



*The Catalyst*  
PITTSBURGH SECTION  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS



Volume 22 Issue 2

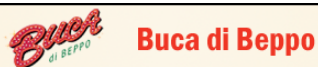


November, 2007

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

**Problem Solving in the 21st Century**  
**Beyond Traditional Root Cause**  
**Analyses**

**Where:** Buca di Beppo, Robinson  
6600 Robinson Centre Dr  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15205



**When:** Thursday, November 15th

**Time:** 6:00pm Registration and Social  
7:00 Dinner and Presentation

**Menu:** Chicken with lemon, Fresh salmon with pesto, Spaghetti marinara, Mixed green salad, Homemade cheesecake

**Cost:** \$25 per person (Students, \$15.00)

**PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2007**

To: Mr. Chris Steffy, Vice-Chair  
Phone: 412-225-0254  
E-mail: steffycd@lycos.com

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

**PLEASE PAY AT 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.

**Beyond Root Cause Analyses**

By Paul Bowman and Ted Spickler

Root Cause Analysis is a class of methodologies that is extremely useful in solving operational, safety, and quality problems. The presentation will cover several traditional methodologies (cause-effect trees, structured problem solving, and Six Sigma) that have seen widespread use in uncovering the root causes of problems. Nevertheless, despite decades of use, organizations frequently find a troubling trend of repeated issues that appear to have defied resolution. We will show how some problems are bound to recur unless the root-cause analysis addresses the organizational and human dimensions of the problem. We will also include several industrial case studies to illustrate these principles.

Ted Spickler is Manager of Business Process Excellence at Bayer MaterialScience. In this capacity Ted focuses on and promotes Continuous Improvement, offering advanced training in methodologies such as Root Cause Analysis and Six Sigma. His doctorate in Educational Psychology from West Virginia University was in the area of statistical analysis. Ted has also completed Six Sigma Black Belt training from the American Society for Quality.

Paul Bowman is the Head of Continuous Improvement at Bayer MaterialScience. He has successfully completed numerous projects and assignments involving root cause analyses, process/product variation reduction, and quality improvement. Paul is currently completing his certification project in Lean Six Sigma. He also collaborates with Ted on developing and delivering root-cause analysis training for Bayer. Paul earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to joining Bayer in 2000, he had worked at Olin, ARCO Chemical, and then Lyondell.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Members:

Our September meeting featured a presentation by Greg Boulos of Steel City Biofuels on “Biodiesel Chemistry, Production and Future”. We had a terrific turn-out—nearly 40 attendees—with a large number of students, mostly from YSU and WVU. The post-presentation Q&A was especially lively, reflecting our members’ interest in issues of non-traditional energy supplies and public policy. We—especially Program Chair Chris Steffy—will look for additional meeting topics that generate similar broad-based interest.

We have two new additions to our chapter’s leadership team. Thanks to WVU’s Brian Anderson, who volunteered to become Newsletter Editor. And thanks to Julia Johnson, who volunteered to coordinate outreach activities.

Our chapter was represented at ACS National Chemistry Week activities at the Carnegie Science Center on October 27. Our staff of volunteers, led by David Missenda and Nancy Hirko, helped kids—and sometimes adults!—to make “bouncy-balls”. The pace was sometimes hectic—we made around 340 balls. As I write, my jeans from the event are in the laundry—I wiped my hands on my pants at least once too often. See pictures from the event elsewhere in the newsletter

I’ll be attending the AIChE national meeting in Salt Lake City the week of November; perhaps I’ll run into some of you there. If not, I hope to see many of you at the November 15 meeting of the Pittsburgh chapter!

Until then, if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about happenings within our chapter, please drop me a note at [jaybeemiller@yahoo.com](mailto:jaybeemiller@yahoo.com).

Jim  
Chairman, AIChE Pittsburgh Chapter

**NOVEMBER MEETING****DIRECTIONS TO BUCA DI BEPPO:**

<http://www.bucadibepo.com/locations/location.aspx?location=3808>

**From Downtown Pittsburgh and South:**

From I-279 or I-79, take US-22 W/US-30 W toward Airport for 4.0miles. Continue on Orange Belt/PA-60 N for 0.3 miles. Take exit 1 toward Robinson Town Centre Blvd. Merge onto Robinson Town Centre Blvd. Turn right at Robinson Center Dr. Buca di Beppo is located near the entrance to The Mall at Robinson.

**From the North:**

Take I-79 south to exit 60B to merge onto PA-60 N/Steubenville Pike toward Airport/Moon Run for 3.3 miles. Turn right at Park Manor Dr. and continue on Robinson Center Dr.

**From the South:**

Take US-22 E to PA-60 and Continue on Steubenville Pike (US-60). Turn left at Park Manor Dr. and continue on Robinson Center Dr

**AICHE NATIONAL NEWS**

ACS and AIChE are pleased to announce that the Spring ACS and AIChE 2008 meetings will be colocated in New Orleans.

