



Monthly Meeting September 13th, 2012

Central Location: Pelazzio Banquet Hall, Houston (Social Hour at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM)

Satellite Location: Rico's Mexican Grill, (Sawdust Rd location in The Woodlands) Social Hour at 6 PM; Dinner at 7 PM, Technical program at 7:45 PM

Inside this issue:

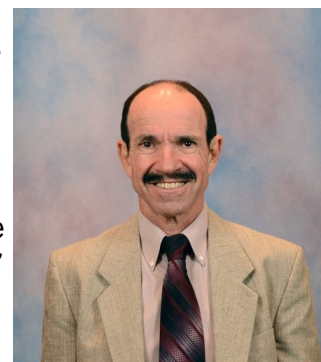
Meeting Details	2
Workshop Details	3
AIChE Regional Process Technology Conference	4
Letter from the Chair	5
Featured YP of the Month	6
STS YP Volunteers Help Out at 2012 OTC	6
STS Volunteers Help Out at 2012 OTC	7
50 Year AIChE Membership Certificate Recipients	8-9
K12 Volunteer Opportunities	10
Call for Volunteers	11
Contact Information	12
Subscribe/Unsubscribe	12

The meeting is sponsored by Tracerco

MULTICHORDAL GAMMA SCANS WITH QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS: KEY TO DIAGNOSING TRAY MALDISTRIBUTION by Henry Z. Kister, Fluor Corp., Aliso Viejo, CA

Abstract: Large-diameter olefins towers like primary fractionators and C3 Splitters occasionally experience liquid and/or vapor maldistribution in either conventional or high-capacity trays. Such maldistribution often leads to tray efficiencies much lower than design, forcing an increase in reflux and reboil in the tower, and limiting tower capacity. When such maldistribution occurs, it may be difficult to diagnose using conventional troubleshooting techniques such as vendor software, delta P measurement, and conventional qualitative gamma scanning. Multichordal gamma scanning with quantitative analysis is a very useful tool for diagnosing maldistribution on trays. This presentation discusses this technique and describes its application in a couple of case studies.

Bio: Henry Z. Kister is a Fluor Corp. senior fellow and director of fractionation technology (phone 1-949-349-4679, email henry.kister@fluor.com). He has over 30 years experience in design, troubleshooting, revamping, field consulting, control and startup of fractionation processes and equipment. He is the author of three books, the distillation equipment chapter in Perry's Handbook, and about 90 articles, and has taught the IChemE-sponsored "Practical Distillation Technology" course near 400 times. A recipient of several awards, Kister obtained his BE and ME degrees from the University of NSW in Australia. He is a Fellow of IChemE and AIChE, Member of the NAE, and serves on the FRI Technical Advisory and Design Practices Committees.



Meeting Registration Information

Membership in STS-AIChE is a bargain at \$20/year. If you wish to become a member, you may join at the registration desk at the meeting.

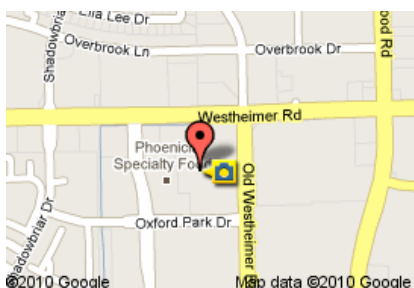
	Pre-Registration Members	Pre-Registration Non-Members	At the door Members	At the door Non-Members
Regular/Retired	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30
Student	\$10	\$10	\$20	\$20
Unemployed	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$25
North Houston satellite meeting location	\$15	\$18	\$20	\$20

NOTE: You have until 4 PM CST on September 12th to pre-register online. After that, you will be required to pay the higher cost at the door.

Pre-registration for the meeting is now open through our website at:

<http://sts.aiche.org/content/meeting-pre-registration>

Meeting Location—Pelazzio Banquet Hall



This month's meeting will be held at Pelazzio Banquet Hall (12121 Westheimer Rd, Houston, Texas 77077) Double click on the map to the left for directions from your location. The satellite meeting will be held at Rico's Mexican Grill, (Sawdust location) at 314 Sawdust Rd, The Woodlands, TX, 77380 . Double click on the map below for directions. This location provides a quiet, private room upstairs for meeting. More details are included in the next section below.

