

# The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 12, Issue 1, September 1999

## First Meeting of the 1999-2000 Year

Yes!, it is time once again to start our “year” with the annual social.

As always, this meeting is a time to come together and just have a little fun. Come and tell your best “What I did for summer Vacation” story.

Below is the list of meeting dates for the upcoming year. Subjects and speakers will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Please call Keith Henderson at 846-6407 {Albert-Garudy} or your Company Contact before the meeting to reserve a place if possible.

## Meeting September 14, 1999 at Steak & Ale - 3870 Veterans Blvd. Metairie, LA

Cost is \$15/person

5:00 - 6:00 P.M.	Social Hour
6:00 - 6:45	Dinner
6:45 - 7:00	Meeting
7:00 - 7:30	Social Continues
7:30 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

Future and Proposed Meetings	
October 19	- TBA
November 16	- TBA
December	- No meeting due to the holidays
January 18	- TBA
February 15	- TBA
March 14	- TBA
April 11	- Elections, Topic TBA

If you have a suggestion, please call Greg Tragitt at 837-9228. All meetings are subject to change, please read future newsletters for updates.

## Chair’s Corner

The Chairmen’s Corner will return with the next issue.

## AIChE’s 50th Career Fair to Aid Members and Employers

Institute members and employers attending the Annual Meeting at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel in Dallas November 1 & 2 can benefit greatly from the fair planned by AIChE’s Career Services Department.

AIChE’s career fair is a substantial benefit for any AIChE member who wants to explore career options.

Members attending the fair are encouraged to submit their resume into our new on-line Career Fair Resume Database accessible to participating employers only. Early resume submission will allow employers to review member credentials prior to the fair. On-site interviews will be conducted with qualified candidates.

(See “Career Fair” on page 3)

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# The Reactor

*New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

## ***A.I.Ch.E. New Orleans Section - Local Officers***

### *Chairman*

**Linda Bergeron**      **OxyChem**      **783-7365**

### *Vice-Chairman*

**Greg Tragitt**      **KBC**      **837-9228**

### *Secretary*

**Keith Henderson**      **Albert-Garudy**      **846-6407**

### *Treasurer*

**Brian Mitchell**      **Tulane**      **864-8257**

### *Membership Chair & Director*

**Bill Boutall**      **Wink**      **243-4539**

### *Finance Chair & Director*

**Tom Brumfield**      **Shell**      **465-7125**

### *Professional Development*

**Dr. J.B. Phillips**      **XXXX**      **xxx-xxxx**

Several positions are open within the section for those who would like to take on a leadership role within the section. Please contact, the Section Chair or Vice-Chair listed above if interested in serving.

## ***A.I.Ch.E. on the Internet***

Visit the New Orleans Section Home page at:

**URL:**<http://www.tulane.edu/~bmitche/aiche.html>

Also check out the National AIChE Home page at:

**URL:**<http://www.aiche.org>

Anyone interested in this activity, please contact

**Brian Mitchell (AIChE Webmaster) at**

**262-4502, [brian@che.che.tulane.edu](mailto:brian@che.che.tulane.edu) or**

**Anthony Fregosi, [Anthony\\_Fregosi@fo.cytotec.com](mailto:Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cytotec.com)**

If your company does not have a contact, please contact **Jim Dean at 576-7174**

Company contacts act as a contact for AIChE inside their own company.

***New Members*** are always welcome at **A.I.Ch.E. New Orleans**, local dues are only \$12 per year and includes this newsletter.

Please call **Bill Boutall at 243-4539**

## **COMPANY CONTACT LIST**

These people are aware of our activities. If you think you have missed a newsletter, activity date etc., please contact them.

<i>Company/Person</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<b><i>Chevron Chemical</i></b>	Contact Needed
<b><i>Cytec Industries</i></b> Anthony Fregosi	431-6598
<b><i>DEQ Baton Rouge</i></b> Freddie Touro	504-765-0199
<b><i>Energy</i></b> Jim Dean	576-7174
<b><i>EPG, Inc.</i></b> Leon Barnet	445-0858
<b><i>KBC Advanced Technology</i></b> Don Hoppens	837-9228
<b><i>Monsanto - Luling</i></b> Mike Valentine	785-4511
<b><i>Occidental Chemical</i></b> Linda Bergeron	783-7365
<b><i>Petro- Marine Engineering, Inc.</i></b> Robert Brown	364-4257
<b><i>Shell Chemical</i></b>	Contact Needed
<b><i>Steimle &amp; Associates</i></b> Dr. Steve Steimle	831-2574
<b><i>Tulane University</i></b> Dr. Brian Mitchell	865-5620
<b><i>Union Carbide</i></b>	Contact Needed
<b><i>Walk, Haydel &amp; Assoc.</i></b> Jasper Westbrook	586-8111
<b><i>Wink Engineering, Inc.</i></b> Bill Boutall	246-7924

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## CAREER FAIR

Those unable to attend the fair may submit their resume for distribution to all participating employers. For details visit our Web site at [www.aiche.org/employment](http://www.aiche.org/employment). For information, call (212) 591-7670; or e-mail Herb Scheffel at [herbs@aiiche.org](mailto:herbs@aiiche.org) to learn more about this cost-effective and efficient method for identifying qualified AIChE members seeking employment opportunities.