Registered attendees from either Society may attend technical sessions at both the ACS and AIChE meetings. Organizing committees from ACS and AIChE have developed cosponsored symposia/topicals/sessions in subject areas of interest to both societies.

**Abstract Submission Deadline Date extended**

For AIChE sessions, the deadline date for abstract submission is November 20, 2007.

for more information, visit:

[www.aiche.org/Conferences/SpringMeeting/index.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/Conferences/SpringMeeting/index.aspx)



## NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK WRAP-UP



From L to R, Joan Stenger, Nancy Hirko and Bill Stenger



From L to R, Joan Stenger, Jim Miller, Nancy Hirko, Bill Stenger

AICHe Pittsburgh sponsored a table at the Carnegie Science Center on Saturday October 28, 2007 as part of National Chemistry Week. A total of 342 Superballs were made during the event. Volunteers left covered in polymer and ground rubber! Thank you to Nancy Hirko, Joan and Bill Stenger, Jim Miller and William Mentzer for their valuable time! AICHe Pgh will host a table for two days in February for National Engineers Week making even more Superballs.

Thank you,  
David Missenda,  
Acting Outreach Chair

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENT SECTIONS

AICHe Pittsburgh is trying to establish a Young Professionals (YP) group. YPs are defined as undergrads, grad students and practicing

engineers up to the age of 40. To get on the d-list for events (Happy Hours and possible separate plant tours/dinners) e-mail David Missenda [david\\_missenda@urscorp.com](mailto:david_missenda@urscorp.com).

The Student Chapters in the Pittsburgh LS are seeking Professionals to speak at their seminars. Student Chapters include CMU, Pitt, WVU and Youngstown State. If you can volunteer your time, please contact David Missenda [david\\_missenda@urscorp.com](mailto:david_missenda@urscorp.com).

## LOOKING FOR ENGINEERING MENTORS AT CMU

Only nine percent of American engineers are women. And only twenty percent of engineering degrees are earned by women. There are a number of reasons why the number of women in engineering is low. One of those reasons is a lack of role models and access to females who have earned and utilized engineering degrees.

You can make a difference in the education and career of female students in their first year of study at Carnegie Mellon. We are looking for ten women to mentor female engineering students. As a mentor you will help a student learn to develop supportive relationships, provide career guidance, build a professional network, build confidence, and gain valuable academic advice (this does not include tutoring or job prospecting).

To learn more about this new program and how you can participate, please contact JoAnn Truchan (412-578-7981; [jtruchan@achd.net](mailto:jtruchan@achd.net)).

JoAnn Truchan -- Air Quality Engineer III  
Allegheny County Health Department  
Air Quality Program  
Phone: 412-578-7981  
[jtruchan@achd.net](mailto:jtruchan@achd.net)



## JOB SEARCHING FOR CHEMICAL PROFESSIONALS

Job Searching For Chemical Professionals

*Featuring*

MANAGING AN EFFECTIVE JOB SEARCH

Daniel J. Eustace, Ph.D.

Career Consultant, American Chemical Society

and

OVERVIEW OF THE LOCAL JOB MARKET

Joseph D. Jolson, Ph. D.

For additional information, contact Tiffany

Ragan at 412 321-1143 or

[tiffany.ragan@onassignment.com](mailto:tiffany.ragan@onassignment.com)

Or visit: <http://aichepgh.org/>

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE  
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007**

Please submit newsletter information to:

**Brian J. Anderson**

**304-293-2111 x2435**

**[brian.anderson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:brian.anderson@mail.wvu.edu)**

## SPONSORSHIPS

Are you 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

Contact **B.J. Anderson** at

[brian.anderson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:brian.anderson@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-293-2111 x2435 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**



## AICHE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER 2006-2007 OFFICERS

### Executive Committee

#### Chair

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

#### Vice-Chair & Program

Chris Steffy (steffycd@lycos.com)  
Industrial Energy Engineering  
412-225-0254

#### 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

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

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

#### Past Chair & Nominations

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

### Additional Officers and Chairs

#### Membership Chair

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

#### Newsletter Editor

Brian Anderson  
West Virginia University  
304-293-2111 x2435

#### Engineers' and Chemistry Week

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

#### Scholarship Chair

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

#### Committee Chairs

*Safety/Environmental:* Shiao Tseng 412-854-6604  
(shiaawnseng@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

### 2006 - 2007 Chapter Meeting Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
November 15, 2007	Success through Failure Analysis	Buca di Beppo, Robinson
January, 2008	Penn Brewery	TBA
February 19, 2008	Student Night	TBA

**Mark your Calendars!**  
For the Following Dates:

---

November 15, 2007	Success through Failure Analysis	Buca di Beppo, Robinson
January TBA, 2007	Penn Brewery	TBA

---



*The Catalyst*

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

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



GOD Bless The U.S.A.!