

# The South Texan

2003 Marx Isaacs Award for Outstanding Large Section Newsletter



## Meeting At-A-Glance

- Location: Brady's Land-  
ing Restaurant
- 4 Workshops, 5:30 PM
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Dinner at 7 PM
- Speakers at 8 PM

**The February meeting is graciously sponsored by Lyondell-Basell. See page 3 for reduced pricing info!**



**Monthly Meeting February 5, 2009**

**Location: Brady's Landing Restaurant**

## On Line Energy Management Tools - A Users Perspective

**Speakers: Brian Finnegan, Project Manager-Energy Management and Dave Chenevert, Channelview Site Energy Champion**

**Abstract:** Many chemical companies with energy intensive processes have already upgraded their process control systems with advanced process controls (APC) and real-time optimizers (RTO) to optimize the processes that are appropriate for full automation. For processes that can not be easily automated there are additional tools that can be used. These tools typically give advice to the board operators on how best to configure processes like complex utility systems (steam, gas, electricity, etc.) that are difficult to automate. The effectiveness of this type of technology in reducing the total energy demanded by the process increases as the complexity of these utility systems increases. This presentation is about implementing on-line open-loop utility optimization and real-time energy key performance indicator for energy-intensive unit operations.

**Bio: Brian Finnegan** is Project Manager for LyondellBasell's Corporate Energy Management team. This six-person global team promotes energy excellence and energy best practices at their manufacturing sites. The Energy Management team facilitates site identification, execution and tracking programs and projects required to meet the corporate goal of improving energy and energy intensity by at least 2% per year.



Mr. Finnegan has worked 30 years experience in the chemical industry and has a broad background including process engineering, operations, commercial business, and information technologies sales and marketing support.

He began his technical career at Olin and served on the American Chemistry Counsel Phosgene Panel and the III phosgene board. He also helped establish the SAP CRM users group as a Special Interest Group under ASUG. Mr. Finnegan holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Arizona State University, and an M.B.A. from Louisiana State University.

**Dave Chenevert** is the Energy Champion (Superintendent) at LyondellBasell's most energy-intensive site in Channelview, Texas. He leads the development and implementation of plans to drive energy reduction across the site.

Mr. Chenevert brings years of technical expertise to the role and has been with LyondellBasell and predecessor companies for 30 years. Most recently he held the position of Olefins Technical Superintendent at multiple olefin sites.



Mr. Chenevert holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University.

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## Workshops begin at 5:30 PM

### Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): Modern Techniques to Prevent Process Upsets

**Speaker:** Steven T. Obermann, ExperTune Inc.

**Abstract:** In this month's workshop, you will learn how to eliminate process upsets using powerful modern techniques. Today's process plants are complex, and full of interactions. Materials and energy are recycled and re-used to extract every bit of value. Upsets pass from utilities into the process, and back again. In fact, it can be difficult to tell where an upset started. It can be difficult to determine cause and effect. Fortunately, the data from your modern control system can be used to solve these problems. This presentation shows modern, easy-to-use techniques to:

1. Identify the largest and most economically significant process upsets.
2. Visualize interactions between parts of the plant.
3. Determine the root cause of interactions.

By eliminating the upset at its root cause, you can stabilize the entire plant with a few well-placed corrections. Case study examples will be presented to illustrate the use of these techniques to solve real-world problems.

**Bio:** Since graduation from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania with a degree in chemical engineering, Steve has worked in the process automation field for more than 25 years. He has extensive experience in the refining and petrochemicals sector; having been employed by Texaco, WR Grace, UOP, Honeywell, and Texas Petrochemicals. His expertise includes process modeling, advance control, optimization, software development, process and control system performance evaluation/benchmarking, project financial analysis and management. He is currently employed as an applications specialist with ExperTune Inc.

### Process Safety Management (PSM): The OSHA View vs. the Industry View

**Speaker:** Russ Elveston, P.E., PSM Consultant (formerly OSHA Assistant Area Director)

**Abstract:** A wide-ranging presentation and discussion based on 30 years of enforcing OSHA regulations and two years as a safety consultant. Topics will include updates on the OSHA Refinery and Chemical NEP investigations, potential effects of the incoming administration on enforcement programs, insight on the "OSHA view" versus the "Industry view", as well as any topics selected by the audience.

