston on **May 12-16, 2008** (<http://www.chee.uh.edu/course/catalysis/>).

The course is designed to match the needs of industrial chemists and chemical engineers engaged in the practice of heterogeneous catalysis, either as beginners or individuals who are experienced in certain areas but wish to acquire an overview of the field. Although research methodology is included, the emphasis is on applications. The course has been given fifty-nine times in Houston since 1971, fifteen times at various locations in Europe, and adapted many times for in-house courses at major companies, and many companies routinely use for training new personnel.

For more information and registration material, contact Professor James T. Richardson at jtr@uh.edu.



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Vital Links

South Texas Section website: <http://sts-aiiche.org>

South Texas Section Young Professionals Group: <http://yp.sts-aiiche.org>

National AIChE website: <http://www.aiiche.org/> (Needs Flash Plug-in)

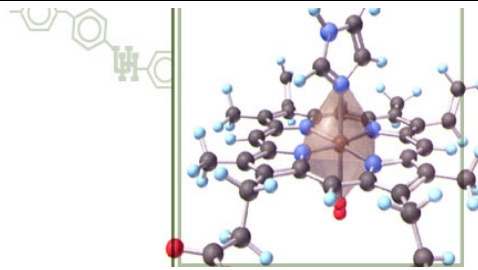
Earn CEP credits at AIChE functions: http://www.sts-aiiche.org/Texas_PE_CEP_Rule.html

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/news2008/news0308.pdf>

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON *Chemical* *and Biomolecular Engineering*



The University of Houston offers several Master's level programs in the chemical engineering discipline tailored for the working professional. Your interest may be to gain advanced training in process engineering, or to carry out research in advanced materials, bioengineering or, catalysis, or to take a smaller group of specialized courses to give you a competitive edge. Whatever your interest, the University of Houston's Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering has it for you. Many of the courses are taught in the later afternoon or evening and research projects can be conducted in the evening and weekends.

MASTER OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

A Master of Chemical Engineering (MChE) degree is offered as a non-thesis program for the working professional. Thirty credit hours (10 courses) of required and elective course are needed to complete the program which is geared for persons who plan careers in plant operations, design and management in the chemical process industry.

THESIS-BASED MASTER OF SCIENCE

The major focus of this program is advanced engineering fundamentals and research. Eighteen semester credit hours of coursework are needed to complete the M.S. degree, 12 are for four required courses and six for electives. In addition, a Master's thesis must be completed, providing an additional 12 credit hours. A variety of thesis topics can be selected by the students.

COURSE-BASED MASTER OF SCIENCE

This is a part-time, research based program, intended for students with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering (or equivalent) who are working in the industry. Thirty semester hours of coursework are required, including four required courses plus six elective courses.



For more information contact:

University of Houston

**Chemical & Biomolecular
Engineering**

Graduate Program Director

S222 Engineering Bldg. 1

Houston TX 77204-4004

Phone: 713.743.4300

Fax: 713.743.4323

Website: www.chee.uh.edu

UH is an EEO/AA institute.

Petticoats and Slide Rule Exhibit, sponsored by SWE

The Society of Women Engineers – Houston Area is proud to host the special historical exhibit “Petticoats and Slide Rules: SWE, A History of Women Engineers” during the first five months of 2008.

The exhibit pays tribute to trailblazers and pioneers, from before the “blue jeans” era to the present. The exhibit is an “interactive” history featuring materials from the SWE historical collection at the Reuther Library located at Wayne State University. Photos, videos, interviews and artifacts highlight over five decades of promoting equal opportunity for women in engineering, as well as inspirational stories of women who “paved the way” for future generations.

While the Petticoats and Slide Rules Exhibit is in Houston, a display which includes pictures and stories of local engineers will be included to highlight the reality and impact anyone and everyone can make.

When and Where

The exhibit will be in the Houston area and shared with the community from late January to mid May. Since the final locations and details are still being coordinated, the tentative schedule is as follows.

February 2008 – University of Houston

March 2008 – Space Center

April 2008 – Rice University

May 2008 – Various Exhibit Sponsors

Why

The Petticoats and Slide Rules exhibit is meant to inspire and educate future generations about the changing roles of women in the engineering profession. From Emily Roebling’s work on the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge in the 1880s, to former U.S. astronaut Dr. Sally K. Ride’s pioneering 1983 flight into space, women have participated in American science, technology and industry for over one hundred years. Yet, historically, the number of women in the engineering profession has been significantly low. Since its founding in 1950, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has grown in size and stature, challenged stereotypes, and contributed to the engineering profession in many ways. The intent of this exhibit can be summarized as follows.

To encourage young women to consider pursuing careers in engineering

To provide community outreach

To celebrate previous accomplishments

Many of today’s common technologies were engineering marvels just a few years ago and both men and women have accomplished amazing feats in engineering. The purpose of this exhibit is not only to celebrate the accomplishments of women in engineering but also to highlight the progression of engineering and the contributions to modern society that have been made by engineers.

In today’s society the need for engineers is great, however many children and adults in our society are not aware of what engineers do or their past contributions to society. Since many first generation college students have never been exposed to engineering, the intent of this exhibit is to expose students of all ages to the field of engineering and highlight previous accomplishments. The exhibit also reminds viewers of the progression of technology and the involvement of engineers.

For over 50 years, SWE has stood behind a diverse engineering workforce and the idea that women CAN be engineers. That mission continues today with a membership of more than 15,000 individual professionals and students from 22 countries. SWE has more than 300 student sections and nearly 100 professional sections organized into 10 geographic regions.



For more information, visit the SWE-Houston website <http://www.swehouston.org/Petticoats.html>



South Texas Section AIChE

South Texas Section
P. O. Box 1741
Deer Park, TX 77536-1741

2008 Officers and Contact Information

Officers

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

Secretary Jasmine Lee, Siemens
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Treasurer Shane Tierling, KBR

Executive Committee

Position 1: Education
Chris Knudsen
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Position 2: Outreach
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Position 3: Communications
Yoojung Kim
position3@sts-aiche.org

Position 4: Human Resources
Pete Belmonte, ENSR | AECOM
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.

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Unsubscribe: Click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#). Your email address will be removed from the subscriber list.

—— 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/>

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

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The South Texan Newsletter Crew

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