

The South Texan

2003 Marx Isaacs Award for Outstanding Large Section Newsletter



Monthly Meeting May 1, 2008

Location: Hilton Houston Westchase



The May meeting is sponsored by Shell Global Solutions. Please see page 2 for sponsorship information.

Meeting At-A-Glance

- Location: Westchase Hilton Hotel
- Special Discount Pricing!
- **Five** Workshops
- Networking 6-7 PM
- Dinner at 7 PM
- Speakers at 8 PM

Improved Process Modeling & Pinch Technology for Better Process Designs & Higher Energy Efficiencies

Speakers: Ashok Dewan and Oscar Aguilar, Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc.

Abstract: In this energy-starved world, we are constantly seeking new ways to whet our ever-increasing energy appetite. The introduction of biofuels and alternate heavy-oil energy sources such as tar sands can be viewed as step changes to meet the challenge. However, these efforts alone will not be enough to meet our energy demands. We must fall back on well-proven traditional approaches to improve our process designs and increase our energy efficiency.

This talk brings us back to the basics - using robust state-of-the-art process engineering tools for detailed process engineering and the revival of pinch technology to squeeze inefficiencies out of our existing processes. Obtaining better energy utilization through application of pinch technology is well-known. We would like to extend the pinch technology to optimize water use, do better hydrogen management, and even reduce waste gases such as carbon dioxide.

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Bio: Ashok Dewan DSc (Chemical Engineering) is Team Leader for **PET-SIM** (Process Engineering Tools, Simulators & Ionic Models) and Principal Engineer, in Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc.'s Upstream Fluid Flow Group. He is responsible for the rollout, license management, support, vendor liaison, & in-house training for a portfolio of Process Engineering Tools / Simulators in the Americas for Shell companies. He received a Bachelor's of Chemical Engineering from the well-known IIT-Bombay and a PhD from Washington University and has over 26 years of experience working for Shell. Dr. Dewan is also currently the Technical Chair of DIPPR® (**Design Institute for Physical Properties**, under AIChE) on a volunteer basis and has been involved with DIPPR since its inception in 1978.

Oscar Aguilar, PhD is an Engineering Associate for Shell Global Solutions' Energy, Utilities, Water, and Waste Services providing support, solutions, and new designs to both downstream and upstream businesses for Shell and Non-Shell companies in the Americas. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Manchester (formerly UMIST) in the UK and has been working for Shell since 2005.

May meeting sponsor—Shell Global Solutions



Shell Global Solutions provides services through the whole business cycle, from planning and development to operation and decommissioning.

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The process models utilize the process technology knowledge within Shell Global Solutions in distillation, fluid catalytic cracking, hydrocracking, reforming, etc.

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Workshop Details: Workshops begin at 5:30 PM

Environmental: How Good Is Our Bet on Biofuels?

Speaker: Kyriacos Zyggourakis, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Rice University

Abstract: Can biofuels meet a significant part of our needs for liquid transportation fuels? Can they be produced sustainably? What is their energy return of investment? And is the environmental benefit of biofuels as significant as advertised by their proponents? In an effort to provide answers to some of these questions, we will analyze the production of corn ethanol, biodiesel, and cellulosic ethanol. Simple calculations can quickly show that neither corn ethanol nor biodiesel will be able to displace a significant amount of gasoline and petro-diesel from the US market. By now, it is also clear that corn ethanol may require more energy to produce than it provides, particularly when coal is used to power ethanol plants or when corn is grown on marginal lands that have low yields but increased demands for irrigation and fertilizers.

For all these reasons, the scientific and business communities have recently turned their attention to cellulosic ethanol: ethanol that can be produced from crop residues (like corn stover), energy crops (like switchgrass), and other agricultural, forest or municipal waste. The US Department of Energy has set as a goal the annual production of 60 billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol by 2030, an amount that will displace about 30% of the gasoline consumed in the US in 2005. Others have set much higher production goals. Using again simple material and energy balances, we will analyze the available data in an effort to cut through the hype and start answering the many outstanding questions about cellulosic biofuels.

