



The Catalyst
PITTSBURGH SECTION
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS



Volume 21 Issue 7



April, 2007

APRIL MEETING NOTICE

U.S. Department Of Energy
Fossil Energy Fuel Cell Program;
Working Toward a Secure Energy Future

*Jointly with the Energy Technology Group,
Pittsburgh Section, American Chemical Society*

Where: **Eat'n Park Restaurant - Waterfront**
245 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120
412-464-7275

When: **Wednesday, April 11, 2007**

Time: **5:30 PM Registration**
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Speaker: Wayne Surdoval
Fuel Cells Technology Manager

Menu: Your choice of dinner entrée from the menu and coffee or soft drink. See the online menu at www.eatnpark.com

Cost: \$17.00 Registration fee includes dinner.

RSVP NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2007

TO: CHRISTINA CARPENTER
Phone: 412-386-4484
E-mail: christina.carpenter@sa.netl.doe.gov

Your RSVP must include: **Name, Work Affiliation,**
AICHE, E-mail Address or Phone Number.

PLEASE PAY AT THE DOOR.

CANCELLATIONS: If you must cancel your meeting reservation, please do so no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will be invoiced for the cost of your meal.

~ About the Presentation ~

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Fossil Energy Fuel Cell Program has supported fuel cell research since the creation of DOE in 1977. The ***National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)*** is located in Pittsburgh, PA and in Morgantown, WV. The NETL is an integral DOE Program Office that has led the development, implementation and management of fuel cell research.

Fuel cell research has progressed steadily and is reaching the point of moving into commercial application. Like the first commercial nuclear plant in Shippingport, PA, the federal government's role has been essential to ensuring that this important technology moves into commercialization.

Wayne A. Surdoval is the Fuel Cells Technology Manager at NETL (Pittsburgh). He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering. His research spanning over 21 years with the U.S. DOE in Pittsburgh includes program and project management in the areas of fuel cell and nuclear technology. Wayne was an engineer in Nuclear Operations during the last three operational years of the Shippingport Plant prior to it's decommissioning in 1984.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear friends and members:

It is hard to believe that this AICHE year is drawing to a close. Just two more meetings and we swing into that most glorious of seasons – when it's warm! Our last two meetings promise to be great ones also. See this newsletter's feature article for details on April's meeting. Our last meeting in May is the **McAfee Awards Banquet**. Be sure to make plans to attend. **Vice-Chair Jim Miller** did another fabulous job organizing the March meeting, a tour of the Bruce Mansfield Power Plant, except for the weather! We had a great turn out for the tour, including several students.

Don't forget about the **Pittsburgh Section elections**. They are soon upon us! If you have ever had any interest in running for one of our elected positions, please take the leap and do it now. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed my tour of duty and have had the opportunity to work with our Executive Committee and Officers whom I consider to be one of the finest groups of men and women it has been my privilege to know. They truly made the entire experience easy and enjoyable. Take the opportunity to get the same benefits I got, run for office or volunteer to serve on one of our committees.

See you at the April and May meetings.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Hall".

Gary Hall
Chairman, AICHE Pittsburgh Chapter

APRIL MEETING**DIRECTIONS TO EAT'N PARK - WATERFRONT:****From Downtown Pittsburgh:**

Take I-376 East towards Monroeville. Continue forward and take Exit #5 for Squirrel Hill-Homestead-Greenfield. Bear left and follow signs toward Homestead. Merge onto Beechwood Blvd. Continue forward; merge onto Browns Hill Road (Blue Belt) and cross the bridge. Turn right at Fifth Avenue and another right onto West Waterfront Drive. Turn right again to stay on West Waterfront Drive. Continue forward to restaurant on East Waterfront Drive.

From the North:

From I-79, take I-279 South to I-579 South and take I-376 East. Follow the directions from Downtown Pittsburgh above.

From the West:

From US-22, US-30, or PA-60, take I-279 towards Pittsburgh and through the Fort Pitt Tunnel. Bear right across the bridge and take Exit #6A for I-376 East towards Monroeville. Follow the directions from Downtown Pittsburgh above.

From the East:

Take I-376 West towards Pittsburgh and Exit #5 for Squirrel Hill-Homestead-Greenfield. Follow the directions from Downtown Pittsburgh above.

