



The Catalyst

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS



Volume 16 Issue 2



October 2001

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE

EVENT: PLANT TOUR: ALLEGHENY PROCESS EQUIPMENT

DINNER:

SEWICKLEY COUNTRY INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER

801 Ohio River Boulevard
Sewickley, PA 15143
412-741-4300

WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2001

Tour: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM

COST: \$20.00

MENU: PLEASE SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING MENU ITEMS:

BREAST OF CHICKEN MARSALA – Sautéed chicken in a rich mushroom marsala sauce.

BAKED SCROD SOMMERSET – Fresh day boat Boston scrod topped with seasoned bread crumbs

FILET OF SIRLOIN – Served with crisp onions, 6 oz.

All entrees include soup du jour, tossed garden salad with choice of dressing, vegetable, potato, rolls and butter, choice of desert and beverage.

ALLEGHENY PROCESS EQUIPMENT

A DIVISION OF ALLEGHENY PLASTICS, INC.

Allegheny will showcase some basic thermoplastic fabricating and welding techniques, and will offer some discussion of its engineering capabilities. There will be ample opportunity to view works-in-progress, from basic Batch Process Tanks to more sophisticated projects, like Air Systems and Wire processing equipment.

Allegheny Process Equipment is a custom fabricator of polypropylene and other thermoplastic materials, supplying designed and engineered products to exacting standards for both the domestic and international surface finishing markets. Although the production of strip and batch process tanks has historically been our specialty, we also have decades of experience addressing the problems of retrofitting and replacing existing equipment. In fact,

Allegheny has been the world leader in the design and manufacture of thermoplastic process equipment since 1964.

In the 1990's, we developed into a full-service contractor, offering the design and construction of complete turnkey facilities for the chemical surface treatment of wire, rod, tube, bar and flat products.

And, when it comes to satisfying your all-important installation, repair, and **field service requirements**, our crews are second to none, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, anywhere in the world.

www.allegheny.com

Directions to Allegheny Plastics, Inc.:

- **FROM PITTSBURGH via Route 65**
Take Route 65 North to the Sewickley area (Approx. 12 miles from Pittsburgh); Travel 2 miles *past* the Sewickley Bridge (on your left); The Buncher Industrial District is on your left; Allegheny Plastics is the dark brown brick building ahead of you on your left.
- **FROM PITTSBURGH via Parkway West (Interstate 279)**
Take Interstate 279 South from Pittsburgh; Exit 1 to Interstate 79 North; Exit 66 Route 65 North toward Sewickley; Take Route 65 to the Sewickley area (3 miles); Travel 2 miles past the Sewickley Bridge (on your left); The Buncher Industrial District is on your left; Turn left at the traffic light (Ferry

RSVP NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2001

TO:

Ms. JoAnn Truchan, Vice Chair

Tel 724-695-1945

Email: cricket.jt@att.net

PLEASE PAY AT DOOR

Name _____
Company/Affiliation _____
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.



Street) (landmark is Red Cap Cleaning); Cross the RR tracks; Allegheny Plastics is the dark brown brick building ahead of you on your left.

• **FROM PA. TURNPIKE (Interstate 76)**

Exit 3 Interstate 76 to Cranberry Route 19 South; Take Route 19 South to Interstate 79; Take Interstate 79 South; Exit 66 Route 65 North toward Sewickley; Take Route 65 to the Sewickley area (3 miles); Travel 2 miles past the Sewickley Bridge (on your left); The Buncher Industrial District is on your left; Turn left at the traffic light (Ferry Street) (landmark is Red Cap Cleaning); Cross the RR tracks; Allegheny Plastics is the dark brown brick building ahead of you on your left.

• **FROM PITTSBURGH AIRPORT**

Follow Airport Exit signs toward Moon Beaver Route 60 North; Exit 8 toward Moon Route 60 Business; At the end of the ramp, follow signs to Route 60 Business South toward Moon; Turn left at the 4th light onto Beers School Road (Begin Orange Belt); (You will follow signs for the Orange Belt for the next 4 miles); Right onto Route 51 (Orange Belt); Left across Sewickley Bridge (Orange Belt); At the end of the Bridge turn left onto Route 65 North (End Orange Belt); Take Route 65 for 2 miles to the Buncher Industrial District on your left; Turn left at the light (Ferry Street) (landmark is Red Cap Cleaning); Cross the RR tracks; Allegheny Plastics is the dark brown building ahead of you on your left.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

As a result of the tragic events on September 11, 2001, our September meeting at PNC Park was postponed until Spring 2002. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by this devastating tragedy.

