

The Award Winning Catalyst

Pittsburgh Section - American Institute of Chemical Engineers



Volume 15 Issue 8

www.lm.com/~aiche/

May 2001

May Meeting Notice

Event: MCAFEE AWARDS DINNER

Where: Fox Chapel Golf Club
426 Fox Chapel Road
Fox Chapel, PA
Phone: 412-967-9018

When: Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Time: Social (with hors d'oeuvres): 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:30 p.m.
Award Presentation: 8:45 p.m.

Cost: \$55.00

Menu:

Hors d'oeuvres:

Mushroom and cheddar phyllo triangles, bacon wrapped scallops, marinated mozzarella wrapped with prosciutto, vegetarian california rolls.

Main Course:

Soup: White Gazpacho

Salad: Jackson Salad

Entrees: Veal Marsala or Grilled Chilean Sea Bass

Vegetable: Grilled vegetable bundles

Starch: Roasted New Potatoes

Dessert: Mango Creme Brulee

RSVP NO LATER THAN MAY 10TH, 2001 TO
PLEASE PAY AT DOOR

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

Name _____

Menu Selection _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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.

MCAFEE AWARD HONOREE



Lorenz T. (Larry) Biegler is currently the Bayer Professor of Chemical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, which he joined after receiving his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1981. His research interests are in the areas of computer aided process analysis and design and include flow sheet optimization, optimization of systems of differential and algebraic equations, reactor network synthesis and algorithms for constrained, nonlinear process control.

Professor Biegler has been a visiting scholar at Northwestern University, a scientist-in-residence at Argonne National Lab, a Distinguished Faculty Visitor at the University of Alberta and a Gambrinus Fellow at the University of Dortmund. He has authored or co-authored over 160 archival publications, authored or edited five books and presented numerous papers at national and international conferences. He is the recipient of the AIChE Computers in Chemical Engineering Award, the ASEE Curtis McGraw Research Award as well as a 1985 Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation. He has held several offices in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and is also a member of SIAM, ACS and Sigma Xi. In addition, Professor Biegler has been an active consultant on process design and optimization strategies for the chemical and process industry.

Letter from the Editor

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

Our tour of the impressive Wheeling-Nisshin site was a successful event. We had approximately 30 attendees venture out to Follansbee, WV. Thank you to Ty Lollini and Pat. We appreciated the time you spent with us!

The McAfee Award Dinner will be the Grand Finale to an excellent season of meetings. CONGRATULATIONS and Best Wishes to our honoree **Mr. Larry Biegler!**

If you are interested in a specific topic that you feel should be covered during one of our monthly meetings, please contact our Chair-Elect, Mr. Michael Flaherty (Tel 724-266-7688, Fax 724-266-7683, Email michaelp871@hotmail.com), with your ideas.

Have a safe, fun, and relaxing summer! We look forward to seeing you in September.

Best regards,
PEGGY PANAGOPOULOS
 AIChE Newsletter Editor
 ChemTech Consultants, Inc.

2001-2002 AIChE Officers

Congratulations to our New AIChE Officers!

Chair: Michael P. Flaherty,
 WSP Chemicals & Technology, Inc.

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Counselor: John Hauser
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Membership Chair: Ashley Smith
 Industrial Design Corporation

Membership Corner

LETTER FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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.

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

Chapter Announcements

AIChE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Undergraduate Scholarship Award Selection Committee of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers has just announced the winner of the Third Annual \$500 Award for the 2001/2002 academic year. Four applications were received and considered. All had outstanding records. The Awardee is **Mr. Jordan Green**, a sophomore enrolled at CMU. The decision was difficult and all candidates are to be commended for their fine records. The Committee extends CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Green.

Engineering Humor

Many companies right now are being forced to cut back spending due to the industrial slowdown. Let's just hope it doesn't come to this! Thanks JoAnn for your contribution!

