

The Reactor



New Orleans Section, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 12, Issue 4, January 2000

Fourth Meeting of the 1999-2000 Year

Soni O. Oyekan will be our speaker for the month of January. Soni's topic will be "AICHE - The National Perspective".

Please let Keith know your intentions so that all may be accommodated.

Soni Oyekan is employed with Marathon Ashland Petroleum in Garyville. He fairly recently moved into our area. He is a national director of the Institute and as such is uniquely qualified to speak to us about the AIChE on a national level.

Many of us never truly know the full extent of the services provided by the national organization. Come out and learn more about your professional society.

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

Meeting January 18, 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, Soni Oyekan
7:30 P.M.	Planned Meeting Ends

Future and Proposed Meetings

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.

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AICHE Approves New Local Section Committee

The Career and Education Operating Council has voted to upgrade the status of the Local Section Subcommittee to a full-fledged AIChE Committee. The upgrading is more positive news at a time when AIChE Executive Director Glenn Taylor's visit to Hong Kong has spurred AIChE members to consider forming a local section there. The move was made because the Institute recognizes the importance that the local sections play in AIChE's activities. Many chemical engineers get their first exposure to AIChE through their local section's activities. Local sections also offer abundant opportunities for AIChE members to network and explore the opportunities that await them in the chemical engineering field.

The Local Sections Committee was formerly a subcommittee within the Membership Committee. However, its scope had broadened to the point where

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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**

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.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>
<i>Chevron Chemical</i>	Contact Needed
<i>Cytec Industries</i> Anthony Fregosi	431-6598
<i>DEQ Baton Rouge</i> Freddie Touro	504-765-0199
<i>Energy</i> Jim Dean	576-7174
<i>EPG, Inc.</i> Leon Barnet	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>Wink Engineering, Inc.</i> Bill Boutall	246-7924

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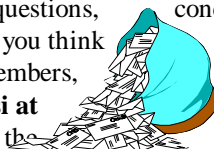
Committee

it was felt that the subcommittee could do more on behalf of local sections as a unique committee. Stan Proctor, the chair of the Career and Education Operating Council, explained the rationale behind the move. "As local sections continue to be a strong focus of the Institute, it's very important that our members see our Institute's offerings at that level. What the Local Sections Committee will be able to do is go through the issues that affect all local sections—membership, programming, funding, everything. From there, it will be easiest to implement changes that positively impact our local sections and enhance the value they give our members," Proctor stated.

Local Section Committee chair Sandra Dudley was excited about the new resources that would be available to Local Sections. "The Local Sections committee has come up with several new initiatives this year. These efforts include identifying opportunities to increase membership, sharing best practices, and conducting a review of the source materials available for Local Section," Dudley said. Her next ambition is to find proactive AIChE members who are interested in serving on the newly formed Committee. "We want to increase the expertise on the Committee so we can accomplish our goals. Right now, our members are from all over the nation. We want to add to our diversity and encourage everyone interested in participating to let us know." Bruce Finlayson, AIChE's Vice President, indicated that "The local sections function as a microcosm of the Institute. Anyone who is aware of the histories of some of our Institute's leaders knows

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



concerns or would be of please contact **431-6598** to newsletter.

Editor's Soap Box

Happy Y2K. I would like to wish everyone in the section a Happy New Year. By all reports only minor upsets occurred due to the "Y2K bug". Hopefully you also experienced little to no trouble both in your job or personally.

The new year brings with it an air of excitement. Nearly every article I read regarding the advances being made in the various aspects of our profession promises a bright future. Also, chemical engineers are moving into non-traditional roles as never before in our professions history.

You may be a part of these exciting times by becoming more active in our local section.

As the new year begins, I would like to extend a personal invitation to each of you to attend an upcoming meeting or other activity. Even if you have not attended in several years, or have never attended, please consider doing so in the year 2000.

Garnett Bedenbaugh, recently retired from Shell and a long time active member, has been working on a mentoring program with the students of Tulane University Chemical Engineering. Please see the article on Page 6 for more information.

Soni Oyekan, this month's speaker and a recently named fellow of the Institute has moved into our area and has become a new member of our section. Soni, a national AIChE director, brings a wealth of information about the society and a host of new ideas. We welcome him to our section and look forward to working with him.

