

The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 13, Issue 2, October 2000

Second Meeting of the 2000-2001 Year

Our second meeting features Greg Tragitt, Section Chairman as our speaker. Greg will be talking to us about "Oil Refinery Optimization".

Greg is employed with KBC Advanced Technologies a local consulting firm to the refinery and chemical industries.

His presentation is sure to be of interest to our members.

Please call **Brian Mitchell at 862-8257 {Tulane University}** or your Company Contact before the meeting to reserve a place if possible.

Meeting October 10, 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
7:00 - 7:30	Speaker, Greg Tragitt
7:30 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

Future and Proposed Meetings

- November 14** - "Engineering Applications for the Web".
- January 9** - Bliss Higgins, DEQ., "Regulatory Issues"
- February 20** - Dr. Kim O'Connor, Tulane, "BioTech Overview"
- March 13** - "OxyChem Plant Tour"
- April 10** - Mario Diva, Hyprotech, "Dynamic Modeling"

If you have a suggestion, please call **Keith Henderson at 846-6407 {Albert-Garudy}** All meetings are subject to change, please read future newsletters for updates.

Chairman's Corner

There are many advantages to being a member of AIChE. I would like to discuss just one aspect of membership this month. AIChE allows each of us the opportunity to serve our profession. We are continuing an exciting program at Tulane with a meeting at the end of this month. Some of us are serving as mentors to Tulane University students. [See Page 5] This gives us an opportunity to help young men and women prepare to enter a very challenging profession. These young people will continue to make major contributions to Chemical Engineering as technological changes rapidly emerge. We can provide advice to help them minimize mistakes that we overcame through our significant experience. This endeavor has been very enjoyable and has provided a significant level of satisfaction.

One of the challenges that we face as mentors is to reduce the intimidation that some students may have

(See "Chairman" on page 4)

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

Chairman

Greg Tragitt KBC 837-9228

Vice-Chairman

Keith Henderson Albert-Garudy 846-6407

Secretary

Dr. Brian Mitchell Tulane 862-8257

Treasurer

Robert Sharshan XXXX 467-8339

Membership Chair & Director

Bill Boutall Wink 243-4539

Finance Chair & Director

Open Open Open

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:

www.tulane.edu/~bmitche/aiche/aiche.html

Also check out the National AIChE Home page at:

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>	<u>Contact Needed</u>
<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. 1285
<i>Occidental Chemical</i> Linda Bergeron	783-7365
<i>Petro- Marine Engineering, Inc.</i> Robert Brown	364-4257
<i>Shell Chemical</i>	<u>Contact Needed</u>
<i>Steimle & Associates</i> Dr. Steve Steimle	831-2574
<i>Tulane University</i> Dr. Brian Mitchell	862-8257
<i>Union Carbide</i> Larry Mercier	783-4780
<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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Editor's Soap Box

You should have gotten your dues bill recently from AIChE. Have you paid it yet — or are you contemplating just what you get for your \$130 plus dollars a year (depending on your membership level)? For that matter, what do you get for your \$12 local section dues?

If these are questions that you have been asking yourself, and for which you do not seem to have an answer, then perhaps you have not been very involved with the institute.

Most, if not all, of the benefits of AIChE membership are on a voluntary basis. In other words, you must actively partake of the offering in order to obtain a benefit.

I speak of the institute literature that comes with your membership. Publications such as Chemical Engineering Progress (CEP) or AIChExtra, the CEP supplement which provides institute news. How often do you actually read these materials verses letting them pile up on your desk?

When was the last time you attended a local section meeting? It is here that you are able to expand your network of professional contacts — an often overlooked benefit of membership

And then there are the educational and financial services offered by the institute. Have you looked into either of these of late?

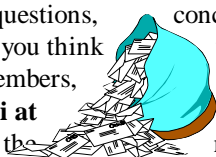
The next time you ask yourself, "What are the benefits of membership in AIChE?", also ask yourself the last time you took advantage of any of the services.

It is up to you to make being a member worthwhile.

Hope to see you at a future section meeting.

Anthony J. Fregosi, Editor

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.



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For more info contact Marvin Haydel at
Phone: **(504) 727-9770**
Fax: **(504) 674-0955**
Email: **marvin@leghornlearning.com**
Web: **www.leghornlearning.com**

NEW COMPANY CONTACT

Please join in welcoming Larry Mercier, our new company contact for Union Carbide.

He has a BSChE (1993) and a MSChE (1995) both from LSU. Currently, Larry is a Senior Engineer in the Hydrocarbons Unit at Union Carbide.

Larry says he enjoys meeting new people so please introduce your self when you see him at a section meeting.

Larry is currently pursuing an MBA at Tulane.

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Chairman

when they encounter more experienced engineers. We must strive to make them feel comfortable and to engage them in subjects where they may be more knowledgeable. As an example during the Tulane picnic a student was discussing innovative uses for his PC. By soliciting advice from him regarding computer use, he may feel more comfortable soliciting our advice about Chemical Engineering.