**Bio:** Russ Elveston is a consultant in Process Safety and in that capacity has conducted PSM audits for major facilities and litigation support for law firms representing both plaintiffs and defendants. Russ worked for OSHA for 30 years as a Compliance Officer, as a team member in OSHA's CHEMSEP (Chemical Special Emphasis Program) that gathered the data used to develop the PSM Standard (29CFR1910.119), as the supervisor of OSHA's Process Safety Management since the promulgation of the Standard (1992), and as investigator or lead investigator in major events (the ARCO Channelview 1990 Explosion, the 1997 Shell' Deer Park Explosion/Fire, the 1989, 1999 and 2000 Phillips Explosions in Pasadena, and the Texas City BP Explosion among others). Russ has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, a B.A. in Psychology and a Masters in Industrial Engineering from Lamar University.

### CAST: How to Pass the PE and FE Exams

**Speakers:** Elbert W. Link, P.E., F.NSPE

**Abstract:** Learn what it takes to pass the comprehensive FE and PE exams required to become a professional engineer in Texas and also understand the benefits to your own career. A review of the Texas requirements for both these exams and the experience requirements that you will need to accomplish and document will also be discussed. Upcoming review course and other available resources for preparing for both the FE and PE exams will also be recommended.

**Bio:** Elbert W. Link, P. E. F.NSPE, joined The Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) in 1976 when he returned from overseas, and has been active ever since. He has held every office at the chapter and state level, and was a National Director for three years. He was installed as State President in June 1999. Link was selected as the Engineer of the Year for the Greater Houston Chapter and State of Texas in 2001. He is currently the Chair of the Ethical Practices Committee of TSPE and holds the membership grade of Fellow, NSPE.

### Environmental: Bringing Solar Energy Mainstream

**Speakers:** Chris Boyer, Standard Renewable Energy

**Abstract:** The presentation describes a point-of-use photovoltaic system, where to put it, what to expect from it, and how much it cost.

**Bio:** Chris Boyer is the Chief Technology Officer at Standard Renewable Energy (SRE) and has experience in project management, research and development, system design and new product implementation of alternative energy technologies including: solar, biofuels, clean fuels and fuel cells. Prior to SRE, Dr. Boyer was a process development leader at Chemical Research & Licensing (CR&L), a division of Shell Global Solutions. And before that Dr. Boyer started his career leading SBIR research projects at Lynntech, Inc.

Dr. Boyer received a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University and is a licensed Professional Engineer. In addition, he is a NABCEP certified solar PV installer, and Vice-President of the Houston section of the American Solar Energy Society.

## Meeting Registration Information

Pre-register for the monthly meeting at: <http://www.sts-aiche.org/register.php>.

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

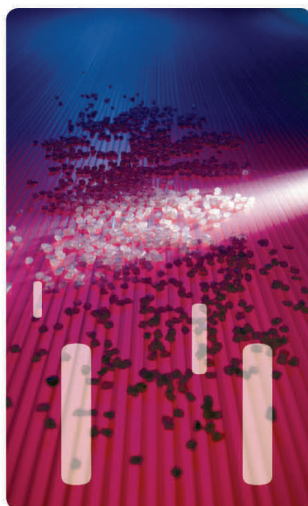
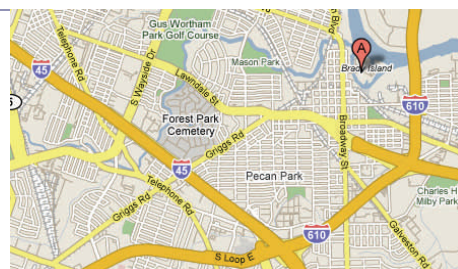
You may also **cancel a reservation** using this link. Please cancel your reservation if you have made one and find that you are unable to attend.

	<u>Pre-registered</u>	<u>At the door</u>
Regular/Retired	\$15	\$25
Student/Unemployed	\$10	\$20

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

## Meeting Location - Brady's Landing Restaurant

This month's meeting will be held at Brady's Landing Restaurant, on the east side of town. To use your own mapping program for directions, the address is 8505 Cypress Street, Houston, 77012. Click on the map to the right to open the map site.



LyondellBasell salutes the AIChE as the world's leading organization for chemical engineering professionals for more than 100 years!

