

AIChE



# The Catalyst

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS



Volume 19 Issue 7



March 2005

[www.aichepgh.org](http://www.aichepgh.org)

## MARCH MEETING NOTICE

**Topic:** *Plant Tour and Joint Meeting with the Pittsburgh Society of Women Engineers (SWE)*

**Where:** NCE, Inc.  
Buncher Commerce Park  
Building #25  
Leetsdale, PA 15056  
412-749-0442

**When:** Tuesday, March 22, 2005

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. Plant Tour & Bagels

**Cost:** \$10.00 per Person

**PLEASE RSVP  
NO LATER  
THAN MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

TO: Mr. David Missenda, Vice-Chair  
Phone: 412-503-4620

E-mail: [David\\_Missenda@URSCorp.com](mailto:David_Missenda@URSCorp.com)

Your RSVP must include: **Name, Company  
Name, Email Address, and Phone Number.**

**PLEASE PAY AT DOOR**

**CANCELLATIONS:** If you must cancel your meeting reservation, please do so no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will be invoiced to defray the cost of your meal.

### ~About the Site Tour ~

NCE, Inc. is a new facility in Leetsdale, built last year. A division of Nova Chemicals, they produce the Mogu Pillow products found at retail stores such as Kaufmann's.

Specifically, this tour will highlight the polystyrene bead expansion process, the bead aging process (to release any pentane off-gases), and the thermal oxidizer control system for the entire facility.

Space is limited to 25 people, so please RSVP early.

Mogu America is the U.S.-based arm of its Japanese parent company, Ebisukasei. Headquartered in New York City, Mogu America is comprised of four divisions: Mogu Trading, Mogu Entertainment, Mogu Retail, and Mogu E-Commerce.

For more information, please see:

<http://www.mogu.com/>

### ~ Directions to NCE, Inc ~

#### *From downtown Pittsburgh:*

Take Route 65 North approximately 4 miles past the Sewickley Bridge. Turn left and cross the tracks into the Buncher Commerce Park. Go straight to Avenue C and turn left. Follow Avenue C until you cross a set of train tracks. Building #25 is the last building on Avenue C. Park on the front side of the building and enter the door on the right.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a great time at Student Night. Thanks to Dale Keairns for an excellent presentation, to David Missenda for organizing the event, and to all the students that participated. We hope that you will stay involved in our local section in the future!

The McAfee Award Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2005 at Fox Chapel Golf Club. We're interested in obtaining industrial sponsorship for the banquet, so if you can help us get in contact with potential sponsors, please contact me or Ed Moretti.

Ed is also soliciting nominations for the award, and they are due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please consider nominating a deserving chemical engineer! Additional information on the nomination process can be found in this newsletter.

Jim Schneider,  
Chair, AIChE Pittsburgh Section

## MANY THANKS TO OUR 2005 ENGINEERS WEEK VOLUNTEERS!!

Thank you to all the hardworking and dedicated volunteers for another successful event at the Carnegie Science Center. Engineer's Week celebrations were well attended on February 18 and 19. Our local section's table was again one of the most popular - over 500 super balls were made and many chemical molecules were made by budding chemists and engineers.

I would like to thank the following members who gave generously of their time and helped staff the table this year:

David Missenda (who volunteered both days!)  
John Hauser  
Sam Vance  
Rick Welesko  
Marion Maniet  
Dan Nadzam  
William Mentzer  
JoAnn Truchan  
Deborah Kosmack  
Jewel Barber (a sophomore Pitt student - many thanks!)

The following Girl Scouts also assisted at our table:

Jenna Joswick	Troop 3109
Miranda Ruggles	Girls Zone
Mia Nickles	Troop 240
Nova Anderson	Seal of Ohio
Alicia Taylor	Troop 151
Olivia Beckenith	Seal of Ohio
Jessica Lewton	Black Diamond
Kelsey Whittemore	Seal of Ohio

Hope you got those badges, girls!

Thanks again to all who participated. Our next event at the Science Center will be held in October for National Chemistry Week. The theme will be the "Joy of Toys." Hey... we can make superballs!!

For those of you who have not experienced this event, it is a lot of fun and very rewarding. Think about volunteering next year!

Sincerely,

*Nancy Hirko*  
Pittsburgh AIChE - Engineer's Week Chair



## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Dear Members,

We are constantly updating our local membership database. Please send all change of address notifications to our Membership Chair:

**Holly Gray**  
**Michael Baker Jr., Inc.**  
**Airside Business Park**  
**100 Airside Drive**  
**Moon Township, PA 15108**

***hgray@mbakercorp.com***

If you have not already done so, please verify your updated e-mail address with us so that you will continue to receive monthly newsletters!

Thank you!