North Houston Satellite Meeting Information—

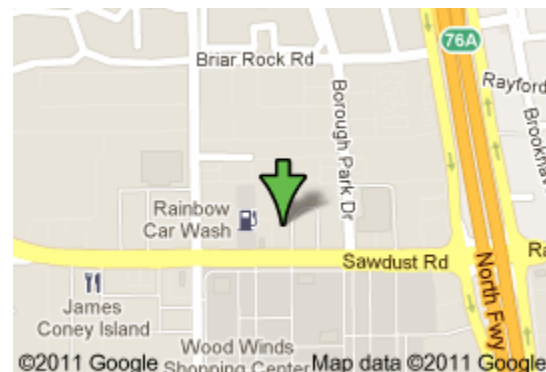
Join us without driving too far for some local networking at The Woodlands/North Houston satellite meeting! We have our own social/networking program. To make up for venue change issues with the last meeting, we will be providing free happy hour margaritas!

Due to the wonders of modern technology we have access to the great speakers provided by STS. This month's meeting will once again be at Rico's Mexican Grill at 314 Sawdust Rd, The Woodlands, TX, 77380 (<http://ricosgrill.com/locations.php>). On-line pre-registration is available but not required. Order your dinner off the restaurant menu. Contact Ken Walter or Chris Tagoe (kk.walter@comcast.net or cctagoe@yahoo.com) with questions or special needs. Guests are welcome, please spread the word! Previous issues with audio have been addressed.

Schedule:

- ♦ 6:00 PM Social hour with live music downstairs and Free happy hour margaritas
- ♦ 7:00 PM Dinner. (order off the menu)
- ♦ 7:45 PM Remote tie-in with STS-AIChE technical program
- ♦ \$15.00 in advance / \$18.00 at the door.

All guests are welcome!



Workshops begin at 5:30 PM (Workshops are free and open to public)

Process Engineering / Plant Operations workshop

Speaker: Lowell Pless - Tracerco

Title: Tower Scanning as a Quantitative Tool

Abstract: Tower scanning (gamma scanning, radiation scanning, etc.) is well established in the process industries as a qualitative tool to help troubleshoot separation towers. In this presentation it will be shown that through careful and innovative application of gamma scanning, quantitative information about tray performance can be extracted. This will be illustrated by comparing data taken under very controlled conditions on a hydrocarbon tower equipped with windows, with the data obtained from scans of the tray downcomer and active area. Three sets of trays designed to flood under jet flood, downcomer backup or choke flood mechanisms were tested and studied. The experimental observations, tray model predictions, and scan data for each of these sets of trays will be compared. Based on this information it can be concluded that tower scanning can be used to generate quantitative information about tray performance. My collaborative partner in this research was Dr. Izak Nieuwoudt, Director of Research and Development with Koch-Glitsch in Wichita, KS.

AICHE South Texas Section Future Meetings & Speakers

Meeting Date	Location	Sponsor	Speaker	Topic
Sep 13, 2012	Pellazio Banquet Hall	Tracerco	Henry Kister, Fluor	Gamma Scans Quantitative Analysis
October 4, 2012	South Shore Harbor (with RPTC)	Aramco	TBD (by Aramco)	TBD
November 1, 2012	Brady's Landing	TBD	Dave Rosenthal, Jacobs	TBD
Dec 6, 2012	Aquarium/Downtown	NA	NA	NA

AIChE Regional Process Technology Conference



The South Texas Section of the AIChE, in partnership with AIChE HQ, is hosting its 4th Regional Process Technology Conference at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center, on the shores of Clear Lake in League City, Texas, October 4 & 5, 2012. The conference provides technical sessions, industry solutions in process technology, and networking opportunities. In its first three years the conference has established a solid reputation within the process engineering community, attracting well over 300 participants each year. This year, with a more accessible venue on the mainland, the conference is expected to be even bigger and better, with more regional participation from the largest concentration of petroleum refining, chemical processing, engineering and technology firms in the U.S. You don't want to miss it!

You will find the program on the conference website at:

<http://www.aiche.org/conferences/regional-process-technology-conference/2012>.

This year, in addition to established tracks such as oil refining, chemical process technology, energy efficiency, process safety, catalysis and simulation, we are

adding a new session on upstream oil and gas. This is intended as a primer for process engineers, and builds on the very successful recent dinner meetings on upstream topics. In addition, we will continue our tradition of running a YP technical session, and closing the conference with a mixer sponsored by our YP group.

