

The Reactor

New Orleans Section -
American Institute of
Chemical Engineers

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September 2002

Chairman's Corner

Tropical Storm Isidore reminded us of the importance of being prepared. I trust that everyone came through with little or no damage, both to your personal properties and your businesses.

Preparedness is an important part of our lives. Most of us routinely check and update such personal affairs as investments, insurance policies and wills, but do we exercise the same level of concern with our professional lives? Don't get me wrong - our families and friends come first. But have you done a "professional inventory" lately?

Most of us probably feel like our formal professional training ended with our last mortar-board toss, and that the Everything-I-Need-to-Know-About-My-Profession-I'm-Learning-On-The-Job-process is still ongoing. There are other ways to develop important professional skills, however. The Local Section and national organization of AIChE present great

opportunities for professional growth, including short courses, professional development credits, and elected and volunteer positions in the organizations.

To help support you in this effort, I am asking our section Secretary, Paul Fanning, to take roll at all meetings at which we will offer Professional Development Hours (PDHs), such as our last meeting for which 2 PDHs were offered. This isn't "attendance," but a way for the Local Section to help you keep track of PDHs for such purposes as Professional Engineering licensing and promotions. At the end of the meeting year (May, 2003), Paul will send you a letter verifying your total PDHs. Note that such a letter is not a requirement for most purposes - you can keep track of these yourself and claim them as long as you document attendance. I feel it is important, though, for your professional organization to help you in small ways such as this.

I personally challenge each of you to continue to learn throughout your career, be it through professional licensing, PDHs, an advanced degree, company seminars, or simply reading on your own. Aren't

you the least bit curious if you can still differentiate by parts, even though it's been years (or decades) since you needed to? Dust off that old calculus book!

I know, all of this cuts into our most precious commodity of all: time. Prioritization of tasks and time management are as important of personal skills as they are professional ones. You'd be surprised, though, how easy it can be to take two hours a month to go to a Local Section meeting, once you promise yourself you'll do it. It is a little harder to promise yourself you'll get that Master's degree, or take that one night course, but the rewards are enormous. If there is anything you feel the Local Section can do to assist you in these endeavors, please do not hesitate to recommend them to one of the officers.



Dr. Brian Mitchell
Chairman, 2002-2003
New Orleans Section AIChE

Second Meeting for the year 2002-2003

Our meeting tonight features Gail R. Kelly of St. Charles Consulting, Inc. Ms. Kelly's topic, "The Honest Workplace" is sure to be very interesting. You will not want to miss this very informative meeting.

For more information, please go to the St. Charles Consult-

ing, Inc. web site at: <http://www.honestyworks.com/>

Note: This topic will fulfill the "ethic" requirement for maintaining your P.E. license.

Please call Paul Fanning at **985-783-3623** or your Company Contact before the meeting to let us know you will be coming.

Meeting Schedule
Cost: \$15/person

5:30 — 6:00 P.M.	Social
6:00 — 7:30	Dinner
7:30 — 8:30	Speaker
8:30 — 8:45	Meeting
8:45 P.M.	Adjourn

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Future Meeting

Programs:

- Nov. 12—Six Sigma—Mike Ward—**Dow Chemical**
- Jan. 14—Reduce emissions (NOx, SOx, CO2, and unburned carbon power generation)—Ting Wang, Director—**Energy Conversion and Conservation Center**
- Feb. 11—External Tank Thermal Protection System (insulation) overview—Connie Johnson—**Michoud Operations**



Section Officers

“Anyone wishing information regarding becoming an officer, should contact the Section Chairman”

“Please Contact Jim Dean at 576-7174 if you would like to become a company contact- or to report any changes”



Anthony F. Fregosi
Editor

“Send comments to
Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cytotec.com”

New Orleans Section Officers 2002-2003

Dr. Brian Mitchell—Tulane University—862-8257	Chairman
Robert Sharshan— —467-8339	Vice-Chairman & Program Chairman
Dr. Paul Fanning—Dow Chemical—985-783-3623	Secretary
Tom Doolin — ExxonMobil—281-6154	Treasurer
Keith Henderson—Albert Garaudy—846-6407	Immediate Past Chairman
Bill Boutall—Wink—243-4539	Membership Chair & Director
Greg Tragitt—KBC—837-9228	Finance Chair & Director
Dr. J.B. Phillips—Eng. Dev. Inst.—825-7046	Professional Development
Anthony Fregosi—Cytotec Ind.—431-6598	Newsletter Editor