Being a mentor at Tulane is just one of the ways that we can serve the future of Chemical Engineering. The Local Section Committee is working on an initiative called "Project Connect". AIChE is facing a significant challenge in converting Student Chapter members to members of the "Institute". As New Orleans Local Section members we can make an effort to engage the newer members in our profession. We often find it comfortable to converse with people that we already know. New members may not feel comfortable trying to break into the

(See "Chairman" on page 7)

Newsletter Advertisement Charges

Size	\$/Issue	9 Issues	\$/Year
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

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

October 3 - 6

AIChE Annual Meeting: "Exchanging Ideas for Innovation" - Los Angeles, CA.

November 12 - 17

2001

AIChE Management Conference - Scottsdale, AZ.

March 7 - 9

AIChE Spring National Meeting & Annual Ethylene Producers' Conference - Houston, TX.

April 22 - 26

33rd Annual Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference (ECC) - Scottsdale, AZ.

September 6 - 7

46th Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium - Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

September 17 - 20

N. O. Section Finances 1999-2000 (As of June 13, 2000)

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,006
Income	
Dues/LES Proceeds	\$ 2,812
Section Allowance/Misc. Bank credits	241
<u>Meals</u>	<u>2,024</u>
Total	\$ 5,077
Expenses	
Meals	\$ 2,027
Newsletter	2,067
UNO Science Fair Registration	325
<u>Awards & Plaques/Bank Charges</u>	<u>230</u>
Total	\$ 4,649
Ending Balance	\$ 5,434
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 428
Meeting Costs Gain/(Loss) YTD	\$ (3.39)

Humor

MEMO TO ALL EMPLOYEES

NEW COMPANY POLICIES: SICKNESS AND RELATED LEAVE

We will no longer accept a doctor's statement as proof of sickness. If you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

SURGERY:

Operations are now banned. As long as you are an employee here, you need all your organs. You should not consider removing anything. We hired you intact. To have something removed constitutes a breach of employment.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE:

This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends, relatives or coworkers.

Every effort should be made to have non-employees attend to the arrangements. In rare cases, where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled in the late afternoon. We will be glad to allow you to work through your lunch hour and subsequently leave one hour early, provided your share of the work is enough to keep the job going in your absence.

YOUR OWN DEATH:

This will be accepted as an excuse. However, we require at least two weeks' notice as it is your duty to train your replacement.

REST ROOM USE:

Entirely too much time is being spent in the rest room. In the future, we will follow the practice of going in alphabetical order. For instance, those whose names begin with 'A' will go from 8:00 to 8:10, employees whose names begin with 'B' will go from 8:10 to 8:20 and so on. If you're unable to go at your time, it will be necessary to wait until the next day when

(See "Humor" on page 7)

Joining Forces: NOLA Local Section and Tulane Students Combine to Mentor New ChE Students

[Reprinted by permission of *ChAPTER One On-Line*. *ChAPTER One On-Line* is the publication for AIChE student members. As of September it will be the first of AIChE's publications to be offered exclusively on-line -Ed.]

Way down yonder in New Orleans, students and employees at local corporations are joining forces to help underclassmen at Tulane University get a handle on what it means to be a chemical engineer. Initially the brainchild of a former Tulane student chapter president, the student mentor program represents a unique approach, one that combines the talents of students at the school and members of the New Orleans Local Section to provide answers to specific questions, and general support, particularly to entering freshmen.

Garnett Bedenbaugh, a Tulane alumnus who recently retired from Shell Chemical Company and an active member of the New Orleans Local Section, serves as coordinator for the project, which completed its pilot program last school year. He explained how the program started. "While at Shell, I spoke to the Tulane AIChE Student Chapter on several occasions and became acquainted with Dr. Brian Mitchell, who is the Student Chapter Advisor. We discussed the idea last year and I decided to take on the project."

Bedenbaugh notes that the idea of a mentoring program was first proposed by Kelle Hankton, a 1999 graduate of Tulane who had served as AIChE Student Chapter president during her senior year. Mitchell and Stacey Bennett, the 1999-2000 Student Chapter president, presented the idea to the New Orleans Local Section, which agreed to support the effort by providing industrial mentors. One of those mentors was Hankton, who now works for Shell

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Mentoring Program

Chemical. Also serving as industrial mentors were: Bedenbaugh; Steve Alexander, MECO Company; Anthony Fregosi, CYTEC; Greg Tragitt, KBC Company; and Sonya Vial, Shell Chemical. Student mentors were: seniors Bennett, Jaqunda Patton, and Vy Nguyen; junior Travis Rosser; and sophomores Scott Eklund and Chris Visser.