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## Calendar of Events—Upcoming Meetings

Meeting Date	Sponsor	Location	Dinner Speaker Topic	Workshops
March 5, 2009	TBD	TBD	(Regional AIChE Trade show)	4
April 2, 2009	Epcon, Int'l	Brady's Landing	(Energy Forum)	Energy Forum
May 7, 2009	TBD	TBD	(STS Awards Night)	4



## Meeting Sponsors—We thank you!

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## STS-YP Dim Sum Lunch

Dim Sum is a Chinese brunch that includes various dumplings, pastries, and many other delicious dishes. Come join us for some Dim Sum!

When: 1/31/09 @11am

Where: Ocean Palace (11215 Bellaire Blvd Houston, TX 77072)

Who: Everyone

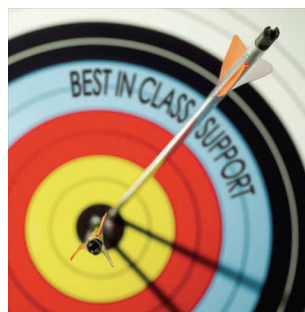
Cost: \$10/person (member), \$12/person (non-members). Payment can be paid in cash or check at the door at the event.

Sincerely,

Carol Schmidt

2009 AIChE STS-YP Chair

[yp@sts-aiiche.org](mailto:yp@sts-aiiche.org)



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## 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-aiiche.org/list\\_of\\_awards.htm](http://www.sts-aiiche.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-aiiche.org/nominate\\_awards.htm](http://www.sts-aiiche.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-aiiche.org](mailto:newsletter@sts-aiiche.org).

Nominations must be received by **April 18, 2009** 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 the following dinner meeting.

Check them out at [http://www.sts-aiiche.org/list\\_of\\_awards.htm](http://www.sts-aiiche.org/list_of_awards.htm) !

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**Contact us for more information:**

**ioMosaic Corporation**

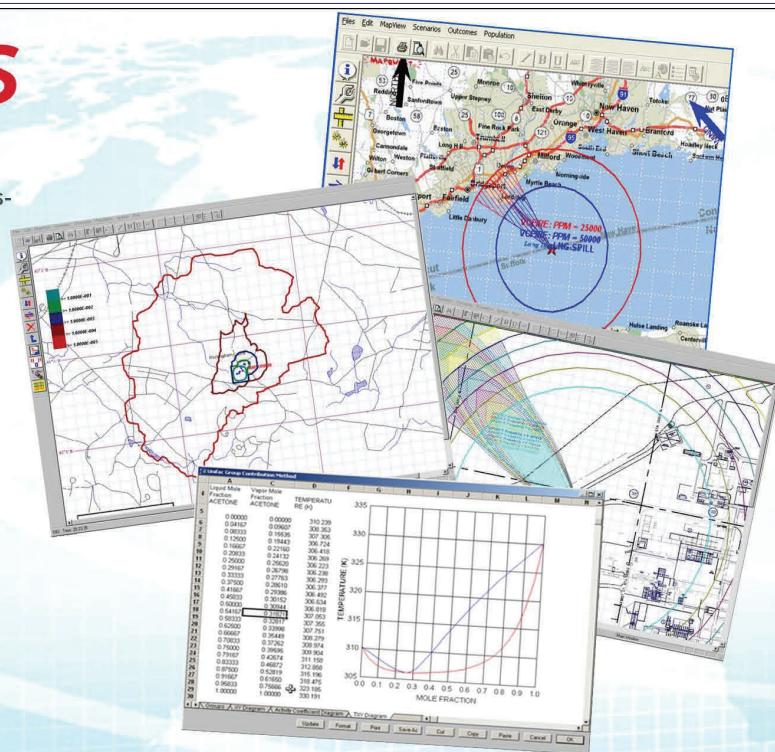
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Heat Transfer Research, Inc. (HTRI) has immediate openings in College Station, Texas, for the following:

## Engineer, Visualization and Laser Anemometry

### Principal Responsibilities

Individual will conduct qualitative and quantitative flow visualization studies using high speed digital cameras and optical anemometry systems (PIV, PTV, PLIF, LDV, etc.) to measure velocity and other scalar fields (size, temperature, concentration) in various types of heat exchangers, piping, mixers, and ancillary equipment.

