

# The Award Winning Catalyst

Pittsburgh Section - American Institute of Chemical Engineers



Volume 15 Issue 4

www.lm.com/~aiche/

Jan 2001

## January Meeting Notice

**Event:** JOINT MEETING WITH AWMA

**Where:** Penn Brewery  
Troy Hill and Vinial Street (North Side)  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**When:** Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001

**Time:** 4:00 Registration

4:30 Program Introduction ~ Eric Perl, Harding ESE,  
A&WMA Allegheny Mountain Section Program  
Co-Chair

4:35 About A&WMA ~ Larry Berger, MSA,  
A&WMA Allegheny Mountain Section Chair

4:40 About AIChE ~ Ed Moretti, Baker  
Environmental, AIChE Pittsburgh Section Chair

4:45 The Pittsburgh Riverlife Task Force ~ The Grand  
Vision Plan for Pittsburgh's Rivers and  
Riverfronts, Davitt Woodwell, Pittsburgh  
Riverlife Task Force

5:30 Questions, Answers, and Discussion

6:00 Tour of Penn Brewery ~ Brewmaster Tom  
Pastorius will provide a tour of the Penn Brewery

7:00 Dinner and Social ~ Technical and social  
conversation amidst a dinner of German  
specialties, beer, and soft drinks

8:30 Adjournment

**Cost:** \$35.00

**Menu:** Buffet of German foods

**RSVP NO LATER THAN JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2001 TO:**

**Please Pay at Door**

Mr. Michael Flaherty, Vice Chair  
WSP Chemicals and Technology Inc.

Tel 724-266-7688 - Fax 724-266-7683 - Michaelp871@hotmail.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATIONS:** If you must cancel your meeting reservation, please do so no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you do not provide a cancellation notice, you will be invoiced for the cost of your meal.

## EVENING'S TOPIC

During the industrial age, Pittsburgh, like its counterpart cities everywhere, used its rivers primarily for transportation and waste disposal. Over time, the life of the city slowly became disconnected from its highly industrialized waterfront. In 1999, the Riverlife Task Force was formed to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of Pittsburgh's riverfronts. Made up of citizens, property owners, elected officials, and representatives of civic and cultural organizations interested in the future of the rivers and riverfronts, the Task Force vision is to create one the outstanding waterfronts in world. In order to achieve this goal, the organization is working with all stakeholders and the public to dream and realize the full potential of the rivers and riverfronts.

## EVENING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Davitt Woodwell is Executive Director of the Riverlife Task Force. In this position, he is responsible for the Task Force's operations, which include the development of a master plan for Pittsburgh's waterfronts. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Mr. Woodwell is past Chairman of the Citizen Advisory Panel to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission and a member of the Board of Directors of the Allegheny Land Trust, the Brownfields Center and the Pittsburgh Garden Place. He participated in the Department of Environmental Protection's regulatory negotiation on the special protection waters program and served on the Pittsburgh Ozone Stakeholder Working Group and subsequent negotiations on regulating air pollution. He is also a member of the Allegheny County Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee. Mr. Woodwell was appointed by Governor Ridge to serve on the Governor's Commission on Greenways and on the agricultural Development Advisory Board. Prior to assuming his position as Executive Director of the Task Force, Mr. Woodwell served as Director of the Western Pennsylvania office and Staff Attorney for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Mr. Woodwell will be providing an overview of the program, a current status report of the achievements of the Task Force, and insights to the future direction of the plan for the Pittsburgh riverfronts balancing what often seem like opposing interests: the environment and economic development.

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Dear Members,

We had a great tour for our November meeting. Thank you to all that attended! **Mr. John Colledge** did an excellent job presenting the Omega Process. We wish you success in your futures endeavors.

Our Chapter would like to congratulate our Counselor **Larry Biegler!** AIChE National recently recognized Larry as the recipient of the **Computing in Chemical Engineering Division Practice Award**. Please see the *What's New in Our Chapter Column* for further details on this prestigious award.

