



## December Monthly / Social Meeting **SOLD OUT**



This year's planned special December dinner cruise meeting has proved highly popular, and is sold out. Sorry if you missed the opportunity to participate in this great Holiday treat. For those did manage to sign up here are some additional detail:

This is a 3-hour dinner cruise starting from Kemah and going over Clear Lake and Galveston Bay. If that's not enough, feast on a delicious menu to choose from our buffet, plus a cash bar for beer, wine and cocktails. There is no better way to start the holiday season than with the STS-AICHE family. The yacht is climate controlled and is surrounded with picture windows to give everyone the best possible views as we sail through. The meeting will be organized by our Young Professionals.

**What:** Dinner Cruise

**When:** December 1, 2011 (Thursday)

**Time:** 7 – 10 PM (boarding starts at 6:30 PM, yacht leaves the dock at 7PM sharp )

**Where:** Star Fleet Yachts, 280 Grove Road, Kemah, TX (see map below)

**Price:** \$25 per person for members and their family members

\$35 per person for non-members

(regular price is \$69 per person – sponsored by STS-AICHE). Pre-registration is required, no door pricing.

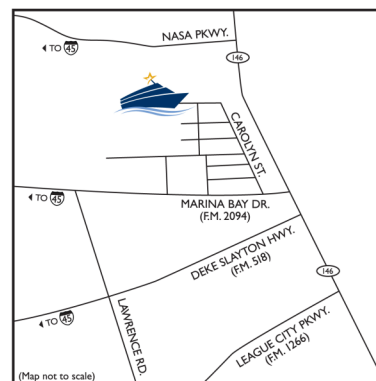
**Registration:** **SOLD OUT!** We have reached capacity! No door reservations!

**Questions:** Contact Jayce Mathews at [sts-yp@aiche.org](mailto:sts-yp@aiche.org)

### Maps & Directions:

#### From Downtown Houston

Take I-45 South to South 610 headed East.  
Take exit 30B for TX-225 E/La Porte towards Pasadena.  
Merge onto TX-225 E.  
Take the exit to TX-146 S towards La Porte.  
Stay Straight over the Kemah Bridge.  
Take the first right after the bridge on FM-2094/Marina Bay Drive.  
Drive 250 feet and turn right on Carolyn St.  
Carolyn Street dead ends in Star Fleet Yacht's parking lot.



Star Fleet Marina ★ 280 Grove Road ★ Kemah, Texas 77565

## January 2012 AIChE South Texas Section Meeting

The January meeting will be January 12, 2012 at Brady's Landing in Houston

The speaker will be Mike Watts from Halliburton, and the title of his presentation is: "Hydraulic Fracturing: History and Impact"

Hydraulic Fracturing has had a significant impact on gas and oil production in the U.S., but it is also controversial and opposed by some groups and individuals based on environmental concerns. This should be a very interesting presentation by an industry expert on hydraulic fracturing.

Bio - "Mike Watts is the Director of Fracture Stimulation Affairs for Halliburton Energy Services, Inc. Over his 30 year career with Halliburton he has served as Vice-President of Business Development RTA, Director of Strategic Sourcing, Country Manager for Russia, Integrated Solutions Manager for Latin America and has served in a variety of other positions including 10 years in field operations. Mike holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, 1981, from Auburn University."

Abstract - "Hydraulic fracturing has drawn much attention over the past several years due to the dramatic increase in hydrocarbon production from shale formations. These formations are often located near populated areas so the entire fracturing process has become more visible. Although it has been routinely implemented for over 60 years, fracturing is widely misunderstood leading to unwarranted suspicion and fear. This presentation by a fracturing expert will cover both the history and the techniques used to precisely monitor and control the process. It will also show how critical fracturing is to our global energy future."