I would like to cordially invite everyone to attend the October 16th meeting at Allegheny Plastics, Inc. This interesting tour will provide you with an inside look at the custom fabrication of plastic tanks used in the industrial sector.

Volunteers to help support local section activities are always needed. I encourage you to take advantage of the benefits that these activities offer such as helping to expand our youth's knowledge of engineering and the opportunity to network with your fellow peers. Please contact any of our section officers for further information.

Best Regards,

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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

I spoke with a gentleman visiting the US on a work visa for 6 months. Being the curious person I am, I asked how he felt about the terrorist attack. He responded though differently than I expected. He didn't go into politics nor did he defend the US. Instead he said how surprised he was to see America's response to the crisis and was impressed with our patriotism.

During this tremendous tragedy I realized how extremely proud and grateful I am to be an American. As a first generation American, I have always been thankful for the opportunities that the US has provided.

My family chose to come to America to build a better life for themselves and for future generations. They had the American dream and worked hard for it to come true. The US provided our freedom and the choice to succeed as American Citizens.

Thank you especially to all the Veterans who fought for our freedom. I would also like to thank all those suffering the reality of this disaster day after day: our firefighters, officers, military, doctors, nurses, technicians, volunteers, and all those who have been praying. These fine people have redefined what it is to be a hero.

No one will ever forget the National disaster of September 11, 2001 and I hope **no one ever forgets** how this country united during this crisis and showed the world our love for one another and how proud we are to be Americans.

Regards,

Peggy Panagopoulos

AICHe Newsletter Editor
ChemTech Consultants, Inc.



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- Permitting •Site Assessments •Compliance

Contact: Jill Merrill
1050 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412.826.3636 FAX 412.826.3640
E-Mail: jmerrill@air-comp.com



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

**THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO THOSE WE LOST ON
SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 AND TO THOSE THAT CONTINUE TO
FIGHT THIS BATTLE.**

**MANY OF OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND FELLOW AICHE
MEMBERS LOST SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO THEM DURING THIS
TRAGIC EVENT.**

**WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE SYMPATHY AND THOUGHTS OF
THOSE WHO CARE, ARE A COMFORT TO YOU AT THIS TIME OF
SORROW.**



THE PITTSBURGH AICHE SECTION WANTS TO ALSO SAY

THANK YOU

**TO THE HARD WORKING, DEDICATED, AND COURAGEOUS
FIREFIGHTERS, OFFICERS, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTINUE TO
RISK THEIR LIVES TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY.**



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

LETTER FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

There are currently more than 600 local members listed in the membership database! I encourage each of you take advantage of the informative meetings and plant tours, as well as the valuable networking opportunities offered through AIChE by becoming an active member of the Pittsburgh local section.

We are constantly updating our membership database. Please send all change of address notification to me at

Ashley Smith
Industrial Design Corporation
200 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 200
Moon Township, PA 15108
ashley.smith@idc-ch2m.com

Thanks to all of you for supporting the Pittsburgh local section by volunteering your time to attend meetings and volunteer for the numerous AIChE sponsored activities. I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's activities!

Regards,

Ashley Smith
Membership Chair

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: **Leigh Anne M. Wacker, CFX Software & Services, Omega Corporate Center, 1260 Omega Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205**

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED..... VOLUNTEERS FOR NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK!!!

Our local section has agreed to sponsor a table again at the Carnegie Science Center in celebration of National Chemistry Week. Volunteers are needed to help staff the table on Saturday, November 10, 2001. The theme this year is "Celebrating Chemistry and Art." I am currently researching an activity that matches this year's theme. If anyone is interested in interacting with the public - especially children - call me at **412-826-3636** or send an **e-mail to: nhirko@air-comp.com** I sure could use the help!!

Nancy Hirko
Outreach Coordinator

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IS
OCTOBER 16, 2001.**

Please submit information to
Peggy Panagopoulos at
pegpana@chemtech88.com or Fax: 412-221-5685



PITTSBURGH RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINE CONTEST

Engineers Needed for Rube Goldberg Machine Contest!!!!

