



**The Catalyst**  
PITTSBURGH SECTION  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS



Volume 21 Issue 8



May, 2007

**MAY MEETING NOTICE**

**McAfee Award Banquet**

**Where:** Fox Chapel Golf Club  
426 Fox Chapel Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412-967-9081

**When:** Tuesday, May 22, 2007

**Time:** 6:00 PM Social, Hors d'oeuvres, Cash bar  
7:00 Welcome and Dinner  
8:00 AIChE Overview  
8:15 Award Presentation

**Menu:**

**Hors d'oeuvres:** Artichoke and Parmesan Canapés, Bacon-wrapped Scallops, Roasted Red Pepper and Risotto Croquettes, and Mini Crab Cakes on Toast Rounds.

**Dinner:** Served with Vichyssoise soup, Jackson Salad, and Carrot cake for dessert.

Please select one of the following entrées:

- **New York Strip Steak** – served with Marsala sauce, Lyonnaise potatoes and sautéed Cremimi mushrooms.
- **Horseradish-crusting Salmon Filet** – served with lemon-parsley sauce, wild rice with sun-dried cherries and toasted almonds, and sugar snap peas.

**Cost:** \$55.00 AIChE members

**Congratulations!**

**Mr. Klemens Baczewski**

***The 2007 McAfee Award Recipient***

**RSVP NO LATER THAN**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007**

TO: MR. ED MORETTI  
Phone: 412-386-4484

E-mail: emoretti@moretticonsulting.com

Your RSVP must include: **Name, Work Affiliation,**  
**Entrée choice, E-mail Address and Phone Number.**

Please Pay at the Door.

(Checks payable to AIChE Pittsburgh Section)

**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.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE FOX CHAPEL GOLF CLUB:**

**From Downtown Pittsburgh:**

On the North Side, take PA-28 North towards Aspinwall for approximately eight miles. Take Exit 8 for Fox Chapel Road/Waterworks Mall/Freeport Road and bear left on the ramp. At the traffic light, turn left onto Fox Chapel Road and continue for two miles. At the Fox Chapel Borough building, proceed straight through the traffic light. The Fox Chapel Golf Club is located a ¼ mile on the right.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear friends and members:

I am writing this letter while recovering from another back surgery, which has given me the time to get truly bored and lots of time to think and reflect. One of the things I have thought about frequently is how we can make the AICHE experience more meaningful to our members and how to get better attendance.

I have seen all the survey results about declining participation in organizations such as ours. Soccer moms, football dads, long hours at the office and new babies all compete for our time and efforts. Despite these demands, we need to take a look at our career paths and where we are going vis-à-vis where we want to go. AICHE can help with that. It builds your network. It gives you access to experts in everything from process design and safety, to corrosion, to pollution abatement, to catalysis, etc. Come on out and join us at a meeting.

Remember, May is our last meeting for this program year and it is the McAfee Award Banquet. Be sure to RSVP today.

May is also Pittsburgh Section election time. Make sure you vote! The Chair for the next program year will be the very capable Jim Miller.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary Hall  
Chairman, AICHE Pittsburgh Chapter

**MAY MEETING****From the North:**

From I-79, take I-279 South to Exit 8B East Street. Continue straight to the third stop light, then turn left onto East Ohio Street. Continue straight and follow sign to PA-28 North. Follow directions from Downtown Pittsburgh above.

**From the West:**

From US-22, US-30, or PA-60, take I-279 North towards Pittsburgh and through the Fort Pitt Tunnel and bridge. Bear left across the bridge and follow I-279N across Fort Duquesne Bridge. Bear right across this bridge and take Exit 13 to PA-28N towards Aspinwall. Follow the directions from Downtown Pittsburgh above.

**From the East:**

Take PA Turnpike I-76 towards Pittsburgh and Exit 48 Allegheny Valley. Bear right at the toll booths towards Pittsburgh/Freeport Road and continue straight. At traffic light, turn right onto PA-910 towards Indianola. After the under pass, bear right and take the ramp for PA-28S towards Pittsburgh. Continue on PA-28S for about five miles and take Exit 8 Fox Chapel Road. At traffic light, turn left onto Fox Chapel Road and continue for about two miles. At the Fox Chapel Borough building, proceed straight through the traffic light. The Fox Chapel Golf Club is located a ¼ mile on the right.

**From the South:**

From I-79, take I-279 and Exit 59A towards Pittsburgh continue through the Fort Pitt Tunnel and bridge. Bear left across the bridge and follow I-279N across Fort Duquesne Bridge. Take Exit 7C to PA-28N towards Aspinwall. Follow the directions from Downtown Pittsburgh.



## AICHE NATIONAL NEWS

**Short Courses for Chemical Engineers** – For a complete listing of upcoming continuing education short courses, dates, locations, and registration information, call 1-800-843-2763 or visit: [www.catalog.asme.org/Education/Shortcourse](http://www.catalog.asme.org/Education/Shortcourse) (Note: Chemical engineering short courses start with the letters “CH”)

## 2007 – 2008 PITTSBURGH SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

There's just a few weeks left to think about volunteering your skills to the AIChE Pittsburgh Section as part of next year's Executive Committee or as an officer or chair!

The Pittsburgh Section will be holding annual elections this month for the following positions:

**Vice-Chair  
Secretary  
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.

Although not elected, the **Newsletter Editor** position is also available for the 2007 – 2008 Program year.