SICKNESS AND RELATED LEAVE:

We will no longer accept a doctor statement as proof of sickness. If you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

SURGERY:

Operations are now banned. As long as you are an employee here, you need all your organs. You should not consider removing anything. We hired you intact. To have something removed constitutes a breach of employment.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE:

This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends, relatives or coworkers. Every effort should be made to have non-employees attend to the arrangements. In rare cases, where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled in the late afternoon. We will be glad to allow you to work through your lunch hour and subsequently leave one hour early, provided you share of the work is done enough to keep the job going in your absence.

YOUR OWN DEATH:

This will be accepted as an excuse. However, we require at least two weeks notice, as it is your duty to train your replacement.

REST ROOM USE:

Entirely too much time is being spent in the rest room. In the future, we will follow the practice of going in alphabetical order. For instance, those whose names begin with 'A' will go from 8:00 to 8:10, employees whose names begin with 'B' will go from 8:10 to 8:20 and so on. If you're unable to go at your time, it will be necessary to wait until the next day when your time comes again. In extreme emergencies employees may swap their time with a coworker. In writing, both employees' supervisors must approve this exchange. In addition, there is now a strict 3-minute time limit in the stalls. At the end of three minutes, an alarm bell will sound, the toilet paper roll will retract, and the stall door will open.

PAYCHECK GUIDE:

The following helpful guide has been prepared to help our employees better understand their paychecks:

Item	Amount
Gross pay	\$1,212.02
Income tax	\$244.40
Outgo tax	\$45.21
State tax	\$11.61
Interstate tax	\$61.10
County tax	\$6.11
City tax	\$12.22
Rural tax	\$4.44

Item	Amount
Back tax	\$1.91
Front tax	\$1.16
Side tax	\$1.61
Up tax	\$2.24
Tic-Tacs	\$2.98
Thumbtacks	\$3.93
Carpet tacks	\$1.98
Stadium tax	\$2.69
Flat tax	\$8.32
Surtax	\$3.46
Corporate tax	\$2.60
Parking fee	\$7.00
FICA	\$81.88
TGIF Fund	\$9.95
Life insurance	\$7.85
Health insurance	\$17.23
Dental insurance	\$5.50
Mental insurance	\$5.33
Disability	\$3.50
Ability	\$1.25
Liability	\$3.41
Unreliability	\$10.99
Coffee	\$16.85
Coffee Cups	\$66.51
Floor rental	\$16.85
Chair rental	\$1.32
Desk rental	\$14.32
Union dues	\$25.85
Union don'ts	\$3.77
Cash advance	\$0.69
Cash retreats	\$121.35
Overtime	\$1.26
Undertime	\$54.83
Eastern time	\$9.00
Central time	\$8.00
Mountain time	\$7.00
Pacific time	\$6.00
Time Out	\$12.21
Oxygen	\$10.02
Water	\$16.54
Heat	\$51.42
Cool air	\$26.83
Hot air	\$28.13
Miscellaneous	\$113.29
Sundry	\$14.09
Various	\$8.01

Net Take Home Pay \$6.02

Thank you for your loyalty to our company. We are here to provide a positive employment experience. All questions, comments, concerns, complaints, frustrations, irritations, aggravations, insinuations, allegations, accusations, contemplation's, consternation's, or input should be directed elsewhere.

Have a nice week.
 Your Boss

Hot News

Institute News

<http://www.aiche.org/newsroom/articledtl.asp?CatID=3&ArtID=356>

NOVA Chemicals Contributes to AIChE's 21st Century Campaign Contributes to AIChE's 21st Century Campaign

NOVA Chemicals Corporation has pledged \$150,000 to the AIChE Foundation's 21st Century Campaign. Andrew Greene, AIChE's director of development, announced this month. "We are very pleased to acknowledge NOVA Chemicals' support of the campaign, which includes the development of new technology, performance-based educational tools for chemical engineers and operators, and public outreach programs."

NOVA Chemicals makes ethylene and polyethylene, styrene, and styrenic polymers used in the manufacture of plastic and foam products and components for consumers and industrial users. NOVA Chemicals sells its products mostly in Canada, the US, Europe, and Asia and operates plants in both North America and Europe. NOVA Chemicals is the largest producer of styrene, polystyrene, and expandable polystyrene in the US.