Dear Engineer or Engineering Student,

2001 is the inaugural year of the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest in Pittsburgh. In cooperation with the Vira I. Heinz Endowment, Pittsburgh-area corporate sponsors, and the Engineers Society of Western PA, the Carnegie Science Center will host this high school contest. The program begins in early October, and culminates with a competition on January 12, 2002 at the Science Center. (Please see www.carnegiesciencecenter.org for more Pittsburgh-specific details. Go to www.rubegoldberg.com and www.rubemachine.com for additional background info.)

Each Rube Goldberg team consists of three to five high school students and a teacher. In addition, an engineer or engineering student is enlisted to mentor the team in the design, construction and testing of the machine. Time-wise, a mentor would dedicate an average of 1 hour per week from early October through mid-January, meeting directly with the team and providing consultation by phone and email. Teams are currently registering for the contest, and many will request that an engineer be identified for them.

Please consider offering your time and energy to one of the high schools. Please contact Amy Robeson (412.237.1640; robersona@clpgh.csc.org) or Mike Canton (412.374.6165; cantonmh@westinghouse.com) to volunteer or to obtain more information.

The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest brings the ideas of Pulitzer Prize-winning artist Rube Goldberg's "Invention" cartoons to life. Named after, and inspired by the cartoonist Reuben Lucius Goldberg, this Olympics of Complexity is designed to pull students away from conventional problem-solving and push them into the endless chaos of imagination and intuitive thought. To be specific, groups are given an elementary challenge: "Select, peel and wash an apple". But instead of just "solving" the problem, students have to make the solution as complicated and as convoluted as possible. In fact, the more steps -- with a minimum of twenty -- the better the machine. And what a machine! An assemblage of ordinary objects, mechanical gadgets and the oddest odds and ends are linked together mechanically and somehow get to the desired goal. The Rube Goldberg Machine

Contest enables students to better understand mathematics and scientific principles through hands-on application by having students design and build an elaborate, multi-stage machine to perform a simple task. Through this process, the students learn engineering principles and practices since they must work as a team building their Rube Goldberg machine, hone their writing and speaking skills and make presentations explaining the concepts and foundations for how their machine works.

PITTSBURGH FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

Engineers Needed!!!

Volunteers needed for the Future City Competition. The Engineer's Society of Western Pa. (ESWP) in conjunction with the Carnegie Science Center will present the 3rd annual Pittsburgh Regional 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 26, 2002.**

Mentors are needed for the following schools:

- Wendover Middle School (Hempfield School District)
- St Bede's School (Squirrel Hill)
- A.J Rooney Middle School (Pittsburgh Public Schools - North Side)
- Allegheny Traditional Academy (Pittsburgh Public Schools - North Side)
- Deer Lakes Middle School (Russelton, PA)
- Derry Area Middle School (Derry, PA)
- Keystone Oaks Middle School (Castle Shannon)
- Marshall Middle School (Wexford)
- McKeesport Central Catholic (McKeesport)
- South Park Middle School (South Park)
- Springdale Jr. Sr. High (Springdale)
- St. Therese Lisieux (Baldwin)

Each volunteer engineer mentor works with seventh- and eighth-graders, in a team of three, and their teacher, helping to guide the youngsters through the rigors of building a functioning city. Engineers generally have to devote only 20 - 40 hours to the project over the period from October to January. Part time mentors are also needed.

Regional first place teams (including the engineer mentor) receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. for the national finals during National Engineers Week.

For more information on volunteering as an engineer mentor for the 2000 Future City Competition, please **contact Carl W. Schwartz on 412-374-3678.**



HUMOR

Daily Moments Of Zen

Thank you Carl for your contribution.

1. Don't squat with your spurs on.
2. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
3. If you drink, don't park; accidents cause people.
4. Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield.
5. Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
6. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
7. Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
8. A closed mouth gathers no foot.
9. Duct tape is like the force. It has a light side & a dark side, and it holds the universe together.
10. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your mouth is moving.
11. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
12. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
13. We are born naked, wet, and hungry. Then things get worse.

HOT NEWS

World Council for Chemical Engineering Set to Launch

The structure and founding members of a new World Council for Chemical Engineering will be announced in Melbourne in September at the 6th World Congress of Chemical Engineering.

"The inspiration and work toward the Council started in San Diego during the last World Congress," says Professor David Wood, Dean of Engineering at the University of Melbourne. "Gerhard Kreysa, CEO of DECHEMA, started to share some ideas and a steering committee formed from there."