- Set up, maintain, configure, and calibrate software and hardware for required measurements
- Interpret and analyze acquired data to improve predictive methods for heat transfer and pressure drop
- Recommend design features in test components and equipment to facilitate optical access
- Prepare technical reports and present presentations on findings
- Propose new applications

### Qualifications

- M.S. or Ph.D. in engineering or physics
- Advanced knowledge of principles and practices of two-phase flow fluid mechanics
- Two years' hands-on laboratory experience using optical systems for visualizing and measuring flow velocities in two-phase gas-liquid flows using PIV, PTV, PLIF, or LDV
- Excellent communication and presentation skills (oral and written)

## Senior Project Engineer, Software Development

### Principal Responsibilities

- Manage and execute software development projects to enhance and maintain heat transfer equipment modeling software
  - Initial assignments will focus on shell-and-tube exchangers and tube vibration models
- Identify potential software development projects for inclusion in the technical operating plan
- Implement new and improved methods into HTRI software for the simulation, design, and rating of industrial heat transfer equipment
- Prepare technical documentation and reports; present presentations to HTRI membership

### Qualifications

Work requires knowledge of principles and practices of fluid mechanics and heat transfer. Prefer candidates familiar with heat transfer equipment.

In addition, individual must have

- B.S. in Chemical or Mechanical Engineering (M.S. or Ph.D. preferred)
- Ten years' advanced engineering experience
- Five years' experience in developing Microsoft® Windows-based engineering applications
- Working knowledge of C++ and/or FORTRAN programming
- Excellent communication and presentation skills (oral and written)

*Applicants must have authorization to work in the United States.*

Send a résumé and letter of application detailing relevancy of work experience to:

**HTRI**®

### Ms. S. Breaux Daniel

Vice President, Human Resources & Corporate Services  
Heat Transfer Research, Inc.  
150 Venture Drive  
College Station, TX 77845  
USA  
sbd@HTRI.net

EOE/m/f/h/v

## Volunteers Needed—'09 OTC

The 2009 Offshore Technology Conference will be held **4-7 May** at Reliant Park. As the STS will have no role as an OTC Conduct Committee Sponsor, an attempt will be made to provide volunteers for either the Arrangements or Registration Conduct Committees. For information contact: Thomas E. Menn, P. O. Box 458 Pearland, Texas 77588-0458. Tom's phone number is 281-485-3719 and his e-mail address is [thomasmenn@SBCglobal.net](mailto:thomasmenn@SBCglobal.net).

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## STS-AIChE Volunteer Opportunities

Join the team and help STS grow by volunteering. The following volunteer positions are open:

### Membership Secretary

Duties include recording details of STS member sign ups, forward payments to Treasurer, and issue annual renewal notices. No prior experience is required.

### Assistant Advertising Manager

Duties include

- Issue renewal notices for existing newsletter advertisers
- Solicit new advertisers for the newsletter
- Solicit exhibitors and sponsors for energy forums and other events
- Maintain records of advertisers, exhibitors and sponsors
- Issue invoices
- Forward payments to Treasurer.

No prior experience is required.

**Associate Treasurer** – works with the Treasurer and learns the ropes. Develops basic accounting skills, which will be useful if you want to go into management. Informal grooming for STS Treasurer position. If you decide to become Treasurer, you'll hit the ground running, with minimum stress.

**ECH Councilor** – Contact with other technical societies in Houston. Learn from their similarities and differences. Opens additional professional development opportunities for you. You can learn elsewhere and bring the knowledge back to STS.

**Engineers Week Committee Delegate** – Learn about E-Week. Encourage STS participation. Network with members of other organizations, particularly YPs. The duties do not need to be heavy.

**Webmaster** – Learn about organizational web sites. STS will implement the new AIChE Content Management System. We may have all-volunteer implementation, or may use a part time contract webmaster. AIChE National will have web training events for local section webmasters.

**Associate Webmaster** – Learn skills noted above. If we go all-volunteer, there will be opportunity for an associate webmaster to contribute.

**Membership Chair** – encourage chemical engineers to join STS. Ensure that membership applications and dues get forwarded. Design a membership poster & brochure. Keep the membership list updated. Opportunity for membership program.

**Liaison Committee Chair** – keep in touch with contacts at employers of multiple chemical engineers. Remind them to post meeting announcements and remind individuals of meetings.

