

The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 12, Issue 7, April 2000

Seventh (and Last) Meeting of the 1999-2000 Year

Jim Dean, Past Section Chairman and Fellow will be our speaker for the month of April. Jim will be speaking about "The New P.E. Exam".

Being that Jim has become one of the test writers for the exam, he has a lot of knowledge about how the exam is put together.

If you have thought of taking the exam, and would like to know more about it, this is a meeting that you should not miss.

Also tonight we will be:

Recognizing AIChE Fellows (the section invites all section members who are Fellows to attend)

Presentation of the Engineer of the Year (See Page 3)

Holding the Local Section Elections

Recongizing 50 year members

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

Future and Proposed Meetings

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

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Meeting April 11, 2000 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 and Election
7:00 - 7:30	Speaker, Jim Dean
7:30 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

Chairman's Corner

It amazing how time goes by so quickly, and that is the best way I can sum up the past year. I would like to thank the New Orleans Section AIChE for the opportunity to serve as Chair, and for the previous years in different offices. This has helped me broaden my Chemical Engineering experience outside of my workplace. I would like to thank the other officers for their service this past year: Greg Tragitt, Keith Henderson, and Brian Mitchell.

The year has been interesting and fun. One highlight of this year is the successful start of a mentoring program with Tulane University Chemical Engineering students. Both students and mentors are enjoying and benefiting from this program. A new activity for our Section was a plant trip that was shared with the Baton Rouge Section. The visit to LIGO was very interesting and well attended, with

(See Chairman on page 3)

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

Dr. Brian Mitchell **Tulane** **862-8257**

Membership Chair & Director

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

Finance Chair & Director

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

Professional Development

Dr. J.B. Phillips **Eng. Dev. Inst.** **825-7046**

Newsletter Editor

Anthony Fregosi **Cytec, Ind.** **431-6598**

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

Dr. Brian Mitchell (AIChE Webmaster) at

862-8257, brian@che.che.tulane.edu or

Anthony Fregosi, Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cytec.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>
<i>Chevron Chemical</i>	Contact Needed
<i>Cytec Industries</i> Anthony Fregosi	431-6598
<i>DEQ Baton Rouge</i> Freddie Touro	225-765-0202
<i>Entergy</i> Jim Dean	576-7174
<i>EDG, Inc.</i> Leon Barnett	445-0858
<i>KBC Advanced Technology</i> Don Hoppens	837-9228
<i>Monsanto - Luling</i> Mike Valentine	785-4511
<i>Nalco/Exxon</i> Joy Usener	1-800-366-2526 Ext. 1556
<i>Occidental Chemical</i> Linda Bergeron	783-7365
<i>Petro- Marine Engineering, Inc.</i> Robert Brown	364-4257
<i>Shell Chemical</i> Tom Brumfield	465-7125
<i>Steimle & Associates</i> Dr. Steve Steimle	831-2574
<i>Tulane University</i> Dr. Brian Mitchell	862-8257
<i>Union Carbide</i>	Contact Needed
<i>Walk, Haydel & Assoc.</i> Jasper Westbrook	586-8111
<i>W. H. Linder & Associates, Inc.</i> Herb Roussel, P.E.	835-2577 Ext. 3143
<i>Wink Engineering, Inc.</i> Bill Boutall	246-7924

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Chariman

about 90 people. As far as Professional Development, two of our meetings qualified for PD hours which is important now with the Professional Development requirements.

I look forward to continuing to participate in our Section. I hope we continue to see new faces at our events, as well as the regular members.

Sincerely,

Linda H. Bergeron

Chairman, 1999-2000

New Orleans Section AIChE

Engineer of the Year Announced

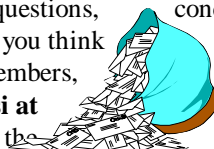
The Engineer of the Year for 1999-2000 is Anthony Fregosi. Anthony has worked for Cytec Industries for seven years. Presently he works in Process Safety Management in the Acrylonitrile Unit at the Waggaman, LA plant. Anthony graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1987.

Anthony has been very active in the New Orleans Section AIChE. He has held each of the four offices and has served on the General Arrangements Committee for National meetings held in New Orleans. A large contribution Anthony has made to our Section is with the

(See Award on page 4)

Editor's Soap Box

We have once again reached the end of another year of section activities. We hope you have enjoyed the programs that have been provided this year. If you

If you have any questions, information that you think interest to the members, **Anthony Fregosi at 431-6598** to have it placed in the  concerns or would be of please contact **431-6598** to newsletter.

have not had the opportunity to attend any of our programs, we hope you will make an effort to do so next year.

Our meeting last month was an example of how the section is always on the lookout for new and exciting events to host. If you did not attend, the section held a joint meeting with the Baton Rouge Section (with a couple of members coming from Texas!). We toured the LIGO facility in Livingston LA. LIGO is the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory. By all accounts everyone had a great time. The facility is still in the construction phase but is scheduled to go operational this year.

The accuracy of the measurement that LIGO is attempting to make was put in perspective by the facility director. He liked the task of shooting a laser beam from earth to the nearest star some 4 light years away and in that distance measuring the width of a human hair!