## Tulane Short Course

In the fall of 1999, the Tulane Institute for Macromolecular Engineering and Science plans to offer a two day short course on the Chemistry and Properties of Polymeric Materials. In particular, we plan to address topics such as:

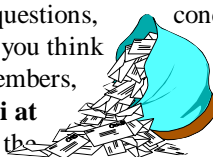
- Polymerization
- Molecular Weight Distribution and Determination
- Thermodynamics
- Kinetic Theory
- Processing
- Structure Property Relations
- Rheology
- Membranes

We estimate the cost including lunches, coffee breaks and one dinner, to be \$400.00. Travel and accommodations are the responsibility of the participants.

The course will be offered, provided we have a minimum of ten participants. Participants will receive a certificate of completion of twelve professional development credit hours.

(See "Tulane Course" on page 5)

If you have any questions, information that you think interest to the members, **Anthony Fregosi** at **431-6598** to have it placed in the newsletter.



## Editor's Soap Box

First of all, as newsletter editor, I would like to say I hope everyone had a good summer.

I believe we have an exciting year coming up. The section is in good hands under the leadership of Linda, Greg, Keith and Brian.

The section has gained some new members—and I would like to welcome them to our group and extend a personal invitation to attend a future meeting. I know once you do, you will enjoy coming to many more. The section has always enjoyed good programming and networking opportunities.

Through the section members effort, the New Orleans Section was awarded the "1999 Catalyst Grassroots Award". Greg accepted the award on behalf of the section at the AIChE Officers Conference held on June 6th. (Please see the story on Page 6).

This is the second award our section has received in the last 4 years! In 1995 the section won the "Randall D. Sheeline Award", for excellence in public relations activities.

In addition, the section has participated in the hosting of two national spring meetings and an officer's conference! As you can see the section is very active on both a local and national level.

I invite you to become more active in the programming and leadership of the section. The return on your investment of time will far exceed your efforts.

In just three more years YOUR section will celebrate a milestone in its history—namely, its 70th anniversary. Our section has a long and rich history. It is the third oldest section in the Institute with only the Chicago and Delaware Valley Sections able to claim being older. As such, the national organization rightfully looks to our section for leadership. With your help, the section has a bright future, as we enter the 21st century.

**Please join us at a future meeting—and be part of the excitement that is Chemical Engineering!**

**Anthony F. Fregosi, Editor**

# The Reactor

## AIChE Baton Rouge Section Sponsored Control Valve Class

The Baton Rouge Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers will offer a day long class on "Control Valve Selection and Sizing". Mr. Kelly O'Neill from Flowserve's (formerly Valtek) home office in Utah has graciously offered to come in and teach the class. AIChE has approved seven (7) PDH credits to be earned toward continued registration as a Professional Engineer.

This class will be held at the Best Western Richmond Suites in Baton Rouge on Friday, October 29, 1999 from 8 to 5 with an hour for lunch and several breaks. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. The cost of the course is \$50 for members of any engineering society or ISA and is \$55 for non-members.

In order to reserve a spot in the class, send a check for the full amount made out to AIChE – Baton Rouge Section to:

J. L. Dalferes P.E.  
1358 Wellington Drive  
Baton Rouge, La., 70815

*(See "Valve Class" on page 7)*

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### Newsletter Advertisement Charges

	\$/Year	
Size	\$/Issue	9 Issues
Business Card (2" x 3.3")	\$ 16.00	\$ 100.00
1/4 page (5" x 3.5)	\$ 40.00	\$ 250.00
1/2 page (10" x 7.5")	\$ 80.00	\$ 500.00
Full Page (10" x 7.5")	\$ 160.00	\$ 1000.00

To order an advertisement, send the original of the advertisement (e.g. business card) and a check made out to "AIChE" New Orleans Section to Anthony Fregosi, Cytec Industries 10800 River Road Westwego LA 70094

## Other Meetings

### 1999

Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference - San Antonio, TX.

**September 16-17, 1999**

44th Safety in Ammonia Plants & Related Facilities Symposium - Seattle, Washington.

**September 26-30, 1999**

AIChE Annual Meeting - Dallas, TX.