*You can now be an AIChE Pittsburgh Chapter Monthly Meeting Sponsor too.* With your sponsorship of \$200 you will be invited to display your company information at our meeting and will receive a ¼ page add (\$95 value) in the following Newsletter. We would appreciate your support! Please contact me for further information.

We encourage you to become active in our chapter by volunteering for the various events we support in our community such as Engineers' Week and the Future City Competition. Please contact Nancy Hirko (412-433-5914) for the various volunteer positions available.

I look forward to meeting you during our November meeting at Eastroc!

Peggy Panagopoul os  
AIChE Newsletter Editor  
ChemTech Consultants, Inc.

**Membership Corner**

**LETTER FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

It's that time of year again! Time to renew your membership in both national AIChE and the local section. This is just a reminder to please pay your dues promptly. Not only do you get the many benefits that the national organization offers, but you also help support our local section and its various activities.

As a reminder, the dues structure is as follows:

Member	\$70	Graduated 1998 to Present
	\$104	Graduated 1995-1997
	\$139	Graduated before 1995
Unemployed Members	Dues waived for a maximum of two years	
Graduate Students	\$28 (20% of full dues)	
Age 65 in 2000	\$70 (50% reduction – must qualify for full retirement benefits as defined by Social Security Administration)	
Emeritus	\$35 (for those over 65 with 35 years of paid membership)	
Family Plan	Higher dues member pays full dues Lower paying member pays 50% of full dues	
Military/Peace Corps	Dues waived (maximum of two years)	
Family Situation	\$35 Unemployed/employed part-time staying at home to provide care-giving responsibilities	
Disability	Waived – must provide proof and have had at least 10 years of paid membership	
Life Membership	\$1,390 – covers dues for remainder of life	
Undergraduate Student	\$20 – Gold Membership (Web-enhanced) \$10 – Silver Membership	

Members can also access the AIChE on-line member directory to review and correct their personal and professional data. Check it out at [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org). And don't forget to send corrections to me as well ~ [nhirko@air-comp.com](mailto:nhirko@air-comp.com)!

Nancy Hirko

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business \_\_\_\_\_ Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues are \$16.00. Make check payable to "AIChE Pittsburgh Section" and send to our Treasurer John Hauser, PROSAF, Inc. 103 Yorktown Road, McMurray, PA 15317

**Engineering Humor****DILBERTISMS**

I can please only one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow isn't looking good either.

I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.

Am I getting smart with you? How would you know?

I'd explain it to you, but your brain would explode.

Someday we'll look back on all this and plow into a parked car.

There are very few personal problems that cannot be solved through a suitable application of high explosives.

Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.

Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If he isn't there the first time you need him, chances are you won't need him again.

I don't have an attitude problem. You have a perception problem.

My Reality Check bounced.

On the keyboard of life, keep one finger on the escape key.

I don't suffer from stress. I'm a carrier.

You're slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.

Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons. You are crunchy and taste good with ketchup.

Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, and then beat you with experience.

Thank you to Mariangela for her contribution! Please contribute by sending publishable engineering/business jokes to [pegpana@chemtech88.com](mailto:pegpana@chemtech88.com).

**Hot News****NEW OPTION FOR PE EXAM REVIEW****The Passing Zone: On-Line Q&A Review for the Chemical PE Exam**

In the Passing Zone, you will prepare for the chemical PE exam by completing 12-14 week study schedule using the *Chemical Engineering Reference Manual (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)* by Randall Robinson, P.E. During your review, you will have access to the Passing Zone's private (password protected) Q&A bulletin board, you can post questions 24 hours a day about any problem or concept you encounter as you study, and get rapid responses from an experienced AIChE Review Course Instructor. Extra practice problems and an FAQ list about the PE exam will also be available.

The Passing Zone will begin in January 2001, and the Q&A Board will open through the April Exam. Registration will open in December. With registration fee of only \$75.00, the Passing Zone offers you a reasonable alternative to studying alone and can also be used in conjunction with a review course.