Bio: Kyriacos Zyggourakis is the A.J. Hartsook Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Rice University. He also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Bioengineering at Rice University. Prof. Zyggourakis received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens in 1975 and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1981. His current research interests include cellular and tissue engineering, digital image processing, and the development of multi-scale models that describe the dynamics of heterogeneous cell populations. He also has a long-standing interest in energy and the sustainability of our energy resources.

Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): Increasing The Propylene Yield At Ethylene Crackers: Converting The n-Butene In Mixed Butane Butene Streams (Raff-2) Into Propylene And Linear Internal Olefins

Speaker: Peter Ginn, MPM Technology

Abstract: The process is a novel combination of multiple phase metathesis and reactive distillation, leading to high yields at bench scale. MPM Technology has utilized a DOE SBIR Phase II grant to construct a pilot plant at the University of Texas. The process uses moderate pressures and temperatures in a distillation column. There is no separation of the butene from the butane before the reactive distillation. The butene is actually "reacted" away from the butane, which is returned to the ethylene cracker to be used as a fuel.

Products from one metathesis reaction can themselves be metathesised in a second reaction. This enables the butene to be converted into a variety of long chain linear internal olefins. By using four metathesis reactions in succession butene can be converted to hexadecene! In the first step butene is converted into pentene and hexene co-monomers plus propylene. In the second step the pentene hexene are converted into plasticizer precursors heptene, octene, nonene plus propylene. In the third step the heptene, octene and nonene are converted into detergent precursors decene, undecene, dodecene plus propylene and butene. Finally in the fourth step the decene, undecene, dodecene are converted into drilling fluid components pentadecene through octadecene plus butene and hexene.

Please see Mr. Ginn's bio on the following page.

Workshop Details: Workshops begin at 5:30 PM

YP Presentation 1 (5:30 - 6:00): The Inside Scoop on Chemical Engineering: A Look Inside the Equipment in an Acrylonitrile Plant

Speaker: Scott Moffatt, PE, Solutia

Abstract: 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.

Bio: Scott Moffatt graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1998 and a M.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1999 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.

YP Presentation 2 (6:00 - 6:30): Overview of Pressure Relief System Design Best Practices

Speaker: Richard Akinretoy, Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc.

Abstract: Pressure relief devices are safety devices required on pressured vessels and other equipment to prevent injuries, releases, and mechanical damage caused by vessel overpressure which could potentially result in a ruptured vessel. To ensure these relief devices function properly, considerable overpressure analyses must be performed on the protected equipment to ensure all possible overpressure sources/scenarios are properly identified and quantified. In addition, pressure relief devices as well as their associated piping must be sized and installed properly to ensure proper operability of these protective devices. This presentation will provide a brief overview of industry accepted guidelines into properly designing pressure relief devices.

Bio: Richard Akinretoy received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati in 1998. He started his professional career as a process engineer for Lyondell at their Tuscola, Illinois manufacturing facility. Later he became the unit engineer for the synthetic ethanol plant at the Tuscola facility. In 2005, he relocated to the Lyondell Bayport facility as the utilities engineer and ethylene oxide production engineer. In 2007, Richard joined Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc. at their Houston office, as a Process Safety Consultant for both the refining and petrochemical industry.

Process Safety: Three Years On From Texas City

Speaker: Cheryl A. Grounds

Abstract: Following the tragic Texas City incident in March 2005, the executive leadership of BP reviewed the fundamentals of the company's approach to process safety and operational excellence. This evaluation has led to significant changes designed to improve safety and operations, not just at Texas City refinery, but across the BP Group worldwide.

For instance, U.S. Refining has already made progress with respect to the Baker Panel recommendations, which can be grouped under 4 main headings:

- Leadership
- Integrated and comprehensive process safety management system
- Process safety knowledge and expertise
- Process safety culture

The changes go beyond adoption of the Baker Panel's recommendations, and the paper will also discuss other issues, such as competencies, practices/procedures, metrics, and auditing, and it will highlight some wider messages for the industry. This presentation was presented by Michael P. Broadribb at the 2009 Global Congress on Process Safety.

