

# The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 13, Issue 5, February 2001

## Fifth Meeting of the 2000-2001 Year

Our fifth meeting will feature Dr. Kim O'Connor, as our speaker. Dr. O'Connor will be speaking to us about "Animal Cell Technology".

Dr. O'Connor is a professor at Tulane University

Her 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 February 20, 2001 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 - 7:30	Speaker, Dr. Kim O'Connor
7:30 - 7:35	Meeting
7:35 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

### Future and Proposed Meetings

**March 13** - "OxyChem Plant Tour"

**April 10** - Mario Diva, Hyprotech, "Dynamic Modeling"

**April 10** - Election of Officers

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

Please note that starting next year Dr. Brian Mitchell will assume the programming duties for the Section. As such, he will be looking for feedback as to what you would like for future meeting topics or activities. Please see Brian's contact information on Page 2.

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### Chairman's Corner

One of the challenges facing AIChE is obtaining young graduates as members and retaining them. The Institute has a program called Project Connect that is trying to accomplish this difficult goal. Dr. John J. McKetta a Professor Emeritus from the University of Texas has donated money to the Institute to be used for the purpose of engaging young graduates. In addition to being the Chair for the New Orleans Local Section I am also Chair of the Local Section Committee. The Local Section Committee has formed a Subcommittee to determine guidelines and the application process for distribution of this money as grants to Local Sections.

I encourage the New Orleans Local Section to consider an activity that would appeal to these young graduates. We should apply for one of these grants to help fund the event. The New Orleans Local Section also is fortunate to have a fine network of "Company

(See "Chairman" on page 5)

# The Reactor

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

*Chairman*

**Greg Tragitt                      KBC                      837-9228**

*Vice-Chairman*

**Keith Henderson                Albert-Garaudy    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](http://www.tulane.edu/~bmitche/aiche/aiche.html)**

Also check out the National AIChE Home page at:

**[www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org)**

Anyone interested in this activity, please contact

**Dr. Brian Mitchell (AIChE Webmaster) at**

**862-8257, [brian@che.che.tulane.edu](mailto:brian@che.che.tulane.edu) or**

**Anthony Fregosi, [Anthony\\_Fregosi@fo.cytec.com](mailto: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> Christopher Day	391-6584
<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>	<b><u>Contact Needed</u></b>
<i>Steimle &amp; 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 &amp; Assoc.</i> Jasper Westbrook	586-8111
<i>W. H. Linder &amp; Associates, Inc.</i> Herb Roussel, P.E.	835-2577 Ext. 3143
<i>Wink Engineering, Inc.</i> Bill Boutall	246-7924

# *The Reactor*

Volume 13 Issue 5, February 2001

*New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

## Editor's Soap Box

Welcome once again to another issue of *The Reactor*. Please see the notices regarding the **Call for Volunteers on Page 4** and the **Upcoming Elections on Page 7**. Also take note of Greg's call for section members to get involved in "**Project Connect**" in his message on Page 1.

All of these activities are but only a few of the many ways that local members can become more involved in the AIChE organization.

At last month's meeting Greg commented on the fact that he saw several new faces at the meeting. Three new people were added to the mailing list for the newsletter.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

With a influx of new people during this year, the section is blessed with new ideas and individuals who will hopefully aspire to become more involved in the section operations.

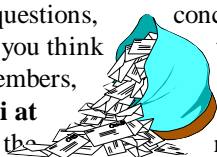
The New Orleans Section has a rich tradition of service to its members and to National AIChE. Our section is the third oldest in the nation having been chartered in 1932. That means that next year it will celebrate its 70th year anniversary.

If you would like to offer your services to the section, please contact any of the officers or company contacts listed on Page 2.

Likewise if you are interested in any of the activities that have been published in this or past newsletters, please contact the person listed at the end of each article.

**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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Fax: **(504) 674-0955**  
Email: **marvin@leghornlearning.com**  
Web: **www.leghornlearning.com**

## **SECTION AWARDS PDH'S**

The section board of directors has authorized awarding 1.0 Professional Development Hours for the January 9th presentation: "Regulatory Updates" by Bliss Higgins with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Do not forget it is the individuals responsibility to maintain all relevant documentation with regard to Professional Development Hours.