According to Professor Wood, the main impetus for a World Council is the establishment of an authoritative international voice for the profession for response on critical issues such as genetic engineering and genetically modified foods.

"The Council will be made up of the most eminent and renowned academic and industry leaders of the profession such as Nobel Prize winners, chief scientists and chief

executives from whom statements would be widely noted and publicized," says Professor Wood.

Communicating mainly by electronic means, the Council will be supported by an international executive committee and will meet in person at each World Congress of Chemical Engineering.

"The Council will be charged with overarching responsibility for the World Congress to ensure a better tie in with other national and regional events, and it is likely the Congress will be held once every four rather than five years in the future."

The Council will serve all countries practicing chemical engineering, a broader charter than the three existing geographical federation and confederations, which will continue in their current forms.

A report to be released at the 6th World Congress of Chemical Engineering, the Melbourne Communiqué, will encapsulate global chemical engineering progress toward long-term sustainability and set new targets for the profession.

Building on the 1997 London Communiqué, which emerged through a meeting of 18 heads of the world's chemical engineering bodies during celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of the British Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Melbourne Communiqué will outline next steps for chemical engineers world wide.

According to Professor David Wood, Dean of Engineering at the University of Melbourne and an Australian representative in London in 1997, this will be done in two steps. Initially a report will be drafted based on member countries' progress toward the goals of the London Communiqué. The report will then be used as the basis for discussion at a reconvened meeting of original contributors and other relevant bodies.

"Australia is taking a leading role," says Professor Wood. "Roland Williams, formerly CEO of Shell Australia, will be chairing the meeting at the Congress and the discussion will be led by Australian Chief Scientist, Dr Robin Batterham."

"There is a lot to be gained from sharing experiences," says Professor Wood. "For example the Canadians have established a continuous education program which targets student awareness, and which will improve the knowledge of the whole profession over time."

Like its London predecessor, the Melbourne Communiqué will form a vehicle to communicate the chemical engineering profession's global commitment to sustainable development as well as its progress toward this goal.

<http://www.aiche.org/newsroom/briefs.asp?CatID=2&BriefID=1>



**AICHE PITTSBURGH SECTION
2001-2002 OFFICERS**

Chair

Michael Flaherty (michaelp871@hotmail.com)
WSP Chemicals & Technology Inc.
724-266-7688

Vice-Chair & Program

JoAnn Truchan (cricket.jt@att.net)
724-695-1945

Treasurer

Leigh Anne M. Wacker
AEA Technology Engineering Software Inc.
(leigh.wacker@cfx.aeat.com)
412-893-1005

Counselors

John Hauser (prosaf@sgi.net)
PROSAF, Inc.
412-942-3717

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

Executive Committee

Past Chair & Nominations

Ed Moretti (emoretti@mbakercorp.com)
Baker Environmental, 412-269-6055

Additional Officers and Chairs

Membership Chair

Ashley Smith, (ashley.smith@idc-ch2m.com)
Industrial Design Corporation
412-269-4538

Newsletter Editor

Peggy Panagopoulos (pegpana@chemtech88.com)
ChemTech Consultants
412-220-4612

Engineers' and Chemistry Week

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

Committee Chairs

Safety & Environmental: Shiaw Tseng
Scholarship Sam Vance

Web Master

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

TEL 412-220-4612 ~ FAX 412-221-5685 ~ Email
pegpana@chemtech88.com

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page	\$30.00		

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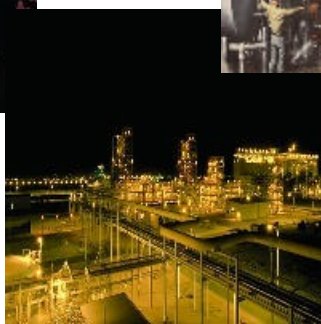
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To place an ad, please contact ~ Peggy Panagopoulos

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Contact Peggy Panagopoulos
pegpana@chemtech88.com
412-220-4612



Catalyst

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

Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2001-2002

Date	Event	Location
Nov 12	Financial/Estate Planning	ESWP
Jan 16	Joint Meeting with AWMA	Penn Brewery
Feb 20	Student Night	William Pitt Union Hall
March 19	TBA	TBA
April 17	TBA	TBA
May 15	Spring Event	TBA

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