Process Engineering/Plant Operations (PE/PO): Increasing The Propylene Yield At Ethylene Crackers (continued)

Bio: Peter Ginn has served as a senior manufacturing specialist, boasting extensive experience both in improving manufacturing processes and in new plant commissioning. He has significant skills in installing advanced process automation, and has demonstrated success in implementing new technologies. He has participated in numerous project teams that have reduced raw materials costs, lowered pollution, improved training productivity and increased plant capacities. His work experience includes various positions with Dow Chemical and Solutia. He holds US Patent Rights for a multi-unit communicating system, and has also published a book and several papers.

He has also worked for a start-up company that manufactured an incredible flame resistant fiber that won two IR-100 awards because of its unique properties. He is now working for MPM Technology as project manager and principal investigator, commercializing a patented metathesis reactive distillation process. He holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College, London, as well as a MBA in Finance and an International Business Certificate from the University of Houston.

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.

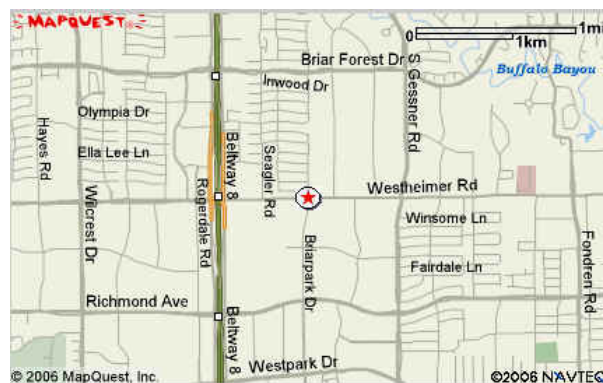
You may also **cancel a reservation** using this link. Please cancel your reservation if you have made one and find that you are unable to attend.

The **special cost** for this Shell-sponsored meeting, per person, is:

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

Meeting Location - Westchase Hilton

The May meeting will be held at the Hilton Houston Westchase. To use your own mapping program for directions, the address is 9999 Westheimer Road, Houston, 77042-3802 (Westheimer just past Beltway 8 at Briarpark Drive). Click on the map to the right to open the map site.



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.

Our shopping cart is now secure! When you go to the shopping cart site after verifying you accept the policy (<https://www.sts-aiche.org/zen-cart/>) you will now see the lock at the bottom of your screen. You also know it is secure by the "https" at the beginning of the web site. There are many concerns about using credit cards on the internet these days. To ensure our members are provided with the security that is expected, our shopping cart is now secure. As a reminder, though, the STS does not store any credit card information. Our secure credit card handler, SecurePay.com, conducts the transactions with the credit card companies.

Our 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.

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www.cwbtech.com/short_courses.html

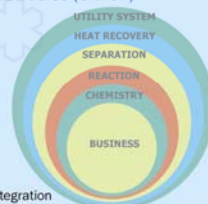
- Why certain process modifications will reduce energy consumption
- How to determine true steam and electricity costs
- Tools to evaluate projects for energy-related capital expenditures
- How to develop comprehensive energy reduction for your company

Multi-disciplinary Process Development: From Lab to Plant

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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
P. O. Box 458
Pearland, Texas

phone: 281-485-3719
email: thomasmenn@SBCGlobal.net

77588-0458

To Volunteer, complete the form **on the following page** and submit as indicated on the form.



The advertisement features a background with a colorful, abstract design of orange, red, and purple wavy lines. In the top left corner is the HTRI logo. The main title 'Xchanger Suite' is prominently displayed in the center-left. A yellow starburst graphic in the top right corner contains the text 'CAPE-OPEN Compliant!'. Below the title, a descriptive sentence states that the suite provides accurate design calculations for various heat exchangers and heaters. Two columns of bullet points list these equipment types. At the bottom, it mentions interfaces with process simulators and physical property packages. The footer contains the company name, address, and contact information on the left, and email and website on the right.