## AIChE South Texas Section 2012 Meetings & Speakers

Meeting Date	Location	Speaker	Topic	Sponsor/Comment
January 12, 2012	Brady's Landing	Mike Watts, Halliburton	Hydraulic Fracturing: History and Impact	
February 2, 2012	Pelazzio Banquets	Purvin & Gertz	Shale Gas Production impact on Petrochemical Industry	
March 2, 2012	Brady's Landing	Charlie Miller	Energy Optimization Studies	Sponsored by Epcon International In conjunction with Energy Forum
April 5, 2012	TBD	TBD	TBD	
May 3, 2012	TBD	TBD	TBD	

## Professional Engineer Review Course Offered

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STS-AIChE and the University of Houston are teaming up to offer a Chemical Engineering PE exam review course for people planning to sit for the exam in April next year. The course will be held on Friday afternoons from 4:00 until 7:00 pm at the **University of Houston Energy Research Park** beginning on **January 20, 2012 and end on April 6**. The cost for course will be \$795 for non-members and \$595 for members of AIChE and STS-AIChE, books included. There will be a discount for students that already have the textbooks that will be used. If you are interested in taking the course please contact Dale Embry at [dale@embrys.net](mailto:dale@embrys.net) or [Dale.L.Embry@ConocoPhillips.com](mailto:Dale.L.Embry@ConocoPhillips.com) , (281)-685-8201 (mobile) to get more information.

The classes will be recorded for registered students that miss sessions and available for review until the end of May.

So how does one become a professional engineer in Texas? The ultimate arbitrator of licensure is the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, TBPE. The three basic requirements for registration are Education, Examinations and Experience which are outlined on their web page [http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/lic\\_basic.htm](http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/lic_basic.htm). Once you believe you have met the requirements, you will need to apply to the TBPE for a license (see <http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/downloads.htm#license>). Note that registration for the April exam opens on November 15th and is open until December 16th.

### Education

As a member of AIChE you probably meet all of the education requirements. You must have the equivalent of a bachelor degree in engineering or related sciences. If your degree is not from an ABET certified program, there are some additional requirements to show the equivalence of your degree to the TBPE. You will also be required to provide the TBPE certified copies of your transcripts sent directly from the educational institutions.

### Examinations

All applicants for licensure will be required to take an open-book ethics exam. Most applicants must also take and pass the National Council of Examiners for Engineering & Surveying (NCEES) Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination and the NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination. There are some situations in Texas where one or both tests may be waived (see [http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/lic\\_waiver.htm](http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/lic_waiver.htm)). You should take the exams if you are interested in applying to other states, since other jurisdictions may or may not have the same waiver requirements.

The FE exam may be taken any time after degree requirements have been met. A person must apply to take the PE exam and will not be eligible to take the exam until they have met all of the experience requirements outlined in the next section. In most cases, this means that a person will take the PE exam 4 or more years after graduating with their bachelor degree. That is plenty of time to lose your test taking skills and for many parts of your chemical engineering education to fade.

### Experience

In order to apply for a PE license, you will have to have at least 4 years of active engineering work that demonstrates your engineering skills, knowledge and judgment. The board may allow experience credit for advanced degrees. They may also require additional experience due to your degree program or request for exam waivers. You should check the TBPE web site for specifics.

What work experience will be deemed acceptable for licensure and how does one document that experience? According to the board, the most common acceptable experience is for design and analysis of engineering systems. There is a lot of leeway in the interpretation of what constitutes design and analysis. The expectation is that as you progress, you will take on more responsibility for either a larger portion of a project or will be designing more complex systems. In chemical engineering practice this might mean that during early assignments you will be sizing equipment and performing heat and material balances according to some general guidelines. In the early years, it is expected that your work will be closely supervised and reviewed by another professional engineer. As you gain experience, you will be expected to take on the role of defining the limits and reviewing the guidelines.

Your experience should show increased capability and responsibility over the years. You will also have to have references to each work period you document.

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## Letter from Outgoing YP Chair...

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Hello Young Professionals,

Season's Greetings! What an amazing year it has been and we have accomplished so much this year, though we still have the December cruise meeting to go. We organized a host of YP activities this year and also launched new initiatives like plant tours, YPGiving and featured YP of the month series, all of which encouraged more YP participation and introduced some new faces. I am also very excited about our upcoming December cruise meeting which is organized by the Young Professionals, we have put in a lot of effort into it and we look forward to putting up a spectacular show.