Company Contacts

Chevron Chemical—Christopher Day 391-6584	M. S. Benbow—Rachel Wiggins 836-8931
Cytotec Industries—Anthony Fregosi 431-6598	Nalco/Exxon—Joy Usener 1-800-366-2526 (Ext. 1285)
DEQ (B.R.)—Freddie Touro 225-765-0202	Occidental Chem.—Linda Bergeron 783-7365
Dow Chemical—Larry Mercier 985-783-4780	Petro-Marine Eng.— Contact Needed
Entergy—Jim Dean 576-7174	Shell Chemical— Contact Needed
EDG, Inc.—Leon Barnett 455-0858	Tulane Univ.—Dr. Brian Mitchell 862-8257
ExxonMobile—Tom Doolin 281-6154	URS (Walk)—Jay Hendrickson 599-4926
KBC Advanced Tech.—Don Hoppens 837-9228	W.H. Linder—Herb Roussel, P.E. 835-2577 (Ext. 3143)
Monsanto, Luling—Ralph Zamora 785-4580	Wink Engineering—Bill Boutall 246-7924

Editor's Soap Box

When was the last time you visited the Local Section Web site? Have you ever taken a look?

In his “Chairman’s Corner”, Brian reminds us of the importance of conducting a “professional inventory”. He also states that the Section is here to help and to offer what ever services it can in

your endeavor to grow professionally.

The Local Section Web site is yet another service the section provides to its members for this purpose. I invite you to take a look and to provide feedback to Brian as to format and content.

Please note our second division profile on Page 5. Ques-

tion: Do you recognize any of the names listed in connection with the division?

I will buy a drink for the first person to come up to me with the correct answer at a future section meeting!

As always, please contact any officer with any suggestions or questions regarding the Section.

Social and Tour of Tulane Co-Generation Plant was well attended

Our first meeting of the new section year was held last month. 20 or so people turned out for the combination social and tour. This was a great turn out and be all accounts those that attended enjoyed meeting or reacquainting them selves with each other.

Greg Chlup, the Tulane's chief services engineer gave us a great tour of the Tulane Co-generation facility. He began by giving us an overview of the co-generation system. Ed Lee, who provides environmental services for Tulane also dis-

cussed the permitting process for the co-generation project.

The group then walked to the building where co-generation unit is housed. We looked at the gas fired turbine/generator and the auxiliary equipment. Greg also toured us through the control room and chiller systems.

We finished the tour by taking a look at the environmental and reporting systems.

Because of the quality and

length of the tour, the Section has agreed to certify attendance at this meeting as meeting the requirements for 2 PDHs.

The section would like to remind you that if you have a P.E. license from the State of Louisiana, that you are required to obtain PDHs. Also, it is the registrant's responsibility to maintain a record of the PDHs they have acquired. However, as stated in Brian's "Chairman's Corner", he has asked the Section Secretary to keep track as a section service for members.



Section Tours Tulane University's Co-Generation Facility

Process Safety Incident Database



The Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) facilitated the development of the **Process Safety Incident Database** to collect and share potentially important incident information and experiences, and afford participants access to the data-

base to give each participant the benefit of the collected experiences of all participants.

A group of sponsors approached CCPS, requesting that a database be developed to track process safety incidents with a focus on "lessons learned." The CCPS Technical Steering Committee and the CCPS Managing and Advisory Boards approved a project

to develop such a database.

The database includes process safety incidents with a potentially important lesson to be learned. Such incidents could result in a fire, explosion, fatality, multiple injuries, significant release of hazardous materials, or any other unique process safety incident as defined by the submitter, including near-misses.

Anyone interested in hearing more about this project, please call:

Brian Kelly, Project Chair, at kelly.brian@syncrude.com or Martin S. Clancy at (212) 591-7988 or e-mail martc@aiche.org or Jack Weaver at (212) 591-7407 or e-mail ccps@aiche.org

Is the Chemical Plant Going Female?