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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.)

2008 ANNUAL STS AIChE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL TRIP

6:00 PM, SATURDAY, May 31, 2008

Register/Prepay now! [Click Here!](#)

Once again, the South Texas Section will journey down the Houston Ship Channel in the fully air-conditioned M/V Sam Houston on the evening of Saturday, May 31. The M/V Sam Houston will leave the dock at **6:00 PM sharp** and return to the dock at approximately 8:00 PM.

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

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

Because the trip is intended for a technical organization, **no children under the age of 16 are allowed**. The cost of the trip, the barbecue, and the beverages (open bar) is **\$15.00 per person**. Because of the popularity of this annual trip, we regret that must impose a limit of only two (2) people per reservation. Also, people who fail to cancel their reservations by 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 29, to allow others who are on the wait-list to go on the trip will forfeit the \$15.00 per person cost.

Because of Port of Houston security requirements and the limited space available, reservations are required for the trip since the M/V Sam Houston can take **only 60 people**. Reservations will be accepted starting on the night of the Thursday, May 1, STS-AIChE monthly dinner meeting until 2:00 PM, Thursday, May 29. Attendees of the May 1 STS-AIChE meeting will get to sign up during the meeting. Starting May 2, sign up and prepay using the STS shopping cart at <http://www.sts-aiche.org/zen-cart/>. When the reservations list is full, a wait-list will be started. Reservations can be canceled at any time up to 12:00 noon on Friday, May 30, online on the STS-AIChE Web site. If any spaces are available, you may pay via cash or check at the dock.

Reservations are limited to members of the STS-AIChE and one guest per member for a total of two people for each reservation. We will use the contact information provided in the shopping cart to contact you in case the trip is cancelled (**see the security notice below**). Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis; however, we will maintain a wait list in case there are cancellations. Remember: reservations will be accepted beginning with the Thursday, May 1, STS-AIChE dinner meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

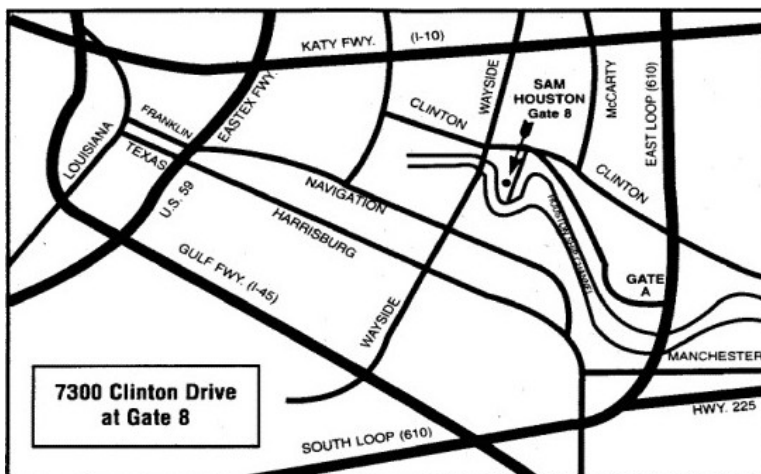
Remember, a picture ID is required for all attendees.

Bon voyage!

Dennis Griffith

SECURITY NOTICE

Because of the increased security requirements at the Port of Houston, the annual STS-AIChE Houston Ship Channel Trip is subject to cancellation at the last minute by the Port of Houston Authority. If this happens, we will notify all people with reservations and put a notice on our Web site <http://www.sts-aiche.org/>. Your understanding about this situation is appreciated.

