



The Western Palmetto Informer

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

October 2008

Volume 8, Issue 2

In This Issue

- September Meeting Thanks
- Next Meeting: October 14th
- Getting to know... Your Treasurer and Secretary
- 2008-2009 Calendar of Events
- Clemson Scholarship
- November Meeting Preview
- 2008-2009 Officers and Executive Committee

Contact Information

Visit our website:

<http://www.wscaiche.org>

Email us at:

sec@wscaiche.org

September Meeting Thank You

Special Thanks to our September Meeting's speakers, Mr. Austin Crooks and Mr. Thomas Travis of Fluor Corporation. In their presentation "How Tech Savvy Are You?" they highlighted the latest in Web 2.0, connectivity, and electronic gadgets. Even the technologically savviest attendee learned something new!

October Meeting: Focus on Investment Fundamentals



Recent turmoil in financial markets has made our October meeting topic all the more timely. In this uncertain time, what is the right investment strategy? What fundamentals should you adhere to? If you're new to investing or just starting out, these questions can feel even more daunting.

Luckily, we have an October presenter who can shed a lot of light on these and

numerous other questions.

On October 14th, 2008, Mr. Dennis A. Barry, Jr., a Financial Consultant with Thrivent Financial will deliver a presentation that covers the basics of investing, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and annuities. He will review investment approaches and explore investment objectives, risk tolerance and dollar cost averaging.

Dennis is a Fraternal Insurance Counselor (FIC) and has also earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in Business

[Continued on Page 2]

Administration from Southern Wesleyan University.

OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY

- DATE:** Tuesday, October 14, 2008 ([NOTE DATE CHANGE](#))
- TIME:** 6:00 PM Social
6:30 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Presentation
- LOCATION:** Madren Center (near golf course)
Clemson University
Clemson, SC
- DIRECTIONS:** I-85 @ to Exit #19B, onto Highway 72/28 North,
Turn Left onto Perimeter Road,
Follow signs to Golf & Madren Center
- 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 by Thursday, October 9, 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... Your Treasurer and Secretary

In this recurring feature in the *Informer* we get to know our Section leadership and others who contribute to our profession. This month, meet Section Treasurer, Rick Vogel and Section Secretary, David Laursen.



Rick Vogel, Treasurer

Rick writes: Howdy Fellow WSCAICHe Members. A B.S. Chemical Engineer from Texas A&M, I moved to Greenville on New Year's Day 2001 to start a new job with Fluor Daniel after having spent 13 years with Celanese Chemicals (mostly in Texas). The last 3 years with Celanese were spent in Singapore. With a loving wife and two sons (17 year old senior at J.L. Mann and a 5 year old budding paleontologist in kindergarten), I have much to be thankful for. Whether helping create wealth for clients, putting steel on the ground, or working with highly talented and motivated associates, Fluor Daniel (now "Fluor") has been a great place to work. My assignments have been varied and rewarding.

When not playing Process Engineer, I've enjoyed numerous outside

[Continued on Page 3]

activities. Baseball is likely my favorite sport and I've helped coach youth baseball, dabbled with umpiring, and I'm an Usher at the Drive's Fluor Field at the West End.

Boy Scouts is my favorite volunteer organization in which I continue to spend the majority of volunteer time in cheerful service. I wear a number of hats in Scouts, the highlights being: Trainer of new Cub Scout leaders; Assistant Scout Master of a troop; Committee Member in another troop; Pack Trainer in a Cub Scout pack; Trainer in various Scout leader classes, notably the Outdoor Leaders Skills Instruction and Wood Badge courses; and (most recently) Climbing Instructor. It's amazing how this works out to be less than an hour a week (inside scout joke).

My favorite professional hobby used to be flying helicopters at taxpayer's expense. I wear a few other hats, but let's talk AIChE...

After arriving in Greenville, I started attending WSCAIChE meetings. Having been Treasurer (twice), Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair, I have seen the effort it takes to put on quality programs year after year. We owe many thanks to the likes of these former and/or active officers over the last 7 years - Mary Ferris, Anne Dieska, Dan Brechko, Clare (Marshall) Wood, Eugene Gill, James Young, Anne Marie Jones, David Laursen, John Moore, David Harshbarger, Teresa Cheung, Oren Webb, and Austin Crooks. We're fortunate to have enough money in bank, a product of even earlier leadership, that we are able to make a difference in our community and profession. Scholarships for Clemson Chemical Engineering students, prizes and support money for the Greenville Science Fair, wicked cool plant tours, great meeting topics, professional networking opportunities, and events like Engineer Week's "Kids Engineering - Making It Matter - AIChE" are activities and opportunities I've had the privilege to be associated with.

Finally, thank you for your friendship and support. I look forward to talking with you at a future WSCAIChE event.

Truly yours, Rick Vogel, WSCAIChE Treasurer 2008-2009



David Laursen, Secretary

David Laursen is a member of Fluor's Energy & Chemicals project management group based in the Greenville. David has more than 13 years of experience in a wide range of projects. He has a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Florida and is a registered Professional Engineer. A Senior member of AIChE, David is entering his second consecutive term as Section Secretary. David previously served two terms as Section Treasurer as well as many years prior as an Executive Committee member.

In addition to his work with AIChE, David serves annually on Fluor's Greenville Engineers Week Committee and supports the Boy Scouts in various volunteer capacities. David and his wife Cindy live in Greenville and have one child; Jack age 2. In his free time, David enjoys running, playing guitar, dog training, and spending time with his family.

2008-2009 Calendar of Events

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
14 Oct 2008*	Clemson University Madren Center	Focus on Investment Fundamentals
18 Nov 2008	Hilton	Boiler Improvements and the Super Boiler
13 Jan 2009	Hilton	Gas Turbines
14 Feb 2009	Roper Mountain Science Center	Second Saturday - Kids' Engineering Day
17 Feb 2009	Hilton	Clemson Speaker - <i>Topic to be announced</i>
24 Mar 2009	Hilton	How to Be a 21 st Century Global Citizen
14 Apr 2009	Milliken	Plant Tour
15 May 2009	Fluor Field	Greenville Drive Baseball Game Social

**Date change from previous issue*

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.

Clemson Scholarship Support to Continue

Come to the October meeting to hear details about our \$1,000 scholarship to Clemson's Chemical Engineering program.

November Meeting Preview

Our November Meeting topic will be the latest in boiler technology. This topic may be of interest to some non-chemical engineers you know. If you have colleagues (such as mechanical engineers) who may be interested, make sure to invite them to our November 18th Meeting!

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.