



# The Western Palmetto Informer

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

March 2009

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## Contact Information

Visit our website:

<http://www.wscaiche.org>

Email us at:

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## February Meeting Thank You

The Western South Carolina Section of AIChE would like to thank Dr. Terry Walker for presenting at our February meeting. Dr. Walker walked us through a number of technologies that show promise for the future. He talked about solar, biofuels based on a number of feedstocks (e.g., corn, sugar cane, algae), and other technologies. Dr. Walker also practices what he preaches. He has a VW Jetta that can run on alternative fuels. He has also a very energy efficient house that uses solar power. There was significant interest in his research and experiences. Some attendees are continuing to communicate with Dr. Walker about the subjects of his discussion.

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## March Meeting: Lean Six Sigma - What it is and what can it do for your company and your career

Tim Yerby recently joined Automation Engineering in Greenville as Quality System Manager, responsible for management of internal quality processes as well as Lean Six Sigma Deployment for the organization. Prior to joining Automation Engineering, Tim operated a consulting practice focusing on Product Innovation, Market Acuity, and Lean Six Sigma Operational Excellence ([www.Lean6innovations.com](http://www.Lean6innovations.com)).

Tim's career experience over the last 20 years in manufacturing and engineering management includes a diverse grouping of industries, including Automotive, petrochemical, electronics, building materials, pulp and paper, and metals.

Tim's functional roles have included management of Manufacturing Engineering, Innovation/Product Development, Marketing/Corporate Strategy, and Facility and Operational Maintenance at leading manufacturing organizations including Ryobi (now Techtronics), Allied Signal, Lennox Industries, Elk Roofing, and others.

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This broad range of industries, companies, and experiences have resulted in multiple notable achievements, including multiple filed and pending patents, DuPont Design Awards, New Product Launches, Greenfield plant startups, Capital improvement and capacity projects, and Lean Six Sigma Deployments.

Tim holds a Masters in Business Administration degree with a concentration in marketing from DePaul University in Chicago in addition to a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Louisiana Polytechnic University and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification from the George Group.

## MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009  
**TIME:** 6:00 PM Social  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Presentation  
**LOCATION:** Hilton, Greenville  
45 West Orchard Park Drive  
Greenville, SC 29615  
**DIRECTIONS:** I-385 @ Haywood Road Exit #39  
**COST:** \$12 for Members (less \$5 instant rebate)  
\$15 for Non-members  
Free to Attend Presentation Only

**Please reply to Secretary David Laursen at [sec@wscaiche.org](mailto:sec@wscaiche.org) by Thursday, March 19, 2008.**

Note that the dinner portion of the meeting is not mandatory. Arrive by 7:00 pm if you want to attend the presentation without dinner.

**Only RSVP if you plan to dine with us.**

## Getting to Know...

In this recurring feature in the *Informer* we get to know our Section leadership and others who contribute to our profession. This month, meet David Harshbarger, one of our Executive Committee Members.



David Harshbarger,  
Executive Committee  
Member

I have been a chemical process engineer for a very long time, the last 27 years of which, working in Life Sciences Technology at Fluor. In my early career, I designed production facilities based on chemical synthesis, but in the 80's I had the good fortune to lead the process effort for Genentech's first large scale cell culture facility. This was seminal work at the dawn of the biotech industry. The facility started up and ran smoothly, for reasons that I did not fully understand until working with the technology for several years.

Academically speaking, I earned a BSChE from the University of Pennsylvania, an MBA from Northeastern University, and I am a PE in several states. Athletically speaking, I played a lot of soccer. My high school team won the Pennsylvania state championship, I was on the varsity at Penn, and the most fun of all was taking three county championships as a youth soccer coach. Fullback is the best position on the team because you get to see the whole field directly in front of you all the time. After soccer I transitioned to rugby, which is a much more adult sport focused on winning the after-game party, rather than being stressed about the game.