Until the observatory is operational, tours are routinely given. The facility has a mandate to conduct community outreach and educational work. LIGO is also considering how they can continue to offer tours after the observatory is on-line.

If you are the leader of a boy or girl scout troop or the teacher at a school, LIGO makes a great field trip. Contact Greg for information about how you can arrange a tour.

If you think of any programs you would like to see in the future, please contact Keith Henderson. Keith will be taking over the program duties for next year.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

The section will resume its meetings in September. Please look for the calendar of events in the next newsletter (to be published in August).

Hope to see you at a future meeting or section event.

Anthony F. Fregosi, Editor

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Award

newsletter,

The Reactor. For about five years, he has written, edited, and distributed this monthly newsletter. Prior to moving to Louisiana, he was active in the Peninsula Florida Section, holding several offices there.

The Engineer of the Year award recognizes Anthony for the work he does as a Chemical Engineer, and for the service and enthusiasm he has shown for AIChE. Please join me in congratulating Anthony on receiving this award.

Linda H. Bergeron
Chair, 1999-2000

Officers' Conference Brings AIChE's Leaders to the Steps of the Capitol

AIChE's 2000 Officers' Conference is being held from June 2-5, at the Wyndham Washington, DC.

(See Officer Conference on page 7)

Newsletter Advertisement Charges

Size	\$/Issue	\$/Year 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

2000

45th Safety in Ammonia Plants & Related Facilities Symposium - Tucson, AZ.
September 11 - 14, 2000

CCPS Conference 2000: Process Safety Incidents—Investigation Technology, Case Histories, and Lessons Learned - Orlando, FL
September 19 - 22, 2000

Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference (ECC) - Colorado Springs, CO
September 28 - 29, 2000

AIChE Annual Meeting - Los Angeles, CA.
November 12 - 17, 2000

2001

The 6th World Congress of Chemical Engineering - Melbourne, Australia
September 23 - 27, 2001

N. O. Section Finances 1999-2000 (As of March 27, 2000)

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,323
Income	
Dues/LES Proceeds	\$ 0
Section Allowance/Award/Misc.	232
Meals	534
Total	\$ 766
Expenses	
Meals	\$ 608
Newsletter	255
UNO Science Fair Registration/GNOEC Awards	100
Fees, Checks	0
Total	\$ 963
Ending Balance	\$ 6,126
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (197)

Humor

Are You Drinking Too Much Coffee?

Here's how you might be able to tell:

You're employee of the month at the local coffeehouse and you don't even work there.

You go to AA meetings just for the free coffee.

You're so wired you can pick up AM radio.

Your nervous twitch registers on the Richter scale.

The Taster's Choice couple wants to adopt you.

Your birthday is a national holiday in Brazil.

Odds and Ends

My neighbor was on vacation in Miami and decided to walk the beach and gather some shells. Mostly he found .38 specials and .357 magnums.

A window salesman phoned a customer. "Hello, Mr. Brown," said the sales representative. "I'm, calling because our company replaced all the windows in your house with our triple-glazed weather-tight windows over a year ago and you still haven't sent us a single payment."

The customer replied, "But you said they'd pay for *themselves* in 12 months."

Hit TV shows in Iraq:

"Suddenly Sanctions"

"Allah McBeal"

"Kids Are Forbidden From Saying Anything Darnedest"

"Buffy the Yankee Imperialist Dog Slayer"

"Mad About Everything"

The date 11-19-1999 was the last one in which all the digits were odd numbers; the next one will be 1/1/3111!

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be (the engineer obviously understands intensification).

[Ed—If you have any material for this column you would like to share, please send it to me. My email address is Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com]

Science Fair Report

Before reporting on the science fair award recipients, I would like to share some humor supplied by one of our members.

This appeared in The Onion (www.theonion.com)

Losing Science Fair Projects

1. Spiderman: Spider or Man?
2. Three stages of Goldfish Decomposition.
3. How I Made Shauna Not Pregnant No More Using Science.

All kidding aside, the following report was filed by Brian regarding the recent science fair.

As in previous years, the New Orleans Section recognized two outstanding projects at the Greater New Orleans Science & Engineering Fair. Two \$50 awards were made to the best projects in engineering, with emphasis on chemical engineering.

In the Senior Division, Brian Gardner, a junior at Benjamin Franklin High School, won an award for his project entitled "Leaching Ores with Acid."

John Stanton, a seventh grader at Christian Brothers School, also received a \$50 award for his project on the "Measurement of Ascorbic Acid in Fruit Juices with Time/Temperature Variables."

Projects were judged on March 14, 2000 at the University of New Orleans Lakefront Arena by Jim Dean and Brian Mitchell, and prizes were awarded at the Award Ceremony on the UNO campus on Thursday, March 16, 2000.

Thanks to Brian and Jim for serving as judges again this year. Note: If you would like to serve as a judge at next years event, please contact Greg Tragitt, Brian Mitchell or Jim Dean.

Award Winner

Jeffrey Siirola is this year's recipient of the George Lappin National Program Committee Service Award.