<b>Please sign me up for the local Pittsburgh Section of AIChE</b>		
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 our Treasurer:

**Leigh Anne M. Wacker,**  
**AIChE Treasurer**  
**337 Quail Run Road**  
**Venetia, PA 15367**

## 2005-2006 LOCAL SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

*Now is the time to start thinking about joining the Pittsburgh AIChE Executive Board. The Section cannot run smoothly by itself. It's the commitment of volunteers like you that keeps the Section running.*

*The Local Chapter will be holding its annual election for the following positions this May:*

- Vice-Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Counselor

*The Vice Chair will automatically elevate to the position of Chair in the 2006-2007 program year. The Treasurer, Secretary, and Counselor each serve a two-year term that will end in May 2007.*

*Becoming an officer is a great way to become more involved in AIChE and the local Section.*

*If you would like to learn more about these positions or would like to place your name on the ballot, please contact me by April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005.*

Best regards,

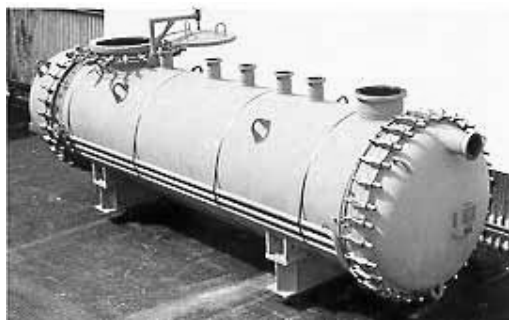
*Nathan Peters*  
*Past Chair*  
 724-942-7935  
[npeters@chemadvisor.com](mailto:npeters@chemadvisor.com)

## AIChE PITTSBURGH SECTION 2004-2005 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to

**Mr. Michael M. Nigra,**

a sophomore at Carnegie Mellon University, who was awarded a \$750 scholarship from our section for the 2005-2006 academic year.



## estrella

### Esterella USA

51 N. Towamencin Ave.

Lansdale, PA 19446

tel: 215-368-9299

fax: 215-368-9204

email: info@EstrellaUSA.com

### Glass-Lined Equipment

Columns (1" thru 72" dia.)

Custom Tanks (to 6,500 gal)

Pilot Plant Reactors

Vacuum Receivers

Nutsche Filters (to 60" dia.)

Shell & Tube Heat Exchangers

Condensers

Cyclone Separators

Multi-Nozzle Manifolds

CRT Envelope Gaskets

Pipe & Fittings (1/2" – 48" dia)

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PITTSBURGH FUTURE CITIES COMPETITION WINNERS!

Congratulations to the following Pittsburgh-Area Junior High Teams that placed at January's Future Cities Competition at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland:

*First Place:* **St. Bede School**

*Second Place:* **Riverview JSHS**

*Third Place:* **Trinity Middle School**

*AIChE Award for Best Use of Recycled Materials:* **Hillcrest Christian Academy**

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MCAFEE AWARD

This May, we will be presenting the McAfee Award to another distinguished Chemical Engineer in the Pittsburgh area. Thanks to J. Finley Bush for providing this brief history of the award.

**Purpose:** To provide recognition to a local member of AIChE who defines the utmost in professionalism to the profession, personal life, and community, and to provide publicity and recognition to the local section in Pittsburgh and national AIChE through publication of the award in CEP and local newspapers.

- The spirit of the award requires the following three things:
  - Service to AIChE
  - Service to the Profession
  - Service to the Community
- Awardees are presented with a plaque and honorarium.
- The event is held every two years, and it is a gala affair with keynote speaker and personal comments made by co-workers, associates, and members of the community;
- *This Award is not to be taken lightly.* It provides a forum for the local section to publicize the work of notable members and the profession to the public.
- To insure the local section receives recognition at both the local and national level, public relations work with local newspapers and CEP is a necessary action.



## SOLICITATION FOR 2005 MCAFFEE 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 our 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@moreticonsulting.com](mailto:emoretti@moreticonsulting.com)

**Nominations are due by April 15, 2005.**

This year's event will be held at the elegant Fox Chapel Golf Club on Tuesday, May 10, 2005. Watch upcoming issues of The Catalyst for additional details.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NATIONAL SPRING MEETING!

The **2005 National Spring AIChE Meeting** will be **April 10-14** at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA.

Don't miss out ... Register today!