If you would like to learn more about these positions, please contact:

David Missenda by e-mail at:  
[david\\_missenda@URSCorp.com](mailto:david_missenda@URSCorp.com)

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

THE DEADLINE FOR THE  
MAY NEWSLETTER IS  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2007

Please submit newsletter information to:

**James Miller**  
412-268-9517  
[jbmiller@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:jbmiller@andrew.cmu.edu)

## SPONSORSHIPS

Are you interested in placing your company's information in future AIChE Newsletters?

Full Page	\$300
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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

Contact the Newsletter Editor for more information.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

**Holly Gray**  
412-269-6059  
[hgray@mbakercorp.com](mailto: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](http://www.aichepgh.org)



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

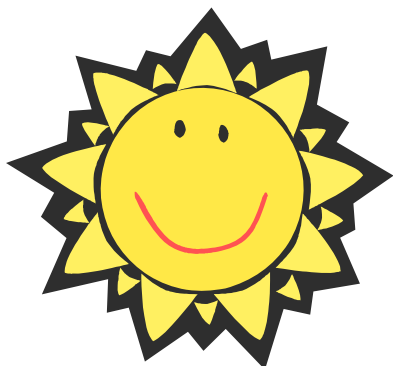
Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**



**Hoping Your Summer will be  
Wonderful!!!**

From the Executive Committee, Officers  
And Chairs of the Pittsburgh Section

**ENGINEERING FAME?**

Two of the greatest environmental threats of the twentieth century - leaded gas and Freon - were the work of a single man named Thomas Midgley. Because of these two inventions, a historian described Midgley as having "had more impact on the atmosphere than any other single organism in earth history."

In 1921 Thomas Midgley worked as an engineer in the General Motors research labs. His project was to get rid of engine knock - that's when the fuel doesn't burn evenly and makes the motor rattle. Engine knock wasted fuel, something scarce at the time. Midgley knew the solution was some kind of additive to the fuel. So, he went on what he called a "scientific fox hunt." It was a method he developed as a young man. In school, he and a teammate decided to find out what would make a spitball curve the best. They carefully tested substances, until they came across slippery-elm bark. Midgley used a similar process to find his fuel additive. He systematically tested compounds until he hit upon tetraethyl lead.

This compound met his goal of increasing fuel conservation: With his lead additive, two gallons would go as far as three gallons without an additive. In fact, despised as lead gas is today, over the twenty-five years we used it, leaded gas saved about a billion barrels of oil.

Of course, we now know the toxic effects of putting lead into the environment.

After this success, Midgley worked on improving refrigerators and air conditioners. At the time, a refrigerator was a dangerous thing because it used toxic, flammable chemicals. Midgley, using the same "scientific fox hunt" as before, found a replacement for these nasty chemicals: CFCs, or chlorofluorocarbons, what we now call "Freons."

Today, it strikes us as the most toxic thing in the world. Yet its lack of toxicity and flammability is what attracted Midgley to it. To demonstrate its safety, he once took a mouthful of Freon and blew it at a candle. It extinguished the flame showing that Freon was neither poisonous nor flammable.

Of course, we learned in the 1970s that Freon thins the ozone layer, the essential sun screen that lets life on earth thrive.

There is great irony in Midgley's career: He set out to improve our world, and yet as that historian said he "had more impact on the atmosphere than any other single organism in earth history."

This irony was reflected in his own demise. In 1940 he contracted polio. He designed a system of ropes and pulleys to help him in and out of bed. One day he became entangled in this network of ropes, and was strangled by his own ingenuity.

**"Thomas Midgley: A Public Radio Commentary"** by Bill Hammack

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5/4/07 <<http://www.engineerguy.com/comm/3922.htm>>



**AICHE PITTSBURGH SECTION  
2006-2007 OFFICERS**

**Executive Committee**

**Chair**

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

**Vice-Chair & Program**

James Miller (jbmiller@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Carnegie Mellon University  
412-268-9517

**Secretary**

Mariangela Peters (mariangela.peters@bayerbms.com)  
Bayer Material Science, LLC  
412-777-4195

**Treasurer**

Paul Brezovec (brezovec@ctc.com)  
Concurrent Technologies Corp.  
814-269-2844

**Counselors**

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

Dr. Dady Dadyburjor (dady.dadyburjor@mail.wvu.edu)  
West Virginia University  
304-293-2111, ext. 2411

**Past Chair & Nominations**

David Missenda (david\_missenda@urscorp.com)  
URS Corporation

**Additional Officers and Chairs**

**Membership Chair**

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

**Newsletter Editor**

E.G. Klein (eg.klein@giccusa.com)  
Goldschmidt Industrial Chemical Corp.  
724-796-3128

**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 412-854-6604  
(shiaowseng@consolenergy.com)

*PE Review:* Carl Schwartz 412-374-3678  
(schwarcw@westinghouse.com)

*McAfee:* JoAnn Truchan 412-578-7981  
(jtruchan@achd.net)

**Web Master**

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

**ELECTIONS!**

**For 2007 – 2008 Pittsburgh Section Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Counselor**

**An electronic ballot will be sent to Members via E-mail in late May.**

**If you do not have E-mail, contact  
David Missenda at 412-563-4828**

**Mark your Calendars!**

For the Following Date:

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May 22, 2007

McAfee Award Dinner

Fox Chapel Golf Club, Fox Chapel, PA

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This will be the last meeting of this Program year.

The Pittsburgh Section Executive Committee, Officers and Chairs

Hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to having you back in September!



*The Catalyst*

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

Address Correction Requested

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



GOD Bless The U.S.A.!