Finally, it is not too early to start thinking of becoming involved in the activities of the section. The section is seeking a Treasurer for next year. This position represents the entry level for those who would like to serve as an officer of the section.

If you are interested please talk to Greg Tragitt, Vice-Chairman.

Please join us at a future meeting—and be part of the Chemical Engineering Society as we move toward a new Millennium!

Anthony F. Fregosi, Editor

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Committee

that they got their start in their Local Sections, working on newsletters and increasing membership through innovative programming. There will now be no gap between national and local activities due to the latest move, which should be seen as part of the restructuring of the Institute and will make us more proactive in meeting members' needs."

To join the Local Section Committee and share in their efforts to increase the benefits the Institute offers, contact Tammy Folsom, AIChE's local sections staff associate, at **212/591-7328**; e-mail **localsections@aiche.org**.

POP!—Changes in Beverage Containers, 1965 - 1990

POP! is our acronym for the progress on polymers that revolutionized the ways in which soda and other

(See POP! on page 5)

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

2000

Spring National Meeting - Atlanta, GA
March 5 - 9, 2000 (NEW DATES)

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 1998-1999 (As of October 12, 1999)

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 5,815
<u>Income</u>	
Dues/LES Proceeds	\$ 634
Section Allowance/Award	438
Meals	700
Total	\$ 1,772
<u>Expenses</u>	
Meals	\$ 626
Newsletter	1,079
Awards	147
Supplies	57
Officer's Conference	546
Total	\$ 2,455
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 5,132
<u>Net Gain/(Loss)</u>	\$ (683)

Humor

You might be a chemical engineer if....

- People hound you for pocket protectors at Halloween time.
- You think that when people around you yawn, its because they didn't get enough sleep.
- Your spouse hasn't the foggiest idea what you do at work.
- Your three-year-old son asks why the sky is blue and you try to explain atmospheric absorption theory.
- You and a buddy spend two work days customizing each engineer's phone ring so that you can tell them apart from anywhere—using cut-up lids from snuff cans and scotch tape.
- You refer to your children as your "pilot units".

Engineer or Management?

A man flying in a hot air balloon realizes his is lost. He reduces his altitude and spots a man in a field down below. He lowers the balloon further and shouts, "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

The man below says, "Yes, you're in a hot air balloon, about 30 feet above this field."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am. How did you know?"

"Everything you told me is technically correct, but it's of no use to anyone."

The man below says, "You must be in management."

"I am. But how did you know?"

"You don't know where you are, or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You're in the same position you were before we met, but now it's my fault.

[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]

Minority Affairs Committee Outreach Shares Wonder of Chemical Engineering With Inner-City Students

Irvin Osborne-Lee and his AIChE student chapter at Prairie View A & M University in Texas took the opportunity to share chemical engineering with students from Dallas' inner-city schools during the Institute's Annual Meeting.

The highly successful program goes to two different schools at AIChE's national meetings and helps children who may not otherwise be exposed to engineering get a glimpse of chemical engineering's key principles.

This year, Osborne-Lee and his team went to the J.W. Ray Learning Center and the Albert Johnston Middle School. The neighborhoods surrounding the two schools may have exhibited the signs of poverty—dilapidated houses, abandoned buildings—but inside the schools there was nothing but enthusiasm for the program.

After a brief opening explanation of polymerization during which Osborne-Lee got all the students to pronounce the word perfectly and define it in unison, the experimenting began. Students enthusiastically undertook one of three experiments: a soap bubble

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POP!

beverages have been packaged and delivered to the public over the last 30 years.

In 1967, a character in the movie *The Graduate* uttered an immortal line to a newly graduated student played by Dustin Hoffman, "Just one word, Ben—plastics." While sometimes derided then and

(See POP! on page 7)

Would you like to help mold the next generation of Chemical Engineers?

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 19, at 3:00 p.m. at Tulane Chemical Engineering Department. This is the kickoff Mentor meeting; it will be immediately followed up at 4:00 p.m. by a meeting with the Freshman class of Chemical Engineering candidates for about an hour (the Engineering 101 course Dr. Brian Mitchell teaches).