“The intent of the Mentor program is to provide some interface between ‘real’ engineers in industry with students throughout their time at Tulane. In this way, they can have a better idea about what’s involved in being a chemical engineer,” Bedenbaugh explained. “The Student Mentor is intended to give regular contact to the freshmen and help them with things related to school. We meet occasionally face-to-face with the students and also correspond via e-mail.” The program is mandatory for freshmen, as part of a one-hour chemical engineering freshman seminar course, but sophomores and juniors were also encouraged to participate.

To get the program started, Bedenbaugh “prepared a list of topics I thought the students might want to hear about and reviewed them with AIChE Student Chapter officers, Bennett and Jaqunda Patton, and with Mitchell. Once we agreed on the concepts and topics, we asked for volunteer industry members, via the AIChE Local Section, and for some upper-class students, via the student chapter.” Suggested topics were split up between the mentors, who wrote a brief synopsis and then e-mailed it to the students. Everyone was encouraged to provide feedback. As a support and communications network, Patton developed a Web page at MSN Web Communities, where all the information was archived.

Freshmen were organized into teams of five, each with one student mentor and one industrial mentor. At the first meeting with the students, Bedenbaugh noted, “We explained the purpose of the program

and then we broke up into our small groups to get acquainted. We then corresponded by e-mail over the semester and reconvened at the end to see what the students thought.” One of “our biggest learnings,” Bedenbaugh observed, was that “as freshmen, most of the students...really don’t have much of an idea what chemical engineering is about. Thus, there were very few questions during the semester. This really was no big surprise, though. We also found out that, given the very busy schedules of the students, they didn’t have a lot of available time to communicate or get together. This will be a challenge in our program’s second year.”

For the 2000-2001 school year, Bedenbaugh stated that they plan “to have a mix of both freshmen, sophomores and upperclassmen with the Mentors. This should help smooth communications, since the sophomores will be able to relate their experiences with the incoming freshmen and help the dialog.” He also plans to have the mentors “meet with the students more frequently—perhaps monthly—to improve on the relationships. This was one of the ‘lessons learned’ from the pilot program evaluation critique.” Other plans include some talks on topics of interest, such as financial planning, changing jobs, relationships between engineer employees and large companies, insurance, and budgeting. “This might help pique their (students) interest and encourage more questions,” he said, adding, “the program will probably be voluntary for everyone other than freshmen. Hopefully, we will have a number of repeat ‘customers’.”

“Since this is a pilot program, we are learning as we go and will adjust as we see the needs,” Bedenbaugh concluded. “One of our thoughts would be that a Mentor would stay with the same students through his/her time at Tulane, so a close relationship can develop, resulting in some meaningful dialog. We want to make Tulane’s chemical engineering graduates even more

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Humor

your time comes again. In extreme emergencies, employees may swap their time with a coworker. Both employees' supervisors in writing must approve this exchange. In addition, there is now a strict 3-minute time limit in the stalls. At the end of three minutes, an alarm bell will sound, the toilet paper roll will retract, and the stall door open.

Thank you for your loyalty to our company. We are here to provide a positive employment experience. All questions, comments, concerns, complaints, frustrations, irritations, aggravations, insinuations, allegations, accusations, contemplations, consternations, or input should be directed elsewhere.

Have a nice week.

Note: Next month we will publish a handy "Paycheck Guide".

[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]

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Chairman

"group". Although it may be less comfortable to converse with a stranger, it can be very rewarding. I encourage our Local Section Members to get to know one another. We should try to find ways to reduce the intimidation that newer members may face. Networking is one of the greatest rewards from being in a Professional Society. As we support one another we are also making a significant contribution to our profession.

Sincerely,

Greg Tragitt

Chairman, 2000-2001

New Orleans Section AIChE

Call for Volunteers

Would you like to become more involved in AIChE?

The General Arrangements Committee for the 2002 Spring National Meeting to be held in New Orleans is being formed. You may think that it is too early to be thinking about a meeting in 2002, but that is not the case. It takes many months of planning to successfully host a national meeting. The Baton Rouge and New Orleans Sections have hosted this meeting several times. The two sections have a proud tradition of well organized meeting planning to uphold.

There will be several committees from which to choose to serve. If you are interested in becoming involved in this most rewarding activity, please contact **Anthony Fregosi** at **(504) 431-6598** or email at **Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com** for further information.

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Mentoring

competitive in today's market. Hopefully, by sharing experiences and providing support, the Mentoring Program will be an important experience for them."

ChAPTER One will be touching base with some of the students and mentors during this school year and will report back on how the program is going in a future issue.

[If you are interested in becoming involved in this very worth while and rewarding program, please contact either Garnett Bedenbaugh at **Garnettb2@aol.com** or Dr. Brian Mitchell at **brian@tulane.edu** for further information. - Ed.]

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, 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: October 10, 2000
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: Steak & Ale
3870 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie, LA



“It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.”

— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**