**Arrangements Committee Chair** – identify good locations for monthly meetings. Keep the caterer manager abreast of anticipated meeting attendance. Arrange for meeting rooms and audio-visual equipment. Check the head count (or mouth-count) just before the meal. You'll be cooperating with the Treasurer, workshop coordinators, and webmaster, so you won't be doing all the work yourself.

**K-12 Outreach Committee Members** – work with HUNSTEM to identify schools interested in contacts with STS and the topics we could productively present. Arrange to borrow demonstration gear and lesson plans. Keep a list of interested presenters and opportunities to present.

Interested? Please contact Alan Rossiter ([alan@rossiters.org](mailto:alan@rossiters.org), or phone 713-660-9503), or Matt Kolodney ([mkolodne@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:mkolodne@tceq.state.tx.us), or phone 713-767-3752).

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## STS Award of Appreciation

### Mickey Reeves of Jacobs receives Award of Appreciation

Mickey Reeves of Jacobs Engineering received an Award of Appreciation for the February 2009 monthly meeting sponsorship. Todd Wilman, 2009 STS Chair, provided the award to Mickey at the February dinner meeting.

The STS greatly appreciates our sponsors!

If you are interested in providing sponsorship for an STS meeting, please contact Todd Wilman at [chair@sts-aiche.org](mailto:chair@sts-aiche.org) or the Chair-Elect Alan Ros-siter at [chair-elect@sts-aiche.org](mailto:chair-elect@sts-aiche.org).

Thank you!

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## Design Squad WonderWeekend Volunteers Needed

The **Children's Museum of Houston** is in need of volunteers for their Design Squad WonderWeekend event that will be held **February 21 and 22, 2009**. The programming that weekend will focus on all things engineering including kinetic sculptures, rubber band cars and a giant dome challenge.

The CMH is in need of volunteers to assist with activities for this fun-filled weekend. Groups can work for a four hour shift Saturday morning or afternoon (six hours on Sunday, as the Museum is open from Noon-6 pm) or can sign up for a particular activity for the day.

Below is a schedule for programming especially in need of engineering volunteers.

### Design Squad WonderWeekend At the Children's Museum of Houston February 21-22, 2009

#### Design Squad Kinetic Sculpture Workshop

Make a sculpture that is at least 6 inches tall and has at least 2 parts that move in the wind. Located in Inventor's Workshop

Volunteers needed: 4 Engineers

Times: Saturday 10 am-1 pm; Sunday Noon-2:30 pm

#### Design Squad Rubberband Car Workshop

Build a fast car with a rubberband and two wheels! Located in Inventor's Workshop

Volunteers needed: 4 Engineers

Times: Saturday 2-6 pm; Sunday 3:30-6 pm

#### Giant Dome Challenge

Build a giant dome out of newspaper!

Volunteers needed: 5-6 Engineers

Times: Saturday 10 am-noon & 4-6 pm; Sunday noon-2 pm & 3-5 pm

#### Science Station Activities

Make a coffee table out of newspaper, design a penny-hauling boat, make a paddle boat and zip a ping pong ball down a line!

Volunteers needed: 2-3 Engineers

Times: Saturday 10 am-6 pm; Sunday Noon-6 pm

Please contact Matt Kolodney if you are interested in volunteering for this fun and worthwhile event. You may reach him at [mkolodny@hal-pc.org](mailto:mkolodny@hal-pc.org).



#### Vital Links

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

South Texas Section Young Professionals Group: <http://yp.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/news2008/news0209pdf>



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## South Texas Section AIChE

South Texas Section  
P. O. Box 73174  
Houston, TX 77273

### *2009 Officers and Contact Information*

#### Officers

**Chair** Todd Willman, Epcon International  
chair@sts-aiche.org

**Chair Elect** Alan Rossiter, Rossiter & Assoc.  
Chair-elect@sts-aiche.org

**Past Chair** David Silarski  
Past-chair@sts-aiche.org

**Secretary** Jasmine Lee, Siemens  
secretary@sts-aiche.org

**Treasurer** Hiren Patani, Mustang Eng.  
treasurer@sts-aiche.org

#### Executive Committee

**Position 1: Education**  
Lou Diamond  
position1@sts-aiche.org

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

**Position 3: Communications**  
Daniel Shiosaki  
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** Carol Schmidt

**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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Our newsletter subscription list is by invitation only.

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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/>

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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@sts-aiche.org) with comments, questions, suggestions, and ideas for next month.

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Submit an article! Contact:

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