*For more information, go to [www.thepassingzone.com](http://www.thepassingzone.com) or call 800-426-1178, Extension 19.*

**ENGINEERING DRIVES TODAY'S ADVERTISING**

Open any consumer magazine today and you are apt to see something you would not have seen a year ago: engineering.

Two major companies, Levi's® and Kimberly-Clark, are incorporating the merits of engineering to promote the value of their products. In fact, a current advertisement for Kimberly-Clark's Depend™ Briefs points directly to the contributions of chemical engineers. As mentioned in last month's *AIChExtra*, members have felt that employers could do more to educate the public about the benefits of chemical engineering. Levi's and Kimberly-Clark are two of the companies who have accepted this challenge. Their highly effective advertising concepts relate chemical engineering to the lifestyle of the consumer who benefits directly from chemical engineering technology.

Levi's recently launched a dynamic advertising campaign entitled "Levi's Engineered Jeans™." The national campaign can be seen on television, print, and the Internet (see <http://www.levis.com>). Levi's "Engineered Jeans" are a unique style of jeans from Levi's that include a shiny denim surface and, on their pants, a wider and lower back pocket.

**Hot News (continued)**

In an exclusive interview with *AICHEXtra*, Levi's Sandy Westlake says, "engineering is here to stay." Westlake believes that associating engineering with their product conveys that Levi's, like engineering, are not a trend." Westlake added, "Levi's believes that using an engineering theme celebrates Levi's tradition of innovation." And by doing so, Levi's celebrates the tradition of innovation in the engineering profession.

In its Internet promotions, Levi's describes how engineering elements such as "water, sand, and steel are the origins of these unique and revolutionary jeans." Levi's promotional Web site shows how wearing Levi's "Engineered Jeans" will give the consumer the excitement and wonder of an "Engineered Experience." One version of the print, television, and Internet promotions depicts a man running, to the beat of a pulsating rhythm, through a futuristic corridor.

Westlake said the ad campaign "depicts people in constant motion to underscore how technology is in constant motion."

Westlake said that many people today "have a different perception of technology—they see it as a very good thing." Kimberly-Clark, in line with this idea, promotes how chemical engineering innovation answers the needs of society. Kimberly-Clark recently advertised a new and improved version of their Depend Briefs.

The headline of their current ad reads "Some Said Depend Briefs Couldn't Get Any Drier. That's All Our Engineers Needed To Hear."

Kimberly-Clark points out in the ad that "more than 17 million people in North America experience some form of incontinence." Because of this, Kimberly-Clark set out to make their product even better than before. The ad reads that, in order to improve their product, Kimberly-Clark "assembled a team of bio-medical, chemical, and mechanical engineers" to create a better product.

The Kimberly-Clark ad, as well as the Levi's advertising campaign, uses engineering to substantiate the value of their products. In doing so, they promote chemical engineering to a general public that needs to be informed of the value the profession brings to their everyday life.

The use of engineering in advertising also reflects the general public's increasing expectation from technological advances. While chemical engineers are an integral part of technological advancements, it has always been a challenge to articulate how chemical engineers contribute to the final product used by consumers. Westlake said, "because technology is so present in people's lives, they have the same expectations for their clothes." Consumers not only expect more from technology in their clothes, but more technology in other facets of their lives.

AICHE's Career Services' senior manager, Betty Feehan, says that "the increasing number of chemical engineering graduates entering the job market into so-called non-traditional fields such as biotechnology, advanced materials, semiconductors, telecommunications, and consulting underscores how chemical engineers enhance the quality of everyday life."

Feehan says that, "demand for technology grows, and so does the presence of chemical engineers in new and exciting fields."

Chemical engineers throughout the country stand to benefit by these recent advertising pieces. This helps to bolster AICHE's many efforts in increasing public awareness and understanding of chemical engineering.

By instilling engineering into the public conscious, AICHE and major corporations help broaden the understanding of engineering and enhance the perception of chemical engineers.