From the South:

From I-79, take I-279 at Exit #59A towards Pittsburgh and through the Fort Pitt Tunnel. Bear right across the bridge and take Exit #6A for I-376 East towards Monroeville. Follow the directions from Downtown Pittsburgh above.



AICHE NATIONAL NEWS

The 2007 AIChE Spring National Meeting, Global Congress on Process Safety – with CCPS International Conference, Loss Prevention Symposium, Process Plant Safety Symposium – plus other conferences will be held at Hilton Americas in Houston, Texas on April 22 – 26, 2007.

For more details, visit:

www.aiche.org/Conferences/SpringMeeting/index.aspx

2007 – 2008 PITTSBURGH SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Anyone interested in volunteering their skills to the Pittsburgh Section as part of the Executive Committee or as one of the additional officers and chairs can nominate themselves (and others) by contacting David Missenda by e-mail at david_missenda@URSCorp.com

The Pittsburgh Section will be holding annual elections in May for the following positions: Vice-Chair, Secretary, and one Counselor.

The current Vice-Chair automatically elevates to the position of Chair in the 2008 - 2009 program year. The Secretary, Treasurer and Counselor each serve a two-year term.

SOLICITATION FOR 2007 MCAFEE AWARD NOMINEES

There are many talented chemical engineers in our region. The Pittsburgh Section of AIChE provides an opportunity for us to network with many of our

colleagues in the Tri-state area. Additionally, the Section is proud to honor the professional and community service of our most remarkable members through the biennial McAfee Award.

The McAfee Award is presented to a distinguished chemical engineer in honor of Jerry McAfee, former Chief Executive Officer of the Gulf Oil Corporation. The award, the culmination of this program year, is an important opportunity to promote chemical engineering in the Pittsburgh area and a chance to celebrate our profession with our associates, clients, and spouses.

The award is presented to a distinguished Pittsburgh chemical engineer who:

- Is widely recognized for contributing to the profession
- Has community appreciation where she or he lives and works, and
- Has participated in and contributed to the AIChE and the Pittsburgh Section

Nominations for this year's McAfee Award recipient are now being accepted. The nomination must include a letter from a "champion" and at least three supporting letters. Please send the letters via USPS or email to:

Mr. Ed Moretti, *Scholarship and Awards Chair*
AIChE Pittsburgh Section
c/o Moretti Consulting Group
314 East Main Street
Carnegie, PA 15106
emoretti@moretticonsulting.com

Nominations are due by April 15, 2007.

The McAfee Award dinner will be held at the Fox Chapel Golf Club on Tuesday May 22 beginning at 6:00 p.m.



**AICHE STUDENT NIGHT 2007
AWARD WINNERS**

Congratulations to our **Student Night 2007 Professional Promise Award** winners! This year's awardees were:

- Alex Gedra**, Youngstown State University
- Tirzah Mills**, West Virginia University
- Maureen Tang**, Carnegie Mellon University
- Drew Sakai** University of Pittsburgh

With 85 attendees—mainly students—this year's Student Night was the largest in recent memory. Also attending was Dale Keairns, the AIChE National President-Elect and Pittsburgh section member. The evening featured nine poster presentations of student research and presentation of the Professional Promise awards.



(l to r) **Jim Miller**, Tirzah Mills, and **Professor David Klinke** (WVU)



(l to r) **Professor Jim Miller** (CMU) and **Maureen Tang**



(l to r) **Alex Gedra**, **Jim Miller** (Pittsburgh Section Vice-Chair), and **Professor Doug Price** (YSU)



(l to r) **Drew Sakai**, **Jim Miller** and **Professor Di Gao** (Pitt)



(l to r) **Christa Mastramico** (YSU), **Dessie Xenakis** (Pitt), **Phae Pappas** (Pitt), **Mark Hamilton** (YSU), **Aileen Dinin** (CMU), **Alex Gedra** (YSU), **Dave Statler** (WVU), **Tirzah Mills** (WVU), and **Kushari Kuzilati** (WVU)



Attendees view the poster presentations.



More attendees view the poster presentations.