**October 31- November 5, 1999**

### 2000

Spring National Meeting - Atlanta, GA

**March 26 - 30, 2000**

45th Safety in Ammonia Plants & Related Facilities Symposium - Tucson, AZ.

**September 11 - 14, 2000**

AIChE Annual Meeting - Los Angeles, CA.

**November 12 - 17, 2000**

### N. O. Section Finances 1998-1999 (As of March 9, 1999)

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 4,471
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Dues/Newsletter Ads	\$ 2,294
Section Allowance	
Meals	1,005
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,299</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Meals	\$ 936
Newsletter	880
Awards	100
Supplies & Postage	14
Community	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,955</b>
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	<b>\$ 5,815</b>
<b><u>Net Gain/(Loss)</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,344</b>

## Tier 2 Motor Vehicle Emission Standards and Gasoline Sulfur Control Requirements

[A position paper approved by the AIChE, Government Relations Committee—Ed.]

### I. Comprehensive Regulatory Initiative Approach

AIChE endorses the approach EPA calls the “comprehensive regulatory initiative.” This is the first time that vehicles and fuels have been treated as a system working together, and AIChE commends the EPA for combining fuel composition and vehicle emission controls.

### II. Level of Sulfur Reduction Needed to Reduce NOx

The proposed decrease of sulfur in gasoline will help prevent the catalytic converters in automobiles from becoming “poisoned,” and will thus allow them to remain effective at removing nitrogen oxides (NOx) and other pollutants. It is important, however, to determine if the removal of sulfur to the proposed level of 30 ppm will offer a significant improvement in air quality by reducing the generation of NOx. While it appears that the decrease of sulfur to 80 ppm will offer significant NOx reductions, a further decrease to 30 ppm appears to offer little incremental

(See “Position” on page 6)

## You might be a chemical engineer if:

[Has anyone ever told you “it figures” when you told them you were a chemical engineer. If so, you may have given your profession away by exhibiting some of the habits below!—Ed.]

- The microphone or visual aids at a meeting don’t work and you rush up to the front to fix it.
- You’ve modified your can-opener to be microprocessor driven.
- You think “cuddling” is simply an unproductive application of heat exchange.
- You’ve actually used every single function on your graphing calculator.
- You’ve ever described your spouse in terms of MTBF.
- You can name 6 Star Trek episodes.

(See You might be... on page 6)

## Section Board Meeting

The section held its annual board meeting August 16th at Mike Anderson’s in Metairie. The upcoming years activities were discussed along with other section matters.

(Continued from page 3)

## Tulane Course

For further information contact:

Professor Daniel DeKee  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
(504) 865-5620; fax, (504) 865-6744 or e-mail at [ddekee@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu](mailto:ddekee@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu).

## WEB LINKS

Here are some web links you might find interesting:

Physical Property Data Software by G&P Engineering:  
[www.gpengineeringsoft.com](http://www.gpengineeringsoft.com)

Ancestry searches: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Health and Safety (OSHA): [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

Health and Safety: [www.safetyonline.net](http://www.safetyonline.net)

Environmental Information (EPA): [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

If anyone has come across an particularly good site and would like to share it, please e-mail it to Anthony Fregosi at [Anthony\\_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com](mailto:Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com).

## ***The Reactor***

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### **You might be....**

—You've ever considered installing a scrubber on your chimney.

—The only jokes you receive are through e-mail.

—Your idea of good interpersonal communication means getting the decimal point in the right place.

—You automatically associate the words "sexy", "beautiful" and "new butterfly valve".

—You look forward to Christmas only to put together the kid's toys.

—You've used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts.

—Your ideal evening consists of fast-forwarding through the latest sci-fi movie looking of technical inaccuracies.

### **NEW ORLEANS SECTION WINS CATALYST AWARD**

The 1999 *Catalyst* Grassroots Award was presented to the New Orleans Section by former AIChE president Vern Weekman on June 6 at the Officers Conference in Dearborn, Michigan. The award recognizes a local section that has substantially increased the number of members participating in the *Catalyst* grassroots advocacy program during the preceding year and made significant efforts to recruit *Catalyst* members.

The *Catalyst* program encourages AIChE members to contact their elected officials on issues that impact the profession. The government Relations Committee sponsors the award, which consists of an engraved pewter tray and \$200. Gregory Tragitt, the New Orleans section vice chair, accepted the award on behalf of the section.

"During this Officers Conference I have realized that I have taken for granted many of the benefits that I have received from AIChE, including the *Catalyst* program,"

Tragitt said.

"Legislators need to hear the Institute's views, and we have significant competition for their attention. I am proud that the New Orleans Section received the 1999 *Catalyst* Grassroots Award," he continued.