### What's New in the Chapter

**CONGRATULATIONS LARRY BIEGLER**

**Lorenz. T. Biegler** is recognized by the National AICHE for outstanding contributions to the development and application of nonlinear program techniques to process design and control. Biegler is the Bayer Professor of Chemical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1981. Larry is also one of our Pittsburgh Chapter Counselors.

The *Computing in Chemical Engineering Division Practice Award* recognizes individuals who have made pioneering contributions to the industrial practice of catalysis and chemical reaction engineering. It is sponsored by Merck and Company, Inc.

Congratulations Larry! You have made our Chapter proud.

**ON THE MOVE**

ChemTech Consultants, Inc., an engineering consulting firm in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, recently announced the promotion of Ms. Peggy Panagopoulos to Sales Manager.

Ms. Panagopoulos, who earned a Masters of Science in Management and Technology from Carlow College and a Bachelors in Chemical Engineering from Youngstown State University, began her career with ChemTech as a Process Engineer in 1997. She later transitioned into the Sales Department.

## Chapter Announcements

### FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

#### Volunteers Needed for the Future City Competition

The Engineer's Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) in conjunction with the Carnegie Science Center will present the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Future City Competition* in the Pittsburgh area. The Future City Competition asks middle school students to create - first on computer and then in large, three-dimensional models -- their visions of the city of tomorrow. The Pittsburgh Regional Competition will be held at the Carnegie Science Center, on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The Future City Competition is a national program sponsored by the engineering community to promote technological literacy and engineering to middle school students. The Future City Competition in the Pittsburgh Region is planned to include school districts from Allegheny and the immediate surrounding counties. Students can experience a fun way to learn about engineering and cities of the future.

We have over 50 schools registered in this years competition. This is about a 40% increase over last year. We are looking for volunteers for judges, timekeepers, model movers, and general help to work the event. Judges need to be engineers, but anyone can volunteer for the other helpers.

In order to be a judge, you must attend one of the orientation sessions. We will be holding orientation on several dates:

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 (Thursday) and  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001 (Thursday)

Location: Engineer Society of Western Pennsylvania  
337 Fourth Avenue  
Downtown Pittsburgh

Time: 6:00 P.M.

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001 (Saturday)

Location: Carnegie Science Center  
One Allegheny Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Please contact Amy Robeson at 412-237-1640 to volunteer and receive the proper documentation.

### INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN AICHE MEETING AT YOUR COMPANY?

We are in search of hosts for our future AICHE monthly meetings. The Chapter is looking for companies that can provide AICHE members with an interesting, informative, and beneficial agenda. If your company would be interested in hosting a meeting please contact me.

Also, if you have a topic or an idea that you would like to see presented at a monthly meeting, please feel free to contact me and we can discuss your idea.

Mr. Michael Flaherty, Vice Chair  
WSP Chemicals and Technology Inc.  
Tel 724-266-7688  
Fax 724-266-7683  
Email Michaelp871@hotmail.com

### SCIENCE CENTER ACTIVITIES > Nancy Hirko

#### National Engineer's Week

National Engineer's Week will be held during the week of February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001. This event will be celebrated early at the Carnegie Science Center on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be preparing our ever popular "super balls" and gum drop chemical compound models. I do appreciate our section's enthusiasm during this event.

The National Engineer's Week Committee is also looking for some volunteer help. Assistance is needed in the following areas:

- Registration Table  
February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>
- Help with the Science Stage Program  
Some planning assistance required
- Assist with the Girl Scout Badge program  
February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>
- Be part of the Discover "E" Program  
During the Month of February

**Chapter Announcements****DISCOVER "E" PROGRAM**

For the **Discover "E" Program**, engineers are needed to present a 40-minute presentation on engineering to classes of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during the month of February. The presentation includes a 10-minute talk on different engineering disciplines, a 20-minute hands-on activity and an 8-minute engineering video. You will be trained for this program.