Dr. Mitchell is our campus coordinator and will assign freshman to each of us - probably about 4 or 5 each, depending on the class size. Depending on the interest of the juniors and seniors, we will also have one of them assigned to our groups to give them a contact on campus. They would probably be the most help in discussing course selection and other school related matters. We will discuss what's the best way to communicate and help the students at this meeting.

If you plan on attending, please be prepared to tell about yourself as well as one job you have held and how your chemical engineering courses helped in that job—nothing elaborate; this is to help the students connect a little with our profession.

This is a pilot effort — we will learn as we go, so be open to suggestions on how we can best help the students or change the program. If we are successful, we can have a positive impact on these students with their chosen profession. If you cannot make this meeting, but know of anyone who might want to be a mentor, please contact **Garnett Bedenbaugh at (504) 345-1566 or garnettb2@aol.com** or **Dr. Brian Mitchell at (504) 862-8257 or Brian@che.che.tulane.edu**.

SET THE DATE:

February 3 - 4, 2000

THE LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY WILL BE HOSTING THE 4TH ANNUAL JOINT ENGINEERING SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

Event function include:

Meetings - Seminars
Exhibitors - Banquet

The Place: Hotel Acadiana; Lafayette, LA

Contact **Brenda W. Gajan at (225) 924-2021** for more information on this event. Vendor booth space will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

This event can provide up to 10 Professional Development Hours (PDHs)

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Outreach

experiment that resulted in a lot of wildly abandoned bubble blowing to demonstrate the concept of surface tension; “plastic bag ice cream” that demonstrated heat transfer (as ice cream was formed from cream, sugar, and vanilla in a bag of ice, the ice melted); and mixing of glue and water to demonstrate polymerization.

In between leaning over to keep bubbles from shooting all over the floor and doing a mysterious James Brown–like dance to entertain the kids, Osborne-Lee took time out to talk to *AICHEXtra* about the history of the program and what service to society meant to him.

“This particular meeting, I’ve had a lot of help with this outreach program because my students really wanted to come here and support the effort,” Osborne-Lee said. “However, I can’t say that the kids have ever presented any serious disciplinary problems. The key to working not just here, but in any school, is that you keep the children engaged. When you do that, they all have an opportunity to have fun.”

Osborne-Lee also told *AICHEXtra* of his continuing efforts to involve other members in his efforts. “We’ve really expanded this program using local sections and AIChE’s national meetings. We have held workshops at the Officer’s Conference where we trained other local section officers. I also used to be part of AIChE’s Speakers Bureau and used that as a platform to bus kids in, order pizza, and explain our activities.” Osborne-Lee’s presentation ended with a closing “test.” The first question was “Science is (a) fun or (b) not fun.” The students chose (a). The second and most important question was “Who can be an engineer?” The correct answer to that was “everyone.”

From there, Osborne-Lee’s students at Prairie View A & M talked to the students about the importance of staying in school. LaTonya Johnson said that “you have to stay focused and, when you get to the point

where we are, remember to come back and help kids just like you.” Kieron Loregnard expressed his gratitude at having the chance to work with the students.

In addition to Johnson and Loregnard, the students who worked with Osborne-Lee included Kareem Burney, Byron Dargins, John Douglin, Timothy Glaude, and Sharon Stevenson. He was also aided by AIChE members Emmanuel Dada, Dick Traeger, Tonya Peeples, Victor Rodgers, and Eugene Alsandor.

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POP!

now, plastics and the advances made in their variety, strength, and impermeability (for carbonated beverages) meant big changes. Plastics have transformed many products and industries, from toys, recordings, exercise equipment, and clothing, to entertainment, aerospace, and automobiles. But, perhaps, nowhere have these changes been as noticeable as they have been in beverage packaging—with breakable, heavy glass giving way, beginning in the 1960s, to a variety of polymers.

The widespread use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) in clear soda bottles, of high density polyethylene (HDPE) in milk jugs, and of low density polyethylene (LDPE) in containers for honey and other liquids are just a few examples of the innovations which transformed American life.

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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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: January 18, 2000
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: Steak & Ale
3870 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie, LA***



“There is one thing stronger than all the world, and that is an idea whose time has come”

— Victor Hugo