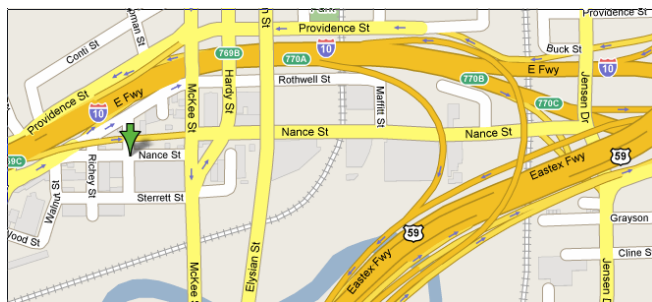


YP Cinco de Mayo Happy Hour

Celebrate a (belated) Cinco de Mayo with the YP! The YEP* TAEP and AIChE YP Happy Hour will be held at the Last Concert Café, at 1403 Nance St, Houston TX 77002, on **Thursday May 8**, at 6pm. YP events are open to all members.

**Young Environmental Professionals*

Visit the YP website <http://yp.sts-aiche.org/> for more details. Go to Events, then select May, then the event on the 8th. Scroll down and you'll find the event. Please RSVP using the Evite link.



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From the Editor

In the words of the legendary Professor Dumbledore of Harry Potter fame, "Another year—gone."

We are about to begin our summer hiatus once again. We have seen some great improvements this year—accepting credit cards to prepay for meetings, an improved shopping cart, and some long needed website improvements. We have some new workshop chairs that should bring some exciting new topics to the workshops.

This month we begin another means of bringing more people to our meetings—corporate sponsorship. Corporations need to reach out to our members and it is felt that sponsoring meetings brings the companies to our members' attention as well as attracting more people to our meetings. What do you think about this? Let us know. Send an email to newsletter@sts-aiche.org and voice your opinion. We always appreciate member feedback.

So have a great, safe, cool summer. We will hold our annual Summer Planning Meeting at some point where we discuss issues of great importance to the organization. Anyone may attend if they want to. Contact the Chair Dave Silarski at chair@sts-aiche.org if you'd like to attend. The date/location have not yet been determined at press time.

Don't forget the Ship Channel Tour—always a fun evening! See page 8 for full details. See you in September!

Editor

Susan Cannon

susancannon119@aol.com

Mark Your Calendars!

Important upcoming dates for the STS are:

May 5-8—OTC at Reliant Center

May 31—Annual Ship Channel Cruise

September 4—Monthly meeting

October 2—Monthly meeting

November 6—Monthly meeting

November 16-21—Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

November—Elections!

December 4—Monthly meeting

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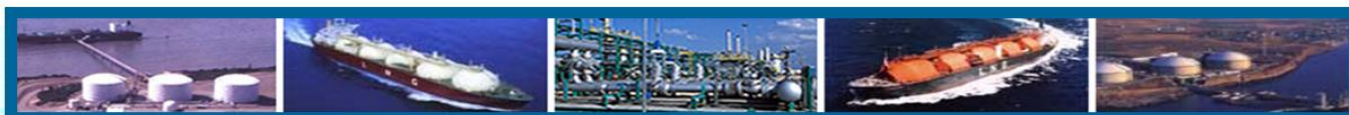
832.257.3818 QMC@QMC.net www.QMC.net