Please contact Linda Kent at the Carnegie Science Center if you are interested in volunteering for the Discover "E" Program or the other (non-chemical engineering) help that is needed. You can register online at <http://ctc.einpg.org/engineers>. Otherwise, please contact me if you are interested in staffing the Pittsburgh Section table at either of these two events.



**Our Future Engineers building molecules at this year's National Chemistry Week at the Carnegie Science Center.**

**All of Nancy's hard work pays off!**

**THANK YOU!**



### Advertisements

#### Interested in Placing an Ad in Future Newsletters?

Help sponsor the AIChE by placing an ad

Full page	\$300.00
1/2 page	\$175.00
1/4 page	\$95.00
1/8 page	\$45.00
1/12 page	\$30.00

Place multiple ads and receive a discount!

Three (3) consecutive ads - 10% off

Eight (8) consecutive ads or more - 30% off

To place an ad, please contact:

Peggy Panagopoulos  
ChemTech Consultants, Inc.  
1370 Washington Pike, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
TEL 412-220-4612 ~ FAX 412-221-5685 ~ Email  
pegpana@chemtech88.com

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Submit information to

Peggy Panagopoulos > [pegpana@chemtech88.com](mailto:pegpana@chemtech88.com)



- Stack Testing •Dispersion Modeling •CEM Services
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412.826.3636 FAX 412.826.3640  
E-Mail: [jmerrill@air-comp.com](mailto:jmerrill@air-comp.com)

### AICHe Pittsburgh Section 2000-2001 Section Officers

#### Executive Committee

##### Chair

Ed Moretti ([emoretti@mbakercorp.com](mailto:emoretti@mbakercorp.com))  
Baker Environmental  
412-269-6055

##### Vice-Chair & Program

Michael Flaherty ([Michaelp871@hotmail.com](mailto:Michaelp871@hotmail.com))  
WSP Chemicals and Technology Inc.  
TEL 724-266-7688  
FAX 724-266-7683

##### Secretary

Bill Hargest ([hargest@ppg.com](mailto:hargest@ppg.com))  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
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##### Treasurer

John Hauser ([prosaf@sgi.net](mailto:prosaf@sgi.net))  
PROSAF, Inc.  
724-942-3717

##### Counselors

Carol Kessler ([kesslerc@usfilter.com](mailto:kesslerc@usfilter.com))  
US Filter  
412-269-5853

Larry Biegler ([lb01@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:lb01@andrew.cmu.edu))  
Carnegie Mellon University  
412-268-2232

##### Past Chair & Nominations

Ted Andersen ([TSAndersen@AOL.com](mailto:TSAndersen@AOL.com))  
ChemTech Consultants  
412-220-4555

#### Additional Officers and Chairs

##### Membership & Engineer Week

Nancy Hirko ([nmhirko@air-comp.com](mailto:nmhirko@air-comp.com))  
Air/Compliance Consultants, Inc.  
412-826-3636

##### Newsletter Editor

Peggy Panagopoulos ([pegpana@hotmail.com](mailto:pegpana@hotmail.com))  
ChemTech Consultants  
412-220-4612

##### Development

Gerald LaRosa ([Gerald.LaRose@Kvaerner.com](mailto:Gerald.LaRose@Kvaerner.com))  
Kvaerner Metals  
412-918-3654

##### Committee Chairs

Safety & Environmental    Shiaw Tseng  
Scholarship                    Sam Vance  
Student Night                    Position Open

##### Web Master

Dick Dupree ([rdupree@symphoni.com](mailto:rdupree@symphoni.com))  
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To Make our Customers More Successful*



### **The Award Winning Catalyst**

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

337 Fourth Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2097

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

#### *Tentative Meeting Schedule*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject (Location)</i>	<i>Special Event</i>
<i>February 13</i>	<i>William Pitt Union</i>	<i>Student Night</i>
<i>March 20</i>	<i>Engineers Club</i>	
<i>April 18</i>	<i>Wheeling-Nisshin Plant Tour</i>	
<i>May 17</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>McAfee Awards Banquet</i>