It may surprise many CPI professionals to learn that today more than 50% of graduating chemical engineers in the USA, Latin and South America are female. This, and other workplace changes, present a unique challenge for the plant manager, as well as other CPI professionals.

For the first time in CHEM SHOW history, the Confer-

ence Program will feature a special Industry Forum to discuss "Is the Chemical Plant Going Female?" The session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, at 1:30 p.m., and is open to all exhibitors and attendees free of charge.

The panel will feature male and female engineers and plant management personnel addressing the changing faces in

chemical plants. Among the panelists is Kristine Chin, editor of CEP, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' flagship publication. Specific discussion topics will include formal rotational assignments for entering engineers; policies regarding flexible work schedules; diversity training; support for the creation of mentor networks; and glass ceilings: myth or reality?



"50% of graduating chemical engineers in the USA, Latin and South America are female"



"Laughter is the best Medicine."

Humor—You Know You are in South Louisiana

You know you are in South Louisiana during the summertime when:

- The best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.
- Hot water now comes out of both taps.
- You can make sun tea instantly.
- You learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.
- The temperature drops below 95 and you feel a little chilly.
- The cows are giving evaporated milk.
- You discover that in July it only takes 2 fingers to steer your car.
- You discover that you can get sunburned through your car window.
- You actually burn your hand opening the car door.
- You break into a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 a.m..
- Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"
- You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.
- The birds have to use pot holders to pull worms out of the ground.
- The potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter, salt, and pepper.
- Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard-boiled eggs.
- The trees are whistling for the dogs.

N. O. Section Finances 2002-2003 (As of June 30, 2002)	
<u>Beginning Balance (1/22/02)</u>	\$ 6,187
<u>Income</u>	
Dues/LES Proceeds	
Meals (Receipt for Section Meeting)	835
Total	\$ 835
<u>Expenses</u>	
Meals (Section Meeting)	843
Newsletter	1,604
Bank Charges	51
Other Expenses	351
Total	\$ 2,849
<u>Ending Balance (11/30/02)</u>	<u>\$ 4,173</u>
<u>Net Gain/(Loss) (YTD—2001-2002)</u>	<u>\$ (2,014)</u>
<u>Meeting Costs Gain/(Loss) (YTD—2001-2002)</u>	<u>\$ (8)</u>

\$12/year



New Members Are Always Welcome

If you would like to become a member of the section, please contact the Membership Chairman listed on Page 2.



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AIChE Division Profile—Materials Engineering & Sciences Division

AIChE Member Dues:	\$7
Chartered:	1968
Division Chair:	John Torkelson
E-mail:	j-torkelson@northwestern.edu
AIChE Staff Liaison:	Gordon Ellis
CTOC Liaison:	Matt Tirrell
Web Site:	http://www.mesdiv.aiche.org/
Award(s):	Charles M.A. Stine Award

Description:

It shall: (a) further the application of chemical engineering in the field of materials engineering and materials science; (b) provide opportunities for engineers and scientists interested in materials to exchange information through meetings, seminars, courses, and publications; (c) coordinate AIChE activities in the field of materials with those of other societies working in the same area; (d) provide a forum for the interchange of information and ideas on materials between the producing engineer and the educator; (e) cooperate with other divisions and committees of AIChE in matters concerning materials; (f) encourage emphasis on materials in chemical engineering education; and (g) promote and help orient research and development activities in the field of materials.

Function of the Materials Engineering and Sciences Division (MESD)

The Materials Engineering and Sciences Division (MESD) was established in 1968 to provide a focal point within the AIChE for engineers concerned with materials. Since its founding, MESD has organized and presented hundreds of technical symposia on a wide variety of materials topics at national AIChE meetings. Reflecting the interdisciplinary character of materials technology, many of these have involved co-sponsorship with other AIChE divisions, as well as other national technical societies. The division has also been an active participant in the Federation of Materials Societies (FMS), a mechanism for focusing the collective strength of the nation's materials-oriented technical societies on problems of national scope and importance.

Materials Engineering and Sciences Division Committee Structure

The Division is currently composed of five active areas:

Area 8a:	POLYMERS
Area 8b:	BIOMATERIALS
Area 8d:	CERAMICS
Area 8e:	ELECTRONIC AND PHOTONIC MATERIALS
Area 8f:	COMPOSITES

In addition to technical programs, other division activities include the publication of a newsletter, liaison with other societies, and the administration of student and professional awards in the materials area, most notably the C.M.A. Stine Award.