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>

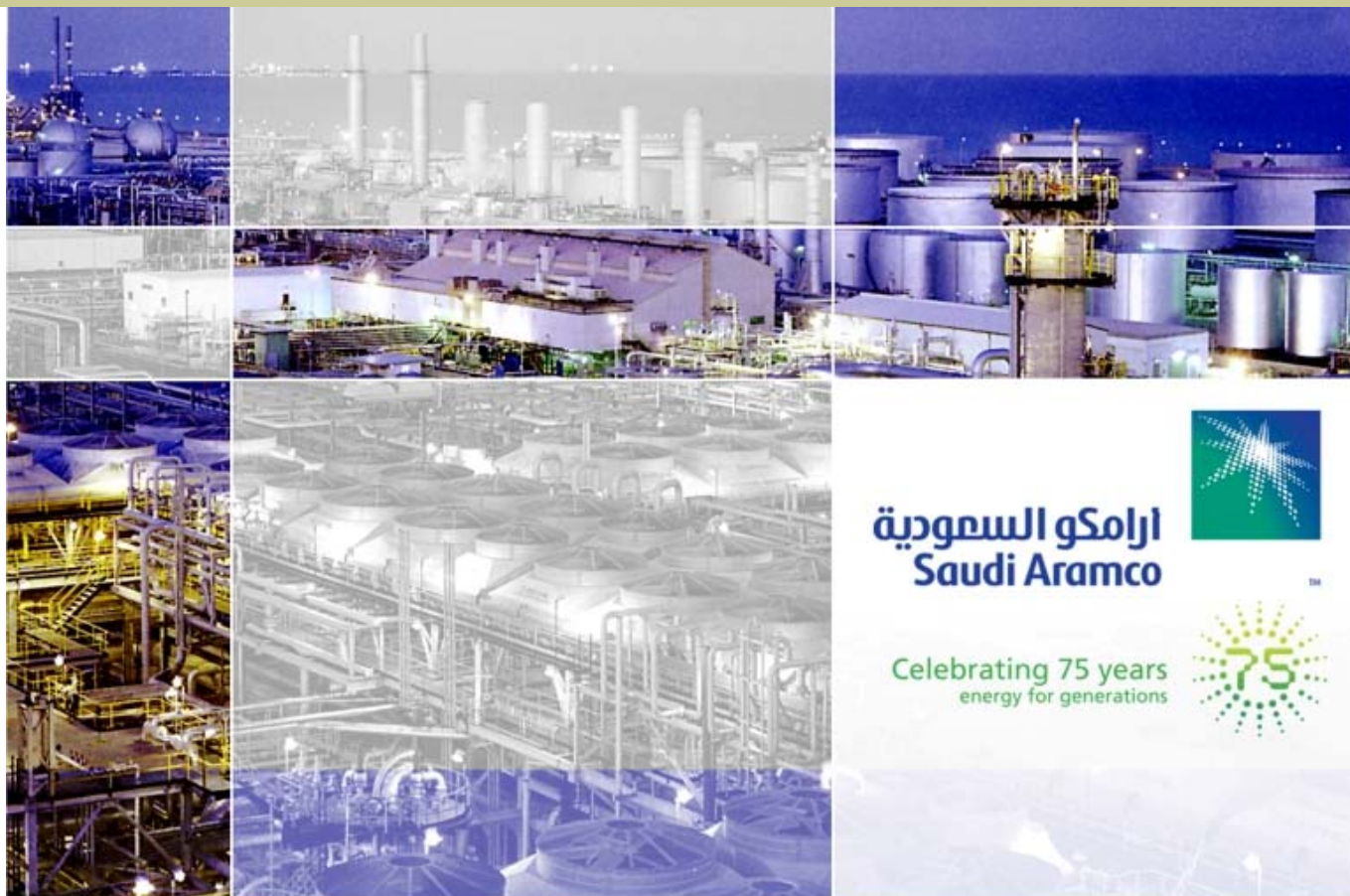
National AIChE website: <http://www.aiiche.org/> (Needs Flash Plug-in)

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/news0508.pdf>



Now Hiring Chemical Engineers!

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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.

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

Chair David Silarski
chair@sts-aiche.org

Chair Elect Todd Willman, Epcon International
Chair-elect@sts-aiche.org

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

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

Treasurer Shane Tierling, KBR
treasurer@sts-aiche.org

Executive Committee

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

Position 2: Outreach
position2@sts-aiche.org

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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AIChExpress Service Center
3 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016-5991

The South Texan Newsletter Crew

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Newsletter Editor

Susan Cannon
KBR
601 Jefferson Avenue
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 753-8626
SusanCannon119@aol.com

Submit an article! Contact:

Matt Kolodney
TCEQ
5425 Polk Avenue, Suite H
Houston, TX 77023-1486
(713) 767-3752
mkolodne@tceq.state.tx.us

Reserve your ad space! Contact:

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IRP Tech, LLC
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Frank.Kleinschrodt@IRPTech.com