All this has been the result of a collective effort and I can't imagine doing any of this without the support of my fellow YP board members. I would like to thank our YP Board members: Kelly Richardson, Lisa Swanson, Bryan Pourchot, Carlos Salamanca, Linton Wong, Matthew Johnson, Heather Gilligan, Steve Van Pelt, Bala Gottimukkala, Nemoy Rau and many many other YPs who volunteered on all our events. I would also like to thank the STS Executive Committee for their continued guidance and support. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to AIChE's ChEnected team (John Vasko and Douglas Clark) for giving our events wide coverage.

I'd like to reiterate that your experience with our YP group is what you want it to be and all our activities offer you the platform to achieve the same – whether it's exploring your leadership capabilities, sharpening your technical skills, expanding your network, etc., it's just countless. You have to get involved to figure it out!

The time has finally come where I must hand over the reigns of our Young Professionals group to our new YP Chair, Lisa Swanson and Vice-Chair, Carlos Salamanca – congratulations and best wishes to both of you in your new roles! I sincerely hope that all of you will give the same support and guidance to Lisa and Carlos that you gave me. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and represent you – it's been a privilege.

Adios!

Jayce Mathews

YP Chair, 2011

An advertisement for Chemstations. The top half shows a schematic process flow diagram with various tanks, pipes, and a central green box labeled 'RUN'. Below the diagram, the text 'We're on it.' is written in large orange letters. Underneath that is a blue button with the text 'SEE CHEMCAD IN ACTION' and a right-pointing arrow. The bottom right corner features a close-up of a man's face, looking towards the left. At the bottom left is the Chemstations logo, which consists of a stylized 'C' made of two overlapping shapes (one blue, one orange) followed by the word 'Chemstations' in a sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is the tagline 'Engineering advanced' in a smaller, italicized font.

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## Young Professionals visit Rice University

The YP board members visited the AIChE student chapter at Rice University. The YPs gave an info session on the benefits on staying involved with AIChE after graduation and also gave testimonies. The YPs were represented by Jayce Mathews, Kelly Richardson, Bryan Pourchot and Steve Van Pelt. Ken Cox, our STS Chair and also an advisor to Rice University student chapter was also present during the meeting. The YPs would like to thank Suchitra Badrinarayanan, Rice University Student Chapter President for facilitating this visit. Below are few snaps from the meeting:





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## 2010 South Texas Section Awards Presented at October 6th STS Meeting

The 2010 Annual South Texas Section Awards were presented at the October 6th STS Monthly Dinner Meeting which was held at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, Texas. A total of four Annual STS Awards were presented. These were the Best Applied Paper, Best Fundamental Paper, Outstanding Young Professional, and Distinguished Service Awards.

### 2010 STS Best Paper Awards:

The 2010 STS-AIChE Best Papers Competition had a total of seven papers submitted with four (4) in the Applied category and three (3) in the Fundamental category. The papers were judged by a Committee chaired by Anand Nilekar of Shell (Westhollow Research Center) and composed of the following judges:

Akhil Agarawl  
David Denley  
Elizabeth Endler  
Ray French  
Himanshu Joshi  
Anand Nilekar  
Mike Reynolds

Saurabh Chaugule  
Aleksandra Dominik  
Allison Falender  
Puneet Gupta  
Amrit Kalra  
Patrick Malone  
Vish Subramaniam

The South Texas Section – AIChE is grateful for the time and effort that those members of the Best Papers Judging Committee gave in this effort.

**South Texas Section AIChE's Best Applied Paper Award for 2010** is titled "*Electrolyte Solutions Improve Nanoparticle Transfer from Oil to Water*" and was published in *J. Phys. Chem. C*, Vol. 114, pages 19901–19907 (2010). The authors are Hitesh G. Bagaria, Gautam C. Kini, and Michael S. Wong.



Hitesh Bagaria (L) receives the 2010 STS-AIChE Best Applied Paper Award from STS Chair Ken Cox (R).



Gautam Kini (L) receives the 2010 STS-AIChE Best Applied Paper Award from STS Chair Ken Cox (R).