Jeffrey M. Lipton, president and CEO of NOVA Chemicals, believes the work AIChE is doing will help shape the future of chemical engineering by continuing to develop breakthrough research in collaboration with industry and by disseminating relevant, topical technical information to chemical engineers worldwide.

According to Lipton, "NOVA Chemicals is committed to delivering products that enhance and improve quality of life. We appreciate AIChE's efforts to communicate the value of the chemical technology industries and the chemical engineering profession."

The campaign's public outreach efforts utilize AIChE's extensive network of local sections. This grassroots approach empowers local sections to educate the public about the importance of chemical engineering-one community at a time. The campaign's school-based initiatives combine the latest information technology with topics that capture a child's interest to teach students about the profession. For instance, one such program features a study on nature's chemical engineer: the honeybee.

Lipton, a chemical engineer, has joined the Campaign Executive Committee (CEC), which is led by honorary chair Edgar S. Woolard Jr., the chairman and CEO (retired) of DuPont and two co-chairs, John A. Krol, chairman and CEO (retired) of DuPont, and William S. Stavropoulos, chairman of The Dow Chemical Company. The chair of the Member Campaign Steering Committee is Edward R. H. McDowell and the vice chair is James M. Braus.

According to Greene, the campaign goal is \$9 million, of which \$8.3 million has been raised so far: \$6.5 million from

corporations and foundations, and \$1.8 million from AIChE's members.

For more information on the 21st Century Campaign, visit the Web site below.

<http://www.aiche.org/foundation>

Technology News

<http://www.aiche.org/newsroom/briefs.asp?CatID=2&BriefID=2>

ACEEE Report Profiles Energy-Efficient Technologies

Exciting new technologies that are likely to offer energy-saving alternatives to current technologies and practices in the industrial sector are profiled in ACEEE's new report, *Emerging Energy-Efficient Industrial Technologies*.

Increasingly, industry is confronted with the challenge of moving toward a cleaner, more sustainable path of production and consumption, while increasing global competitiveness. Technology will be essential in meeting these challenges. At some point, businesses are faced with investment in new capital stock. At this decision point, new and emerging technologies compete for capital investment alongside more established or mature technologies. Understanding the dynamics of the decision-making process is important to perceive what drives technology change and the overall effect on industrial energy use.

The assessment of emerging technologies can be useful for: * identifying R&D projects; * providing common information on technologies to a broad audience of decision-makers; * offering new insights into technology development and energy efficiency potentials; and * identifying potential technologies for market transformation activities.

This report identifies many promising emerging technologies, which can achieve high energy savings and have a good likelihood of success due to their economic, environmental, product quality, and other benefits. We encourage product developers and policy-makers to undertake the outlined next steps for each of the most promising technologies and we also encourage follow-up assessments to help identify additional technologies.

"This report represents a significant contribution to industrial energy analysis. I hope that others will build upon this effort so that a large database of technology profiles can be compiled," said co-author Neal Elliott, Industrial Program Director and Senior Associate of ACEEE.

This report was a collaborative effort between Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and ACEEE and was funded by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, New York State Research and Development Authority, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, and the Iowa Energy Center.

Copies of Emerging Energy -Efficient Industrial Technologies are available for \$50 (postpaid). To order, contact the ACEEE publications office, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW #801, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone: (202) 429-0063; e-mail: ace3pubs@ix.netcom.com. For more information on ACEEE, see our Web site at aceee.org.

The American Council for an Energy -Efficient Economy is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection. For information about ACEEE and its publications, visit their home page.

The American Council for an Energy -Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
<http://aceee.org>

Government News

<http://www.aiche.org/newsroom/articledtl.asp?CatID=1&ArtID=375>

NJ Engineers and Scientists Share Concern Over Science Education with Rep. Frank Pallone

Engineers and scientists voiced concerns over education and the environment with their congressman, Rep. Frank Pallone, at a science and engineering town hall meeting on February 23, in Keyport, New Jersey.