We need volunteers to help on-site at the conference. Volunteers get free registration for the day they serve. Please contact Richard Newman (richard.newman@shell.com) for additional details.

Registration for the conference is now open through the website,

<http://www.aiche.org/conferences/regional-process-technology-conference/2012/register-now>. Also, if you'd like to stay at South Shore Harbour during the conference, we have negotiated some rooms at preferred rates – see the website for details.



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Letter from the Chair - James Turner

Wow, it is hard to believe that summer is essentially over. The high school bands and football teams have been practicing since the beginning of August, and college kids start heading back to campus by the third week of August. Labor Day, the unofficial end of the summer season for most of the country, is just around the corner.

While the STS activities slow down a little in the summer, we have had some activities, and the officers have been preparing for a busy fall season. In June, we had the traditional Ship Channel Tour. Thanks go to Dennis Griffith for spear-heading the effort again.

In July, we had our first annual "Night at the Astros Game". Thanks to Lisa Swanson and Katherine Leskin for doing a great job setting it up and managing ticket sales. We tried out using PayPal to process web ticket purchases, and that worked very well. We plan to use it for all pre-registration and web ticket sales going forward.

While the Astros continued their downward trajectory, everyone seemed to have a good time, with all you can eat hotdogs, snacks and drinks. We also got to be a part of at least three historic events: 1) this game was part of the new all time team record losing streak, 2) part of the worst month ever in team history (5th worst ever in all MLB history), and 3) we also got to see (at least those that weren't picking up their hot dogs) the first Pittsburgh batter hit a home run on the first pitch of the game in his first ever major league at bat. I wasn't sure if that had ever happened before, so I did a little Google research. It is amazing what you can discover in a few minutes on the internet. It turns out there are now 28 players that have a hit a home run on their first pitch ever. Five of the 28 have occurred in the last 4 years, including one Astro – Mark Saccomanno in 2008. Mark was born and grew up in the Houston area, and attended Baylor. I'm not sure what he is doing now, but he apparently is not currently with a major league team, and his first pitch homer is his only home run in his career! Of the 28 MLB players to homer on their first pitch, only two currently have over 100 career homers. So you should avoid getting a big head no matter how impressive your first career effort appears to be. Anyway, back to my original question – has anyone ever led off a game and hit a home run in their first major league pitch? The answer can be found online at [baseball-almanac.com](http://www.baseball-almanac.com/feats/feats6.shtml) (<http://www.baseball-almanac.com/feats/feats6.shtml>). It takes looking at the box scores of the other 27 players that homered in their first ever pitch – and it turns out one player prior to July 26th had accomplished that feat – Kaz Matsui of the New York Mets, in Atlanta in 2004. Interestingly, Kaz Matsui spent the last three years of his career (2008-2010) with the Houston Astros.

We plan on having another Astros event next summer, although I can't guarantee it will have as many historic occurrences.

Our September meeting will be Thursday, September 13th. The meeting will be sponsored by Tracerco, and our dinner speaker will be Henry Kister. For those that do not know Henry Kister, he is a world renowned expert on Distillation Design and Operation. In fact, it is accurate to say that "he wrote the book" (actually, two books) on these subjects. He is also a very passionate and interesting speaker, and I have no doubt that everyone who attends will be glad they attended. Henry's presentation will be on "Gamma Scans Quantitative Analysis". I know it sounds technical, but I am confident that it will be entertaining and enlightening. The meeting will be at Pelazzio Banquet Hall off of Westheimer. So we have the trifecta combination of good food, at a great price, with a great speaker! Did I forget to mention good company? I guess that's a quadfecta, not a trifecta.

In October, we have the Regional Process Technology Conference, which will be at South Shore Harbor this year. Thanks again to Alan Rossiter for heading up this major event. Registration is open on the website. Our dinner meeting will be held in conjunction with the Regional Process Technology Conference, and will be sponsored by Aramco, and the Dinner Speaker will be from Aramco.

In November, we are pleased to announce that the current AIChE President, David Rosenthal, will be our Dinner Speaker.

And to close out 2012 in style, the YPs are planning our December Social Event, which will be at the Downtown Aquarium. Based on the success of the previous December Social Events, it should be a great time for all!