## 2010 South Texas Section Awards Presented at October 6th STS Meeting—Continued

**South Texas Section AIChE's Best Fundamental Paper Award for 2010** is titled "Brownian Motion of Stiff Filaments in a Crowded Environment" and was published in *Science*, Vol. 330, pages 1804-1807 (24 - December, 2010). The authors are Nikta Fakhri, Frederick C. MacKintosh, Brahim Lounis, Laurent Cognet, and Matteo Pasquali.



Matteo Pasquali (L) receives the 2010 STS-AIChE Best Fundamental Paper Award

### STS Outstanding Young Professional Recipient for 2010 - Carol Schmidt

Carol is a Process Engineer residing in her native town of Houston, TX. She currently works for Waldemar S. Nelson as a Process Engineer, EIT. She works mainly on offshore topsides FEED projects and pilot test projects for offshore use. Currently, she is excited to take a large part in the MODEC bid for two TLPs off the coast of Australia.

She graduated from University of Houston in 2007 from the Cullen College of Engineering with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Mathematics. As a student, she served several internships at Bayer Materials Science in the HCl unit, learning the daily operations side of the chemicals industry. She also worked with Peter Strasser in a Fuel Cell Laboratory where she was able to design and create a combinatorial catalyst testing station. She formed a ChemE car team at UH and took her team to the National Competition.

Carol remains active in AIChE, this year serving as Secretary for STS-AIChE (2010-2011 term). She was Chair of the STS-AIChE Young Professionals in 2009. Carol has received the 2010 STS Young Chemical Engineer of the Year and the 2010 AIChE Silver Star—National Volunteer of the Year Award. She does this through the help of her fellow board members and her husband. In September 2010, Carol gave birth to her first son.

She enjoys long walks along the beach and conversations that range from technical knowledge and breakthroughs to Monty Python, guns and wine. AIChE is a great place to do all of these.



Carol Schmidt (L) receives the 2010 STS-AIChE Outstanding Young Professional Award from STS Chair Ken Cox (R).



## 2010 South Texas Section Awards Presented at October 6th STS Meeting—Continued

### STS Distinguished Service Award Recipient for 2010 - David Karesh

David has a BSChE from Northwestern University and an MBA from LSU. While in college he participated in the AIChE Student Chapter and CO-OP'ed at American Cyanamid. He is a Senior Member of AIChE and a PE in Texas. David has worked for Stauffer Chemical, Exxon Chemical (as an onsite contractor), Elk Corp (made asphalt shingles which involves a lot of traditional unit operations), and Jacobs Engineering (1991) and is now 1 week shy of 20 years in the Process Department. While working for Exxon in Baton Rouge, he found that the natives were friendly and married one but she's actually from New Orleans. David and his wife are the proud parents of a son and a daughter. His father was a very active member of AIChE in New Jersey for many years and even volunteered to help out at the OTC a few times.

What follows now is what David provided when he was asked for a bio. As with many things that he has done while serving as an STS Officer, it is definitely non-traditional. These are mostly David's words:

To lay the blame where it belongs - it all started when he complained to Jim Morris about the need for the AIChE Membership number to register for a STS meeting. Next thing he knew, he had volunteered for PEPO Co-Chair with Steve Haney. David spent about two years as PEPO co-chair, organizing monthly workshops. In those days, the Executive Committee met during the workshops (*it kept the meetings a lot shorter!*) and so when David was approached to run for Secretary, it seemed like the best way, or perhaps the only way to get out of the Workshop business. Out of the frying pan, I believe they say... But he lost, and continued on with the PEPO.

Treasurer - Somebody must have been fooled into thinking he was competent, as next he was drafted to take over the treasury when it became vacant. David then stood for election and won. Even now, people still remember his election bio, where he disclosed that his wife said that she trusted him because she knew he was too cheap to have a girlfriend, and he promised to be equally protective of the STS's funds. That time the election was successful, but a year into the two year term, he came to the aid of the STS once again, when he was drafted to run for Chair - Elect, and achieved electoral success once again. No catchy slogan, this time, but no opponent, either.