The MESD Newsletter

The Materials Engineering and Sciences Division Newsletter is published three times a year, and includes information on the programming activities of the MESD, as well as materials-related articles of current interest. The Newsletter is mailed directly to all MESD members.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Prof. Brian Mitchell, Department of Chemical Engineering, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118-5674

The Charles M.A. Stine Award

The Charles M.A. Stine Award is bestowed annually to a leading researcher in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of materials science and engineering. The Award is sponsored by E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co. It recognizes an individual's outstanding contribution to the scientific, technological, educational or service areas of materials engineering and science. Selection criteria include:

- Nominees must be members of AIChE.
- The award can be given to an individual or a team.
- Significant discoveries, important research, the development of new processes and products, the initiation of new materials and management, education concepts, or outstanding service to the materials community.

For more information, please contact: Professor Dennis Hess, William W. LaRoche Chair, School of Chemical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30332-0100, email: dennis.hess@che.gatech.edu

October 2002

Schedule of Other Meetings

2002

- **Oct. 3-4**—34th Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference—San Francisco, California.
- **Oct. 8-11**—CCPS International Conference and Workshop—Jacksonville, Florida.
- **Nov. 3-8**—AICHE Annual Meeting. —Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Section Meeting	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2003 Dues Reflect Institute's Forward Movement

AICHE membership dues for 2003 will increase to \$180. According to AICHE President, Sid Sapakie, the increase will allow the Institute to continue to support and possibly expand services to all members.

“With chemical engineers serving an ever-broadening array of industries, AICHE is committed to providing services, products, and programming to meet new and emerging challenges of our members,” Sapakie told AICHExtra. However, like many of our fellow societies and corporate

stakeholders, we are faced with financial challenges in the current economy.

“The Board of Directors gave serious consideration to ways in which we can secure the Institute's financial resources. The increase in dues is just one of many efforts we are undertaking,” said Secretary John Chen. “This was a difficult but important decision for the Board. We discussed it at length and agreed the dues increase would provide an important boost to our financial plan,” he continued.

“While it is a difficult de-

cision, it is the responsible one,” said Vice President Dianne Dorland.

“We are putting our house in order. A dues increase will help set us on solid financial ground, and prepare us for the future. By making this choice, we do not threaten the quality of our services or the strength of our organization.”

Other measures are being considered that will secure the Institute's financial resources. These include:

- Reducing real estate commitment
- The possibility of outsourcing some support services
- Working collaboratively

with other professional societies on specific projects • Increasing membership through aggressive marketing efforts

“We believe these steps will provide the resources and foundation we need to grow and serve all chemical engineers, across all industries,” Sapakie concluded. AICHE members with questions about the dues increase may email President Sapakie at president@aiche.org.



Section Ads



M S Benbow and Associates

A Professional Engineering Corporation

www.msbenbow.com

2450 Severn Ave Suite 400
Metairie LA 70001

504.832.2000
Fax 504.836.2088

Newsletter Advertisement Charges

Size	\$/Issue	\$/Year 9 Issues
Business Card	\$ 16	\$ 100
1/4 page	\$ 40	\$ 250
1/2 page	\$ 80	\$ 500
Full Page	\$ 160	\$1000

To order an advertisement, Please contact **Anthony Fregosi**, Anthony_Fregosi@fo.cyttec.com

New Orleans Section - American
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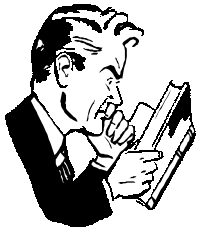
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TO:



Quote of the
Month

"If a man is called to be a street
sweeper, he should sweep streets
even as Michelangelo painted, or
Beethoven composed music, or
Shakespeare wrote poetry.

He should sweep streets so well
that all the hosts of heaven and
earth will pause to say, here lived
a great street sweeper who did his
job well."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Meeting Notice!

Date: October 15, 2002

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Place: Steak & Ale
3870 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie, LA

*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.
2001 "Marx Isaac's Award", for excellence of a small local section newsletter.*