We have free Workshops planned for before the September and November meetings, so be sure and check them out as well.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming meetings. If I haven't met you, come up and introduce yourself!

Best Regards,

James Turner

Featured YP of the Month - Phillip Purpich

Tell us about yourself.

Phil currently works for Foster Wheeler as a Process Engineer. He grew up moving around because of his father's work in the oil industry. He was born in Lafayette, Louisiana and lived in Slidell, Louisiana; London, England; Aberdeen, Scotland; Lagos, Nigeria, Dallas, Texas; and ended up going to high school in Conroe, TX. He received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University with a minor in Communications and Business Management Certificate in December 2009.



What do you like most about your current job and what are your responsibilities?

He has been working for Foster Wheeler since May 2011 and worked for Johnson Controls prior to that. He loves that every day is something different with new challenges, situations, and different people to work with. He has enjoyed working on his diverse range of projects from a Hydrocracker, Atmospheric Column, to Off-sites/Utilities.

How has STS and AIChE benefited you?

AIChE creates the opportunity to network with a wealth of new to seasoned veterans in chemical engineering that is mutually beneficial. Learning about each person's current work, past experiences, and career path are extremely useful as a younger engineer. The speaker topics at meetings thus far have been interesting and have increased his knowledge about various disciplines within the chemical engineering field.

What are your hobbies?

Phil is a sports fanatic. He is a season ticket holder to Aggie Football and Baseball. He plays golf several times a month and plays in an adult softball league. He recently became a board member of the Education Foundation of Harris County and is extremely excited about giving back to students across Houston by promoting events that encourage K-12 involvement with math, science and engineering.

Any advice for the ChE students who will be graduating in May?

Figure out what you want to do with your degree and how best to do that. Ask your parents, those in industry, professors, friends, etc for their feedback. Create tangible short and long term goals to meet the vision you have for yourself. Not only should you take advantage of every opportunity that comes across your lap, but seek/create opportunities. Do not remain stagnant in your professional career for long. Continue to learn, grow, and do everything to the best of your ability.

STS YP Volunteers Help Out at 2012 OTC

Handouts for 2012 OTC Student Tours and Teachers Energy Education Workshop (A Need Program) provided by the STS and AIChE with YP's passing out the Goodie Bags

The STS and AIChE provided 250 goodie bags to the High School Students participating in the Student Tours and 150 goodie bags to Teachers participating in the Teachers (Energy Education) Workshop (A Need Program). The bags were provided by AIChE with career guidance materials, pens, pieces of candy, and other items that showed how diverse a Chemical Engineering degree really can be.

For the teachers, extra goodies were given that could be used in the classroom (e.g. mugs, etc). Each bag came with a pamphlet explaining how these items pertained to Chemical Engineering as well as a brief explanation of the polymers that some of the items contained. The 400 bags were stuffed by STS Young Professionals with help from some wonderful AIChE STS volunteers.

The Goodie Bag Stuffing Party was hosted by Carol and Nathan Schmidt with John Middleton and Tom Menn participating. Carol Schmidt transported the bags to the Reliant Center. Carol Schmidt passed out bags at the event and brought the leftover bags to the monthly meeting to share with the AIChE membership.

A great big thanks to AIChE National, AIChE STS, AIChE STS YP, OTC, SPE and NEED for working together to educate and entice a new generation of engineers at OTC! Also, a big thank you to all of the companies that donated items to put in the bags: Chemstations, Dow, Advanced Sensors, and Cetco!

If you are interested in helping with or donating to OTC bags for 2013, please contact Carol Schmidt at Carol.Schmidty@gmail.com.



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STS Volunteers Help Out at 2012 OTC

2012 Offshore Technology Conference: A Success for STS-AIChE OTC Committee Volunteers

The 2012 Offshore Technology Conference was a success for South Texas Section which had 18 South Texas Section - AIChE members and a few AIChE non-members volunteering. These 18 volunteers provided a portion of the staffing for the Arrangements, Registration, and Student Tours Committees. The volunteers received a complimentary OTC registration for themselves and their spouses and a reserved area parking pass with in/out privileges with both the registration and parking pass good for the entire OTC.