The New Orleans Section increased their participation in the *Catalyst* program from four to 26 section members under the leadership of section chair Anthony Fregosi. The section also published news articles that highlighted the importance of government relations and *Catalyst* activities to the chemical engineering profession.

[The section should be very proud of itself for winning this award. Let's keep up our support of the *Catalyst* grassroots advocacy program. Our very profession depends on having our voice heard.—Ed.]

(Continued from page 5)

### **Position**

improvement. Thus, mandating the removal of sulfur content to below 80 ppm may not have the intended effect on further reducing NOx pollutants. It is also important to note that the impact of sulfur on catalyst performance seems to be car model specific; sulfur is more detrimental to NOx removal on some models than on others, which suggests that vehicle motor engineering and further refinement of catalytic converters may be part of the solution. Finally, the impact of sulfur on catalytic converters under both start-up conditions (when the car is first started and before it reaches peak performance) and steady state operation (i.e., normal operation at a steady speed) should also be considered when determining the final levels of allowable sulfur in gasoline.

### **III. Timing of Implementation**

Considering the importance of the comprehensive

(See "Position" on page 7)

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## Position

regulatory initiative, it is also imperative to consider the pollutants that are generated in the refining process that remove sulfur from fuels. Processes used to remove sulfur to the level of 30 ppm are currently very energy intensive and produce greenhouse gases. Sulfur appears naturally in crude oils, and some crudes naturally contain less sulfur than others. Those refiners with ample access to supplies of low-sulfur crude most likely will be able to reduce their gasoline sulfur level by blending with the low-sulfur crude. However, considering that low-sulfur crude is expensive and not available to all refiners, most refiners will have two options to remove sulfur from their fuel products: the feed to the fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) units (used to enhance octane performance of gasoline) can be desulfurized, or the gasoline produced in the FCC units can be desulfurized by the hydrotreating process.

Novel ways to remove sulfur (such as with biotreating) are currently being developed. Allowing time for the new, less energy-intensive methods to be developed appears to be prudent if one wishes to improve the overall environmental impact of gasoline production and use. If companies are required now to install process units that are very capital intensive (and also produce significant greenhouse gases), little incentive will exist for later switching to less energy-intensive processes that will most likely be available in the next decade.

Considering the above concerns, the time of implementation is very important. AIChE suggests that a longer timeframe be considered for implementation, which will allow further studies to proceed to quantify the environmental improvements and marginal costs associated with reducing sulfur levels. A further advantage is that companies would not be compelled to lock in a less desirable technology for fuel desulfurization. Finally, allowing additional time for the onset of implementation will ensure minimal disruption to the nation's fuel supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

Sincerely,

Basil C. Doumas, Ph.D.  
Chair, Government Relations Committee

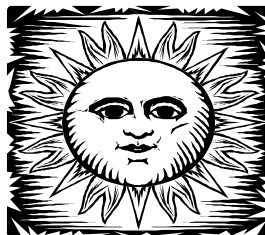
(Continued from page 4)

## Valve Class

A map showing the hotel location and more information will be sent in your confirmation letter. If you are interested, please sign up early, as attendance will be limited and on a first come first served basis (80 max.). The fee will be refundable if the cancellation request is received in the mail by September 29th which will also be the last sign up date.

Out of towners may reserve rooms at a special rate beginning at \$84 by calling the hotel at **1-800-332-2582**. The address is **5668 Hilton Avenue**, near I-10 at College Drive. Be sure to state that you will be attending the class to receive the special rate.

Visit: [www.che.lsu.edu/braiche/index.htm](http://www.che.lsu.edu/braiche/index.htm) for more information.



**PLACE an AD *The Reactor!***

This could have been your ad. This newsletter is sent to over 350 chemical engineers in the New Orleans area seven to eight times each year.

If you would like to place an ad, please contact Anthony Fregosi at (504) 431-6598 or e-mail at [Anthony\\_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com](mailto:Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com).

Our ad rates are on Page 4.

## **Look What's Coming!**

Future issues of the *The Reactor* will feature articles on several topics of interest.

Along with our regular sections on Humor, Meeting updates and more!

# *The Reactor*



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*New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

Anthony F. Fregosi  
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Westwego, LA 70094

## **Dated Material Do Not Delay**

**To:**

**New Orleans Section, Winner of:**

**1995 “Randall D. Sheeline Award”, for excellence in public relations activities.  
1999 “Catalyst Grassroots Award”, for support of the grassroots advocacy program.**

### ***Meeting Notice!***

***Date: September 14, 1999  
Time: 5:00 P.M.  
Place: Steak & Ale  
3870 Veterans Blvd.  
Metairie, LA***



**“The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.”**

**— Ralph Waldo Emerson**