Organized by a consortium of engineering and science societies, including AIChE's New Jersey Government Interaction Committee, the meeting provided an opportunity for engineers and scientists to meet their local elected official and discuss current issues.

The crisis of science education emerged as the central focus of discussion. Attendees expressed concern that US students are falling behind in science and math skills, and are not interested in pursuing a career in engineering or science. It was agreed that resources for teachers, including higher salaries and training, and improved science curriculum are needed to reverse this trend.

"People from all science and engineering organizations were concerned that the youth of America are properly educated in science," stated Al Arnofsky, New Jersey Government Interaction Committee chair.

Individuals also expressed concern that the US will fall behind in science and technology if students do not excel in science and math and pursue careers in these areas upon graduation. A local high school student and chemistry teacher called for more resources to improve facilities and hire qualified teachers. Others discussed the need for exciting science curricula, which would engage students who may otherwise lose interest in the subject.

Pallone expressed surprise and concern at the extent of the problem, "If a roomful of scientists are telling me that this is a problem, that the problem is this severe, I am concerned. Politicians don't know the severity of the problem as you have described it to me. No one I deal with in Congress knows the size of this issue."

Pallone said that he would share this concern with his colleagues in Congress and encouraged the scientific and engineering societies to make improved science education part of their legislative lobbying agendas.

Arnofsky asked Pallone how engineering and scientific societies could continue to share their concerns, and serve as a resource to the congressman on scientific and engineering legislative issues. Pallone encouraged the societies to continue to build a relationship with him and his staff by meeting with him in his local office in Long Branch, NJ or in Washington, DC. Pallone stated that the town hall meeting was an important first step in building this relationship.

Local sections interested in starting a government interaction committee should contact AIChE's Government Relations department at 202/962-8690 or dc@aiche.org. For more information visit the AIChE Government Relations Web site listed below.

<http://www.aiche.org/government>

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September Newsletter is August 16th, 2001.

**Submit information to: Peggy Panagopoulos ~
pegpana@chemtech88.com**



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412.826.3636 FAX 412.826.3640
E-Mail: jmerrill@air-comp.com

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 & Technology Inc.
Tel 724-266-7688 ~ Fax 724-266-7683
Email Michaelp871@hotmail.com

HELP AICHE IDENTIFY CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS

In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in the number and breadth of science and technology issues that come before the president. The federal government is also playing an increasingly important role in technology and research. While there is a need for fresh energy and ideas, it is challenge to persuade leaders in industry and academia to leave their careers to accept these important political appointments. AICHE is working to recommend qualified individuals for key science and technology positions in the Bush administration, and wants help in identifying strong candidates.

There are numerous positions at many levels of government that will take up to two years for the Bush administration to fill; in fact, a total of over 5,000 appointments in all fields are anticipated. Due to AICHE's tradition of public policy activity, AICHE has taken a lead on soliciting and advocating qualified candidates for the Chemical Hazard Safety Board. It is important to note that while AICHE is working to fill these positions, it does not preclude AICHE from endorsing candidates for other positions. A few of the high level appointments that are vacant include:

- Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy, White House
- Associate Director for Science, Office of Science & Technology Policy
- Associate Director for Technology, Office of Science & Technology Policy

- Under Secretary for Technology, Department of Commerce

- Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy

- Director, Office of Science, Department of Energy

Members can help AICHE in this important and worthwhile endeavor by identifying appropriate candidates. When evaluating the potential candidate consider the following: Is the person technically qualified for the position? Does the person have the managerial skills and political adeptness necessary for the position? Secondary considerations include: Is the person politically active (in either party)? Is the person likely to be known and endorsed by his/her senators and representative? Members should contact Darlene Schuster at 202/962-8694; darls@aiche.org with names of potential candidates.

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May Meeting: McAfee Awards Dinner, May 16th, 2001
Fox Chapel Golf Club