For supplying a sufficient volunteer effort, the STS received an honorarium of \$1000 from the OTC. It is hoped that STS will be able to repeat this feat in future years. The funds are to be used to provide handouts and career guidance materials to the High School Students and Teachers taking part in the OTC Student Tours.

Those who volunteered to serve one or more of the Arrangements, Registration, and Student Tours Committees are: Humbert Chu, Mark Demark, John Hottovy, Dannis Jen, Matt Kolodney, Ric Massie, Jim Menn, Tom Menn, John Middleton, Bob Naeger, Lisa Ngo, Syamal Poddar, Carlos Salamanca, David Silarski, Mark Smith, Keith Wang, Walter Worth, & Marc Young.

Bryant Hickman Honored for 50 Years of AIChE Membership at May 3 South Texas Section Monthly Woodlands Satellite Dinner.

W. Bryant Hickman -- Bryant received his BSChE from Lamar University, formerly Lamar State College of Technology, in June 1962. He is a Senior Member of AIChE and was a member of the AIChE Student Chapter at Lamar. Bryant served in the U. S. Army as a SP4 in Supply Services. He has been a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas since 1967 and a member of the South Texas Section since 1965.



W. Bryant Hickman (L) receives his 50 Year AIChE Membership Certificate from STS Past Chair Ken Cox (R).

Following graduation from Lamar, Bryant was employed by Cities Service Oil Company at the Lake Charles Refinery for 3 years. This was followed by 4 years with Fluor Corporation, 2 years with Fish Engineering & Construction, 6 years with Brown & Root. He then did consulting with Randall Corporation, Gulsby Engineering, BS&B Engineering, Weatherby Engineers, Strong Engineering, Gallagher Engineering, Chapman International, and McGuffey Energy Services. Bryant holds two design copyrights and still consults part time at McGuffey where he developed an engineering design manual to assist young engineers to process design and detail design process plants.

Bryant and his wife live in Cypress on Longwood Golf Course, have two sons and a grandson. He likes to visit Texas historical sites with the Pct. 3 and Cypress Historical Assn. seniors groups. Cecile manages their son's chiropractic clinic.

Additional 2012 50 Year AIChE Membership Certificate Recipients

Due to various reasons these three STS Members who have reached 50 Years of AIChE Membership were not able to attend any STS Monthly Meetings this year and elected to have their 50 Year AIChE Membership Certificates mailed to them. These STS Members are:

Kenneth R. Hall – Ken received his BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tulsa (1962), MS from California (1964), his PhD from the University of Oklahoma (1967). He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Ken served the STS as the 1991 Executive Committee Position No. 2 and has received the STS Best Fundamental Paper Award in 1987, 2003, and 2007. He has also received two national awards: the Donald L. Katz Award from the Gas Processors Association, and the Institute Award for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology from the AIChE.

Ken currently is the Jack E. and Frances Brown Chair and Professor of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University; and the Associate Vice Chancellor of Engineering, Associate Director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University at Qatar. He is a Regents' Professor in the Texas A&M University System and Professor Visitante at the Universidad Industrial de Santander (Bucaramanga, Colombia). During his career, he has worked in industry with AMOCO and ChemShare and taught at the University of Virginia and TAMU. At TAMU, Ken has been the Director of the Thermodynamics Research Center; the Associate Dean of Engineering; Assistant, Associate and Deputy Director of TEES, Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering and the Department Head of Chemical Engineering. He has been a Visiting Professor at Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven and Director of the Chemical & Transport Systems Division at the National Science Foundation. He has 255 refereed research publications, 7 books and 13 patents.

Ken and his wife have two sons and one daughter. He also enjoys yoga, exercise and good beer and wine.

Kenneth G. Watler, Sr. -- Ken attended Rice University on a football scholarship for one year and then transferred to Lamar University where he received a BSChE in 1962. He is a Senior Member of AIChE and Registered Professional Engineer in Texas.

Since graduation, Ken has worked for a number of companies. These include HESS Terminal, Delta Engineering Corp., Hutchinson Hayes International (Offshore Topsides), Weatherby Engineering (Offshore Topsides & Gas Plants), Wilcrest Engineering (Offshore Topsides), and BW Membranes (Gas Treating Membranes). For the past 15 years he has been employed as a Project Manager with Mustang Engineering.

Ken and his wife Gayle have two sons, six grandchildren and he enjoys fishing and hunting with them.