<http://www.aiche.org/conferences/spring/index.htm>



Think Spring!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2005 NEWSLETTER IS  
MARCH 15, 2005.**

Please submit information to:

*Mariangela Peters*  
*Bayer MaterialScience, LLC*  
*100 Bayer Road*  
*Pittsburgh, PA 15205*

Phone (412) 777-4195

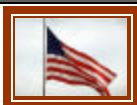
[mariangela.peters@bayermaterialscience.com](mailto:mariangela.peters@bayermaterialscience.com)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

*Your help is needed for the 66th Annual  
Pittsburgh Science & Engineering Fair!*

*The Fair is looking for judges. The  
competition will be held April 1st at the Club  
Level of Heinz Field.*

*Registration is either by phone at  
412-237-1534 or online at  
[www.pittsburghsciencefair.org](http://www.pittsburghsciencefair.org).*



## PHOTOS AND AWARD WINNERS FROM AIChE STUDENT NIGHT 2005

Congratulations to our Student 2005 Night Professional Promise Award Winners! This year's awardees were:

- Univ of Pittsburgh - Travis Baughman
- West Virginia Univ - Lina Galvis
- Carnegie Mellon Univ - Baris Polat
- Youngstown State Univ - Melissa Mott



Vice-Chair David Missenda and Pitt Professor Robert Enick prepare to award Pitt's Professional Promise Award to Travis Baughman.



CMU Student Baris Polat accepts the Professional Promise Award from CMU Professor

Gary Powers and AIChE Vice-Chair David Missenda.



Speaker Dale Kearns delivers a timely presentation entitled "Our Energy Future and Chemical Engineers".

Dr. Kearns currently serves on the National AIChE Board of Directors and has worked on energy and environmental technology, business and policy issues for over 35 years. He is a member of the Pittsburgh Section AIChE.

## SPONSORSHIPS

*Interested in placing your company's information in future AIChE Newsletters?*

Full Page	\$300
Half Page	\$175
Quarter Page	\$95
Business Card Size	\$45
1/12 Page	\$30

*Place multiple sponsorships and receive a discount!  
Three consecutive ads – 10% off  
Eight consecutive ads – 30% off*

Please contact Mariangela Peters at [mariangela.peters@bayermaterialscience.com](mailto:mariangela.peters@bayermaterialscience.com) or 412-777-4195 for more information.



AICHE Pittsburgh Section  
2004-2005 Officers

## Executive Committee

### Chair

Dr. Jim Schneider (schneider@cmu.edu)  
Carnegie Mellon University  
412-268-4394

### Vice-Chair & Program

David Missenda (david\_missenda@URSCorp.com)  
URS Corporation  
(412) 503-4620

### Secretary

Justin P. Filey (jfiley@ppg.com)  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
724-274-3529

### Treasurer

Leigh Anne M. Wacker (lamwacker@adelphia.net)  
ANSYS, Inc.  
724-514-3046

### Counselors

John Hauser (hauserjj@prosaf.com)  
PROSAF, Inc.  
724-942-3717

Dr. Douglas Price (dmprice@cc.yzu.edu)  
Youngstown State University  
330-941-3019

### Past Chair & Nominations

Nathan Peters (npeters@chemadvisor.com)  
ChemADVISOR, Inc.  
412-847-2000 x227

## Additional Officers and Chairs

### Membership Chair

Holly Gray (hgray@mbakercorp.com)  
Baker Environmental, Inc.  
412-269-6059

### Newsletter Editor

Mariangela Peters  
(mariangela.peters@bayermaterialscience.com)  
Bayer MaterialScience, LLC  
412-777-4195

### Engineers' and Chemistry Week

Nancy Hirko (nhirko@air-comp.com)  
Air/Compliance Consultants, Inc.  
412-826-3636

### Scholarship Chair

Ed Moretti (emoretti@moretticonsulting.com)  
Moretti Consulting Group, LLC  
412-276-2228

### Committee Chairs

Safety & Environmental: Shiao Tseng  
PE Review: Carl Schwartz

### Web Master

Richard Dupree (rrd@telerama.com)  
Dupree & Associates  
724-775-5122

## 2005 Monthly Meeting Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
January 19, 2005	Joint Meeting with AWMA	Penn Brewery
February 10, 2005	Annual Student Night	Univ of Pittsburgh - Oakland
March 22, 2005	Plant Tour with SWE	NCE, Inc – Leetsdale, PA
April 2005	Technical Presentation	TBA
May 10, 2005	McAfee Award Banquet	Fox Chapel Golf Club

**Mark your calendars!**

For the Following Dates:

---

March 22, 2005

Monthly Meeting

Tour of NCE, Inc.  
Joint Meeting with SWE

April 1, 2005

Volunteer Opportunity

66<sup>th</sup> Annual Pittsburgh Science &  
Engineering Fair – Club Level, Heinz Field

---



***The Catalyst***

American Institute of Chemical Engineers  
337 Fourth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2097



Visit us on-line at [www.aichepgh.org](http://www.aichepgh.org)

***PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN!***

---