# The Reactor

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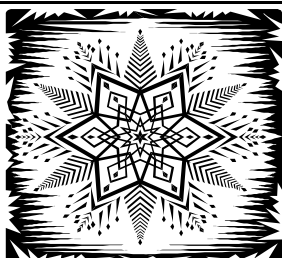
*New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

## 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](mailto:Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com) for further information.



## 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

### 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**

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

AIChE Annual Meeting: "Exchanging Ideas for Innovation" - Los Angeles, CA.  
**November 12 - 17**

### N. O. Section Finances 2000-2001 (As of January 9, 2001)

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,541
<b>Income</b>	
Dues/LES Proceeds	
Section Allowance/Misc. Bank Credits	
Meals	325
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 315</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Meals	\$ 275
Newsletter	186
UNO Science Fair Registration	24
Awards & Plaques/Bank Charges	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 486</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 6,370</b>
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$(171)</b>
<b>Meeting Costs Gain/(Loss) YTD</b>	<b>\$(190)</b>

## **Humor**

Things that might make you go humm.....

There are three principal factors that cause rain:

1) low barometric pressure, 2) cool air colliding with warm moist air, and 3) weekends.

If we can ever make red tape nutritional, we can feed the world....Robert Schaeberle.

Every year it takes less time to fly around the world and more time to get to work.

Science may never come up with a better office communications system than the coffee break.

The pioneers cleared the forests from Jamestown to the Mississippi with fewer tools than are stored in the typical modern garage....Dwayne Laws.

Tell people there are more than 300,000 billion stars in the universe and they'll believe you. Tell them a bench has wet paint on it and they'll have to touch it to make sure.

Public speaking is like spelling banana. You've got to know when to stop.

It's a strange world of language in which skating on thin ice and get you into hot water....Franklin P. Jones.

Middle age is when a man is warned to slow down by his doctor instead of a policeman.

A newly washed window gathers dirt at double the speed of an unwashed window.

The best cure for insomnia is a Monday morning....Sandy Cooley.

Middle Age: When knees buckle and belts don't.

[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.cytex.com]

*(Continued from page 1)*

## **Chariman**

Contacts" I envision that these "Company Contacts" can be a significant resource in identification of new graduates that obtain employment locally. I also encourage these contacts to assist in this endeavor. Getting the names of these young graduates is one of the larger challenges in making Project Connect successful.

Even if you are not one of the "Company Contacts" and you know a young Chemical Engineer, please let one of the Local Section Officers know who that person is. Please think of an event or an activity that would be of interest to a young Chemical Engineer who is just starting a career. Dr. Brian Mitchell will be the incoming Vice Chair and will have the responsibility for establishing next years Local Section Program. He will be very interested in your feedback. Dr. Mitchell also serves as the advisor to the Tulane Student Chapter and has been an integral part of the mentoring program at Tulane in cooperation with New Orleans Local Section Members. I feel he is an ideal person to initiate this activity.

Sincerely,

*Greg Tragitt*

Chairman, 2000-2001

New Orleans Section AIChE

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## **Membership Committee Working to Expand Recruitment**

The AIChE Membership Committee is up and running. With more than 15 members, the Committee is charged with discussing issues and recommending actions to improve membership retention and recruitment as well as identifying new benefits. The Committee also evaluates the effectiveness of existing membership services and is asking members for input

*(See "Membership Committee" on page 6)*

## **Tulane Institute for Macromolecular Engineering and Sciences (TIMES)**

TIMES is planning to offer a second, two-day course on the chemistry and properties of polymeric materials. The first course, held in December, 1999, generated a great deal of interest, and based on comments received from those participants, TIMES is modifying the program to include the following:

Polymer synthesis (2.5 hrs)  
Characterization (2 hrs)  
Thermodynamics (1 hr)  
Rheology (1 hr)  
Polymer processing (3 hrs)  
Group Discussion (1.5 hrs)