Samuel G. Woinsky -- Sam received his BSChE from the City College of New York in 1957 and a MSChE from Drexel Institute plus a Certificate of Business Administration (Government Contract Management) from UCLA. He is a Fellow of AIChE, an Emeritus Member of the American Chemical Society, and is a Registered Professional Chemical Engineer in California.

Sam has been employed by Atlantic Richfield, C. F. Braun, Occidental (Petroleum) Research Corporation, California State College as a part-time Lecturer, Research Services Incorporated (President/Owner), Santa Fe Braun, Kinetics Technology International, M. W. Kellogg Company, ACS Industries' Separations Technology Division, Foster Wheeler, EPRI Chemicals, Nana-Colt, and Bechtel in various roles ranging from Technical Engineer to Manager. Currently he is the President and Proprietor of Samuel Woinsky Consulting.

Sam holds six patents, has written numerous technical papers and lately authored a book titled "**Economic Analysis Made Easy**". He has served on the AIChE Membership Committee. Sam is also the proud father of three children and one grandchild.

K12 Volunteer Opportunities

AIChE and STS are working to start up K12 outreach programs. We are encouraging STS members to attend various local outreach events and report back to STS and AIChE on their experience. We are encouraging STS members to report back to Matt Kolodney (mkolodne@tceq.state.tx.us) with one-page descriptions of their K12 outreach experiences, what worked well and what didn't. These will be reviewed locally and passed on to the AIChE National K12 program. Some local K12 opportunities are listed below.

HUNSTEM web site: <http://hunstem.uhd.edu/> Already has a wide range of educational resources for use by interested teachers and volunteers. AIChE (national) is encouraging cooperation with organizations such as HUNSTEM.

IEEE http://www.ieee-houston.org/Committees/SAC/Brochure_IEEE%20Houston_7_Oct_2007.pdf This ongoing Houston Area program assists local schools with teacher training demonstrations.

SEFH <http://hunstem.uhd.edu/SEFH/> Science and Engineering Fair of Houston

Houston Museum of Natural Science (<http://www.hmns.org>) has ongoing outreach programs and could use more volunteers.

The Houston Children's Museum (<http://www.cmhouston.org>) also has outreach programs.

For more information, contact Matt Kolodney (713-471-8956) or mkolodne@tceq.state.tx.us.

Call for Volunteers

The Career and Education Operating Council (CEOC) of AIChE (National) has studies underway in several areas of interest to AIChE members. Additional volunteers are needed for committees performing the areas listed below. Working on one of these committees teaches you about the operation of AIChE, as well as teamwork, management, and leadership. Lessons from the latter three will spill over into your job, personal life, and other nonprofit organizations. The committee topics include:

A. Leadership development — New options for the training and development of leaders in AIChE. Our current methods are useful, but we're looking at others, too.

B. Fundraising — There is a modest but significant budget gap in AIChE National, and we can better serve our members if we can shrink it. Additionally, the programming of many local sections could benefit by fund raising.

C. Local Section Committee (LSC) Support — Unlike the STS, many local sections are facing difficulties, and the LSC is developing projects to assist "local sections in need."

D. Membership — The AIChE needs to work on increasing membership of National and of local sections. We're looking for additional good ideas. This includes how to explain the benefits of membership, how to encourage more student members to become YPs and how to encourage more first-time attendees at local section meetings to return and get involved.

E. Communication — Many AIChE members don't seem to learn about AIChE events and programs that they later wish they'd heard about. How can we improve communications with members? This could include mailings, websites, e-mail, telephone, etc.

These studies will involve identifying and evaluating alternatives, preparing "best practices" for local sections, and executing developmental projects. If you might be interested in one or more of these areas, please contact Matt Kolodney (mkolodney1@comcast.net or 713-471-8956)

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South Texas Section AICHE

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Sugar Land, TX 77487-2160

2012 Officers and Contact Information

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Past Chair Ken Cox
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Secretary Kelly Richardson
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Executive Committee

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Position 4: Human Resources
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Volunteers

Arrangements: Richard Newman,
David Silarski

Membership: David Silarski

Young Professionals: Lisa Swanson
(sts-yp@aiche.org)

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 2013

<<To be developed>>



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The South Texan Newsletter Crew

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEWSLETTER? We want to know!

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Newsletter Editors

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