



# The Western Palmetto Informer

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

September 2008

Volume 8, Issue 1

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## Contact Information

Visit our website:

<http://www.wscaiche.org>

Email us at:

[sec@wscaiche.org](mailto:sec@wscaiche.org)

## This Just In...Our Updated Newsletter

No, your eyes do not deceive you – our newsletter has a new look and a new name – *The Western Palmetto Informer*. A more pleasing format with more color and photographs are the most obvious changes. However, the makeover isn't merely cosmetic. We're adding more information and features. In this issue's "Getting to Know..." we profile our Section's new Chair and Vice-Chair. This will be a recurring feature so you can get to know everyone who contributes to our Section.

If you have any feedback you'd like to share or any suggestions for other improvements to the *Informer*, email Section Secretary David Laursen at [sec@wscaiche.org](mailto:sec@wscaiche.org).

## September Meeting: How Tech Savvy Are You?



Wi-Fi, iPods, iPhones, iTrips, Blackberries, Bluetooth, Blu-Rays, Web Apps, DVR's, HDTV's, SSD's, and Slingboxes: New technological developments impact our lives on a daily basis. How have you embraced these changes that shape the way humans communicate, shop, and entertain themselves? Have you been left in the wake of technology moving past you at fiber optic speeds? If your answer is yes, you are not alone.

Much of the new technology that has emerged in the past fifteen years has intended to improve our quality of life, but not without certain risks. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Mr. Austin Crooks and Mr. Thomas Travis of Fluor Corporation will deliver a presentation to unmask some of the benefits and uncertainties

behind the most recent technological revolution.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 16, 2008  
**TIME:** 6:00 PM Social  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Presentation  
**LOCATION:** **Hilton, Greenville** ([NOTE NEW LOCATION](#))  
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, September 11, 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.**

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### Getting to Know... Your Chair and Vice-Chair

With this new feature in the *Informer* we'll get to know our Section leadership and others who contribute to our profession. This month, meet Section Chair, Oren Webb and Section Vice-Chair, Austin Crooks.



Oren Webb, Chair

Oren Webb, Ph.D., is starting his first term as Section Chair, after serving last year as Vice-Chair. Oren has over 15 years experience in biofuels, chemicals, biopharmaceuticals, and medical isotopes. He has authored more than two dozen peer-reviewed papers and given numerous presentations on these subjects. Oren has experience in process design, operations, and construction. Oren has a B.A. in Chemistry from Western Carolina University and both an M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tennessee. He and his wife Mary have three sons: Jacob (15), Nicholas (4), and Liam (2). In his free time, Oren serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster

of Palmetto Council's Boy Scout Troop 79. Oren enjoys woodworking and running to keep in shape. He has completed 7 marathons including 2 Boston Marathons.

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Austin Crooks, Vice-Chair

Austin Crooks is a Process Engineer in Fluor Corporation's Energy and Chemicals group. Austin has over 2 years of experience in process design engineering with Fluor. He is a graduate of Clemson University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and has been an Engineer in Training (EIT) since 2006. Austin is an Associate member of AIChE and is serving his first term as an officer for our Section. Austin has been an active member in AIChE since

2003, when he first joined the Clemson University Student Chapter. Austin served as Vice President of that chapter for 2005-2006.

Austin serves annually on the Fluor Engineers Week Committee, volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, and is active in many other community projects coordinated by Fluor's Greenville Office.

## 2008-2009 Calendar of Events

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
16 Sept 2008	Hilton	How Tech Savvy Are You?
21 Oct 2008	Clemson University Madren Center	Finances 101: What Everyone Should Know About Their Money
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 <sup>st</sup> Century Global Citizen
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.*

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## Clemson Scholarship Support to Continue

The Executive Committee has again agreed to support Clemson's Chemical Engineering program with a \$1,000 scholarship. Details regarding the application process will be available at our October meeting.

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## 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.