The course will be taught by both academic and industrial practitioners. We anticipate the cost to be \$750. This would include lunches, coffee breaks and one dinner. Travel and accommodations are the responsibility of the participants. The course will be offered in late spring, 2001, provided we have a minimum of twelve participants. Participants will receive a certificate of completion of twelve professional development credit hours. If you are interested in attending this two-day course, please contact:

**Prof. Daniel Dekee**  
Dept. of Chemical Engineering  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
(504) 865-5620  
[ddekee@tulane.edu](mailto:ddekee@tulane.edu)

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*(Continued from page 5)*

### **Membership Committee**

on how AIChE can continue to best serve its members and attract more chemical engineers to AIChE.

The new chair of the committee is Brian Cocolicchio who works with International Fuel Cells in fuel processing research and technology. He's also a director of AIChE's Tappan Zee local section in New York.

Chris Maier is vice chair of the committee. He's been a consultant with Poten since 1991 where he is responsible for the technical side of refinery and petrochemical plant process economics. Maier is also professional development director of the Tappan Zee Section and served as chair from 1998-1999.

Cocolicchio and Maier are interested in developing ways for AIChE to attract and keep student and young professional members. They are also exploring ways in which more senior members can link up with newer members via on-line mentoring. The committee will also consider other on-line vehicles to build & retain member connections.

AIChE members who would like to submit ideas to the committee may e-mail [membershipcommittee@aiche.org](mailto:membershipcommittee@aiche.org).



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

# The Reactor

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*New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

## Election Notice



It is time once again to start thinking about the approaching elections.

The section is seeking candidates for the office of Treasurer. The current officers will each advance to the next office.

Requirements for treasurer are: Willingness to serve, Ability to attend the meetings, Acceptance of being on the officer ladder for successive positions - Secretary, Vice-Chairman, Chairman, Immediate Past Chair.

As Treasurer, you shall be charged with the collection and disbursement of funds as authorized by the Executive Committee. At the first Section meeting of each fiscal year he/she shall present a financial report.

In addition, per National and Section Bylaws, all officers must be members of the national organization.

**The elections will be held at the April 10th meeting.**

If you have any questions or would like to be considered for treasurer, please contact **Greg Tragitt**, Chairman at **837-9228** or e-mail **gtragitt@kbcate.com**.

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## **Glickman Announces \$300 Million Bioenergy Program**

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently announced details of a new \$300 million program to encourage expanded production of environmentally-friendly fuels made from corn, soybeans and other crops. The program, which was initially proposed in President Clinton's 2001 budget as part of the farm safety net, will help expand markets for agricultural

commodities and promote use of bio-fuels like ethanol and soy-based biodiesel.

"This program will help us tap into a huge domestic energy reserve - our family farms," said Glickman. "Encouraging the use of bioenergy benefits America's farmers, while improving our energy security and helping to protect the environment."

Biofuels offer renewable, clean, domestic sources of fuel that can create new markets for America's farmers. Ethanol, practically non-existent 20 years ago, now accounts for 1.2 percent of the nation's gasoline supply. Already, 567 million bushels of corn, over 5 percent of U.S. production, are grown annually for use in biofuels. President Clinton issued an executive order last summer that set a goal of tripling the U.S. use of renewable energy.

Under the program, USDA will make cash payments to bioenergy companies that increase their purchases of corn, soybeans and other commodities to expand production of ethanol, biodiesel or other biofuels. The program will provide higher payments to small and new-to-market processors, including cooperatives, to encourage the expansion of domestic bioenergy production capacity. USDA will provide up to \$150 million for the program this fiscal year and another \$150 million in fiscal 2002.

The new regulation, under development during this past year, was finalized under a USDA rule-making process. A proposed rule was issued this summer, followed by a public comment period. Sign-up for the program will begin in December. Further information will be available on the Web at [www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/bioenergy/bioenergy.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/bioenergy/bioenergy.htm).

## **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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## **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: February 20, 2001  
Time: 5:00 P.M.  
Place: Steak & Ale  
3870 Veterans Blvd.  
Metairie, LA***



**“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity”**

— Elmer Letterman