Somewhere during Treasurer/Chair-Elect/Chair/Past-Chair, our regular meeting spot at the hotel next to the Astrodome was sold, the price tripled, and so we started rotating the meeting around town to give everybody a shot at more convenience. Then with the help of some very dedicated volunteers, we moved the section into the 20th century and started taking credit cards for meetings. This was also when we started our relationship with Aramco Services, which resulted in our first sponsored meeting, an innovation that has become very successful and very popular as it continued to grow with his successors. That was also the time of the Greenway Plaza December meeting, where we got Jack Bacon [NASA] to talk about Chemical Engineering and the Space Program, and we had a video feed watching a live shuttle launch with narration lined-up. Unfortunately, the launch was scrubbed that night, but it was a great meeting none-the-less.

Past Chair: Here David was really unconventional as he published a help wanted e-mail soliciting volunteers for STS Officers and Executive Committee Candidates. It was a really neat and interesting move.

Past-Past Chair: After the three year Chair series came to a close, David was promoted to the best job in the section, Past-Past Chair. As a past-past chair, he has continued to serve on a number of the nominating committees, administered several of our elections, including driving last year's turnout past the threshold to make the bylaws election valid. He still carries everything he knows about the STS on a flash drive and provides discrete council and the occasional archival documentation.

David volunteered for the OTC and was also an ace-recruiter, talking his dad into working the OTC for several years and David continues to serve as Office Liaison at Jacobs (Home of other past chairs of the STS and the National President-Elect)

During most of these years of excitement, he was also an active volunteer and lay leader at his place of worship.

David is also an avid bicyclist, participating in a weekly 40 mile group ride around Houston.

As Dennis Griffith knows, David has another life as a Musician in town. He has played with many of the various adult amateur bands and orchestras around town, does occasional gigs around town, and was part of the back-up band for Beyoncé's National Anthem during the Super Bowl in Houston. Currently he is most active with a Horn Ensemble, Esprit de Cor de Houston, <Shameless self-promotion> The Esprit de Cor is currently doing church services around Houston. *Talk to him if you are interested.*

By the way: David used to fly his own plane from Plano to Ennis when he worked for Elk Corp to get to work. Definitely non-traditional.



David Karesh (L) receives the 2010 STS-AIChE Distinguished Service Award from STS Chair Ken Cox (R).

## 2010 South Texas Section Awards Presented at November STS Meeting

### STS Special Service Award Recipient for 2010 - Teresa Jurgens-Kowal

Dr. Teresa Jurgens-Kowal, P.E. was presented with a South Texas Section AIChE's 2010 Special Service Award at the November 3 Monthly STS Dinner Meeting for her efforts in regard to the AIChE South Texas Section – Professional Development Workshops & Newsletter Advertising Sales.



STS Chair Ken Cox (L) presents the 2010 STS Special Service Award to Teresa Jurgens-Kowal (R).



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# South Texas Section AICHE

STS AICHE  
P. O. Box 2160  
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## 2011 Officers and Contact Information

### Officers

**Chair** Kenneth R. Cox  
[sts-chair@aiche.org](mailto:sts-chair@aiche.org)

**Chair Elect** James Turner  
[sts-chairelect@aiche.org](mailto:sts-chairelect@aiche.org)

**Past Chair** Alan Rossiter, Rossiter & Assoc.  
[sts-pastchair@aiche.org](mailto:sts-pastchair@aiche.org)

**Secretary** Carol Schmidt  
[sts-secretary@aiche.org](mailto:sts-secretary@aiche.org)

**Treasurer** Katherine Leskin  
[sts-treasurer@aiche.org](mailto:sts-treasurer@aiche.org)

### Executive Committee

**Position 1: Education**  
Heather Gilligan  
[sts-position1@aiche.org](mailto:sts-position1@aiche.org)

**Position 2: Outreach**  
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**Position 3: Communications**  
Jay Chandrasekaran  
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**Position 4: Human Resources**  
John Super  
[sts-position4@aiche.org](mailto:sts-position4@aiche.org)

### Volunteers

**Arrangements:** Richard Newman,  
David Silarski

**Membership:** David Silarski

**Young Professionals:** Jayce Mathews  
([sts-yp@aiche.org](mailto: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!

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

### Newsletter Editors

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