This award is presented by the Executive Committee of the National Program Board in honor of George Lappin. (George was a member of the Baton Rouge Section) The criteria for the award include meritorious service on behalf of AIChE's national programming, dedication to the chemical engineering profession, and a commitment to the sharing and exchange of technical information and the spirit of volunteerism.

Siirola is currently a technology fellow at the Chemicals Technology Group of Eastman Chemical. He received his PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Utah in 1967. After graduation, he took his first job at Eastman Kodak in Rochester, New York in 1966. He has worked at Kodak/Eastman for his entire career with the exception of a three-year stint with the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972.

Siirola has had a long and decorated career as a chemical engineer. AIChE has recognized him numerous times for his service to the Institute. He won the Computing Practice Award of AIChE's Computing and Systems Technology Division in 1991 and was named a fellow of the Institute in 1996. His wide scope of interests in the field include artificial intelligence, symbolic computer programming, and chemical engineering education.

On the programming front, Siirola has headed an extensive list of sessions for the Institute at Spring National and Annual Meetings. These include (but are not limited to) his posts as Topical Conference Chair of Process Systems Engineering in 1999, Conference Co-Chair of AIChE's Seventh International Conference on Process Systems Engineering in 2000, and session chair at many AIChE meetings in the 1980s. He has also been recognized for his expertise by the NSF, which has named him to several panels exploring early career development for chemical engineering faculty, environmentally friendly engineering, manufacturing research, and design theory and methodology.

Huntsman Corporation and Rohm and Haas Pledge Funding to 21st Century Campaign

Rohm and Haas Company and the Huntsman Corporation have each pledged \$200,000 to the AIChE Foundation as a result of The 21st Century Campaign. These funds will allow the Institute to continue its critical work in training chemical engineers, finding new solutions to major environmental and safety problems, and improving public understanding of the profession and the industry.

J. Lawrence Wilson, the retired chairman and CEO of the 90-year-old Rohm and Haas Company, is a member of the Campaign Executive Committee. He believes that "AIChE's leadership role in the profession will prove invaluable as we move into this millennium continually facing new challenges in our businesses and personal lives."

The Huntsman Corporation is the United States' largest privately held chemical company. Jon M. Huntsman, chairman and CEO, emphasized that his corporate gift was "supportive of the initiatives AIChE has identified in aid of our industry." Mr. Huntsman is also a member of the Campaign Executive Committee.

The goal for the Campaign is \$9 million, of which over \$7 million has been raised so far: \$4.7 million from corporations, \$.9 million from foundations, and \$1.4 million from AIChE's members.

The Honorary Chair of the Campaign Executive Committee is Edgar S. Woolard, Jr., the chairman and CEO (retired) of DuPont. The two Co-Chairs are John A. Krol, Chairman and CEO (retired) of DuPont and William S. Stavropoulos, President and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company. The chair of the campaign's Member Campaign Steering Committee is Edward R.H. McDowell and the vice chair is James M. Braus.

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Officer Conference

The prime location of the conference has allowed AIChE to include many activities that will help chemical engineers increase their leadership skills through

learning how to communicate effectively with the media and the public. In addition, the conference continues to be an excellent resource for section and division leaders who want to boost membership and enthusiasm in the Institute and its offerings.

Highlights include the following:

- Mark Levin leads a June 4 workshop from 2 to 5 PM on attracting and keeping members. This workshop analyzes the present-day workplace of chemical engineers in the globalized, merger-heavy climate and then covers how this environment impact engineers' attitudes towards professional organizations. Levin will show members how to be proactive in serving chemical engineers' many professional needs and how to translate this into a compelling "message" to gain new members.
- "Combating Chemophobia: Pulling Back the Layers" will show chemical engineers how to explain to the public the ways that chemical engineering benefits everyone's lives.
- The conference opens on Friday with a tour of the Capitol from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The tour will educate AIChE members about the working of the legislative process.
- Finally, AIChE's Board of Directors and Operating Councils will be holding sessions that will present their strategic plans to division and section officers. After that, officers will be able to speak with the Institute's directors and Operating Council members about the support that divisions and local sections need for the upcoming year.

For more information on the Officers' Conference, please contact Tammy Folsom, AIChE staff associate for divisions and forums, at **212/591-7328**; e-mail **tammf@aiche.org**.

AIChE's government relations programs:

- Enhance AIChE's reputation among government officials and the public as a credible source of assistance and information on policy issues that impact chemical engineers
- Develop sound technical information and provide professional assistance to government policy-makers on pending legislative and regulatory matters that impact chemical engineers
- Formulate and advocate positions on policy issues affecting chemical engineers
- Create awareness among AIChE members about policy issues of importance to the profession
- Stimulate members to interact with government officials and provide their expertise in policy debates by participating in AIChE's Catalyst grassroots advocacy program, GRC subcommittees and task forces, and Local Section Government Interaction Committees (GICs)
- Strengthen the Institute's impact on public policy through collaboration with other professional organizations



**AIChE.....
Serving Chemical
Engineers
Who Serve the World**

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
Cytec Industries
10800 River Road
Westwego, LA 70094

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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: April 11, 2000
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: Steak & Ale
3870 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie, LA***



“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”

— Unknown