40TH PITTSBURGH CHEMICAL DAY

Pittsburgh Chemical Day returns on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 for the 40th annual edition of an event that has long been one of the chemical industry's favorite traditions.

It began with founding fathers Harry Pugh (Chemical Sales Association/Monsanto) and Art Morgan (Purchasing Association/PPG Industries) meeting for lunch in 1967 to discuss the feasibility of a joint group dinner. Upon agreement to move forward, the Chemical Marketing Association and its Chairman Ray Siren were also invited; ultimately Ralph Reed, President Elect of the Sales Association, was

selected to chair the initial Pittsburgh Chemical Day affair. The event was held on April 18, 1968, a date which coincided with National Chemical Week. Anticipating a crowd of 80-90, the event's founders were astounded when 203 people convened at Chatham Center to hear John Gillis, Vice President, Monsanto, speak about "The International Posture of the U.S. Chemical Industry."

Pittsburgh Chemical Day wasn't always a full-day event replete with Workshop, Forum and Dinner. Its early years called for evening cocktails, a dinner, and an address by a well respected member of the Chemicals Industry family. CEO's and Presidents of Fortune 500 companies have graced the Chemical Day dais. Past keynote speakers are so sufficiently impressed that they often endorse participation with future keynote speakers.

Support and enthusiasm for Pittsburgh Chemical Day from its inception continues to be strong. This support comes from local Pittsburgh executives or those chemical industry related personnel who have succeeded the original full committee. Although the Chemical Marketing Association and the Sales Association have both folded, their membership has been absorbed by the Chemical Association of Pittsburgh. It is this group that provides the majority of the personnel who make the event successful. The Joint Chemical Group, comprised of past Pittsburgh Chemical Day chair people, provides guidance and counsel for the General Chairperson and his/her committees. Over the past four decades, Pittsburgh Chemical Day has grown to become the largest one-day event in the chemicals industry. With virtually every major chemical company and industry publication in annual attendance, Pittsburgh Chemical Day is perceived as one of the industry's most informative and influential events of the year.

Their mission is to highlight Pittsburgh as a chemical industry center and to provide a



premier, one-day forum for idea sharing and for insight into current key issues affecting the chemical industry. Their focus is to deliver an exceptional value to sales, marketing, purchasing and other industry professionals.

To attend this event at the Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers and obtain more information, visit their website: www.pittchemday.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE
MAY NEWSLETTER IS
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007**

Please submit newsletter information to:

E.G. Klein
724-796-3128
eg.klein@giccusa.com

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Contact **E.G. Klein** at eg.klein@giccusa.com or 724-796-3128 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Please send all change of address notifications to the Membership Chair:

Holly Gray
412-269-6059
hgray@mbakercorp.com

Please verify your updated e-mail address and post office mailing address so that you will continue to receive newsletters and e-mail notifications! Newsletters are also posted on our website, www.aichepgh.org

**Please sign me up for the Pittsburgh
Section of AIChE**

Name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____
 Residence Phone _____
 Email _____

Annual dues are \$16.00. Make check payable to "AIChE Pittsburgh Section" and send to the Treasurer:

Paul Brezovec
AIChE Treasurer
164 Taylor Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906



**AICHE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER
2006-2007 OFFICERS**

Executive Committee

Chair

Gary Hall (gary.hall@sauereisen.com)
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412-963-0303, ext. 236

Vice-Chair & Program

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412-268-9517

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724-942-3717

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2006 - 2007 Chapter Meeting Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
April 11, 2007	U.S. D.O.E. Fossil Energy Fuel Cell Program	Eat'n Park, Homestead, PA
May 22, 2007	McAfee Award Banquet	Fox Chapel Golf Club

Mark your Calendars!

For the Following Dates:

April 11, 2007	U.S. D.O.E. Fossil Energy Fuel Cell Program	Eat'n Park, Homestead, PA
April 22 – 26, 2007	2007 AIChE Spring National Meeting	Hilton Americas, Houston, TX
May 1, 2007	40 th Pittsburgh Chemical Day	Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers, Pittsburgh, PA
May 22, 2007	McAfee Award Dinner	Fox Chapel Golf Club, Fox Chapel, PA



The Catalyst

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Visit us on-line at www.aichepgh.org



GOD Bless The U.S.A.!