When my joints gave out, I switched from rugby to community organizations. I progressed through the officer positions of the WSC AIChE and thoroughly enjoy the social contact and working with the other members and officers. I helped initiate Engineering Week Saturday at Roper Mountain and love what a strong program it has become. I am also very active in the Lions Club, a service organization dedicated to helping people with vision problems. This year I am President of the Seneca Lions Club. Please support Lions fundraisers and eye glasses recycling!

My proudest and most enjoyable achievement is my three children and six grand children, who all live in the Carolinas. My wife of 40 years, Polly, helped quite a bit with this situation, and together we are dedicated to indulging the little ones.

## 2008-2009 Calendar of Events

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
24 Mar 2009	Hilton	Tim Yerby - Lean Six Sigma: What is it? How can it help your company and career?
14 Apr 2009	N/A	Election Nominations Due
14 Apr 2009	Fluor Field	Due Date for May Social Ticket Reservations
14 Apr 2009	Milliken	Plant Tour
15 May 2009	Fluor Field	Greenville Drive Baseball Game Social

*Active participation in professional societies as well attending our professional and technical presentations count towards Continuing Professional Competency requirements for Licensed Professional Engineers. Upon request, the Section Secretary can provide attendance verifications for this purpose to our members.*

## 2008-2009 Officers and Executive Committee

Many thanks to the continued efforts of those in providing leadership to our Section. Members with a desire to serve can contact any Officer or Executive Committee member.

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Chair	Oren Webb	oren.webb@fluor.com	864-281-8106
Vice-Chair	Austin Crooks	austin.crooks@fluor.com	864-281-4635
Secretary	David Laursen	sec@wscaiche.org	864-281-5981
Treasurer	Rick Vogel	rick.vogel@fluor.com	864-281-6702
Webmaster	Eugene Gill	eugene.gill@fluor.com	864-281-8627

Other Executive Committee Members are: Teresa Cheung, Mary Ferris, David Harshbarger, Ann Marie Jones, John Moore, and James Young.

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## Reminder: Milliken Chemical Plant Tour - Tuesday, April 14th, 2009

The plant manager at Milliken Chemical's Dewey plant in Inman, SC has been gracious enough to allow us to tour their facility. This facility produces several proprietary specialty chemicals with both batch and continuous unit operations. Each participant must be 16 years or older.

### Tour Requirements:

- Must be 16 years or older
- Must wear closed toed shoes
- No high heels
- Long pants are recommended

Safety glasses and hardhats will be provided if you cannot bring your own. The plant site is approximately 30 minutes from Greenville. More details to come in the next newsletter.

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## SAVE THE DATE: May Social - Greenville Drive Baseball Game - May 15th, 2009

The great turnout from last year's WSCAICHe family night brings us back to another great social at Fluor Field at the West End to watch a Greenville Drive baseball game and fireworks. The Rome Braves will play at Fluor Field versus the Greenville Drive on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. WSCAICHe has reserved seats and will help provide dinner for members and their families. The Treasurer will provide each attendee \$10 towards dinner for the night. Pretty good deal!!

Get your ticket requests into the WSCAICHe secretary by April 14<sup>th</sup> for a "guaranteed" ticket. Post April 14<sup>th</sup> requests will be handled on a first come, first served basis. Members, immediate family, and a guest are permitted.

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## Clemson Scholarship Winner

We are pleased to announce Ms. Jenny Smith as our \$1,000 Clemson Scholarship recipient. The award was presented at our Feb. 17th meeting. We would also like to thank the following applicants for your participation in our Clemson Scholarship competition: Aisha Grimes, David Lehtihet, Johnathan Decker, and Mark Pepin. Our committee members have truly enjoyed reading your essays and we wish you the best of luck in your future careers!

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## Officer Nominations Needed

Feel a NEED TO SERVE and HELP OTHERS? Consider becoming a WSCAICHE Officer! Due date for Officer Nominations will be 14 Apr 2009. Feel free to nominate yourself. All nominations are to be sent to the WSCAICHE Secretary at [sec@wscaiche.org](mailto:sec@wscaiche.org).

You may nominate the following positions:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary