

AIChE

Atlanta Reaction



Volume 13, Number 7

March 2006

2005-2006 Officers:

Chair

Mark Singleton
Shaw Industries
O: (706) 625-7986
mtsinge@comcast.net

Vice Chair

Melissa Grytdal
BioLab, Inc.
O: (678) 502-4210
Melissa.Grytdal@Chemtura.com

Treasurer

Dave Russell
Global Environmental Operations
O: (770) 923-4408
dlr@mindspring.com

Co-Secretary / Newsletter

Dave Crowther, PE
Professional Engineering Solutions
O: (678) 511-6011
dgcrowther@joimail.com
dave@ProfessionalEngineeringSolutions.com

Co-Secretary / Newsletter

Gerald Mueller
MACTEC Engineering & Consulting
O: (770) 421-3436
GRMUELLER@mactec.com

Visit our website: www.atl-aiche.org

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Applied Sustainability

David Gustashaw is the Vice President of Engineering of Interface, Inc., a company that wants to show the entire industrial world what sustainability is in all its dimensions: people, process, product, and profits.

Dave will be explaining the concepts of applied sustainability. He specializes in process improvement using applied sustainable methodologies, and will explain how to measure a process to determine if it is sustainable. Not merely a financial analysis, sustainability includes responsible environmental, social, as well as financial impacts. He will also detail how Interface has successfully implemented these processes.

Where: Mary Mac's Tea Room
224 Ponce De Leon Ave, NE
Atlanta, GA 30308

When: 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 7th, 2006

Price: \$25/member

Agenda: 6:00 - 6:45 pm Arrive and network

6:45 - 7:45 pm
 Dinner
 7:45 - 8:30 pm
 Presentation
 8:30 pm
 Adjourn

RSVP: To Melissa.Grytdal@Chemtura.com by March 3rd

Directions: See details on the following page

Letter From The Chair, March 2006

Greetings Atlanta Section,

I would once again like to thank everyone that came out on February 7 to our meeting with the chemical engineering students from Georgia Tech. We broke into four small group sessions with professional AIChE members leading each section. We had a great turnout, and the students enjoyed this program more than the programs we have had in the past.

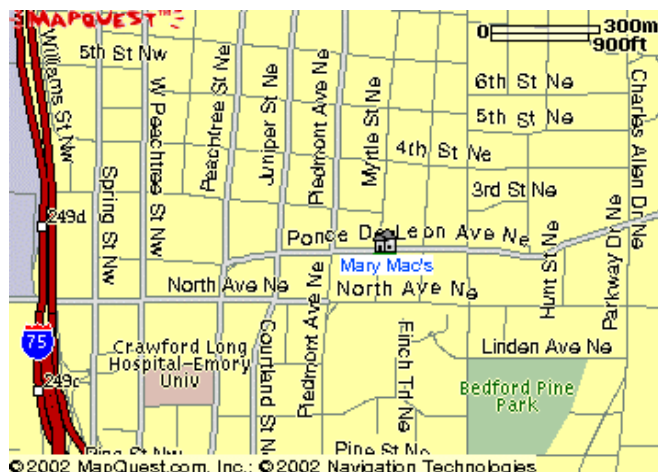
This month we are going to be talking about sustainability. Many of us have heard of this topic, but we are not sure exactly what this topic entails.

Our vice-Chair, Melissa Grytdal heard our March speaker, Dave Gustashaw, speak last year. She was so impressed she asked him to come speak to our chapter. I would like to encourage anyone in the chapter who knows of a speaker or would like to hear a great topic to bring it before the chapter, and we will work on setting this up for one of our meetings.

Please come out on March 7 to Mary Mac's in Midtown to hear Dave Gustashaw speak about sustainability.

Mark T. Singleton
 Atlanta AIChE Chair 2005-06

March AIChE Chapter Meeting



Directions to Mary Mac's Tearoom (From Connector Southbound)

- Exit I-75/85S onto 10th Street,.
- Proceed east crossing back over interstate
- Turn right (south) onto Peachtree St.
- Turn left onto Ponce De Leon Ave
- Mary Macs is on the left, just past Piedmont Rd.
- Parking is behind the restaurant

2006 AIChE Spring National Meeting

The AIChE is holding its annual spring meeting this year in Orlando, FL at Disney's Dolphin Hotel.

The conference runs from April 23-27 and also includes the Second Global Conference on Process Safety

Following is the AIChE's promotional announcement:

Join an international gathering of chemical engineers, process safety professionals and particle scientists providing unmatched breadth, depth and content.

Featuring:

- **New! Critical Issues Series: Energy**, examines the vital role chemical engineers play in our energy future
 - Guest speakers include Samuel Bodman (invited), United States Secretary of Energy
- **2nd Global Congress on Process Safety:**
 - 40th Loss Prevention Symposium
 - 21st CCPS International Conference
 - 8th Process Plant Safety Symposium

- **Fifth World Congress on Particle Technology**
- **18th Ethylene Producers' Conference**

Plus 10 Additional Topical Conferences focused on key areas of interest to chemical engineers across disciplines.

Additional speakers:

- **Dr. Michelle Michot Foss**, Chief Energy Economist and Head, Center of Energy Economics, Bureau of Economic Geology, *The University of Texas*
- **Gary Veurink**, Executive Vice-President of Manufacturing & Engineering, *The Dow Chemical Company*

- **John Mogford**, Senior Group Vice President of Safety and Operations, *British Petroleum*
- **Greg Hanggi**, Vice-President of Environmental Health & Safety, *Chevron Phillips Chemical*

For More Information, Go To www.aiche.org/Spring

Atlanta Chemical Engineers in the Spotlight: Melissa Grytdal



G'day Melissa, as a distinguished member of the Chemical Engineering field, and officer in the local Atlanta AIChE Chapter, it is a great honor to interview you for our newsletter's Spotlight this month.

1) Please tell us a little about your education and professional career.

Gerald, I decided to study chemical engineering because I enjoyed chemistry, and I heard it was a challenging discipline. After looking at several universities across the country, I chose Washington State University, my parents' alma mater. I guess my dad taking me to football games when I was young paid off.

Each summer during college I interned at Siemens Power in Richland, Washington. I even worked at their German sister company after I studied in Braunschweig, Germany during my junior year of college. I then supported a solvent extraction process for Siemens for about a year, and learned a lot about a variety of chemical processes. My next job was in Fort Collins, Colorado where I programmed databases and analyzed client's samples at an environmental lab. Now I improve and develop powder and solids processes at BioLab, Inc., a Chemtura company. My office is located in Lawrenceville, Ga.

2) I understand you are involved in "real chemical engineering" work. Please tell us a little about your company and what type of challenges you are faced with in your every day work.

BioLab makes swimming pool and spa chemicals, as well as household cleaners. You may have seen Biolab's products at Home Depot, Lowes, or pool stores. In order to troubleshoot our processes, I get very involved from start to finish. I typically will suit up in the supplied air suits that our operators wear, and go and physically oversee the sampling. I then bring these samples to our lab and analyze them on sophisticated test equipment. Finally, I look at the statistical data in order to make conclusions and recommendations, and report these to operations. When you add in the fact that our production facilities

and my lab are 40 miles apart, it makes each test quite an adventure.

3) What has been some of your more challenging projects? If there is one achievement in your life or in your professional career of which you are most proud - what would that be?

I completed my Six Sigma black belt project last year, and really enjoyed the process. The project involved improving one of our product's quality, with a goal of significant improvement. At the end of the project we had 100% better quality, which was impressive. This was due to good communication with operators, parallel projects by maintenance engineering, and improvements to our raw materials.

4) Melissa, please tell us a little about some of your outside interests, such as other organizations to which you belong, recreational activities or memorable places you have visited.

I enjoy running, and we have a group at BioLab that runs at lunch. I also am enjoying learning about gardening in the south, because everything grows so well. One of my greatest passions, however, is travel. I've been able to see a good portion of Europe and have been to Africa on two occasions. That still leaves a lot of this world to see! On my first trip to Africa, I visited Ghana in West Africa and was able to stay with a family for three weeks. They were working on writing a language, that was until then only oral, and we were able to attend their first literacy class. It was a wonderful experience.

5) As a member of the chemical engineering profession, what would you like to see happen in our chapter over the next few years?

First of all, I would like to say that being in Atlanta has given me the opportunity to be active in an AIChE chapter, which I have really enjoyed. We have had excellent speakers on a variety of technical and soft skills topics.

I would like to see continued opportunities for learning in a variety of areas. The chapter should be a place where we can learn about technical topics that are broader than an individual company, improve soft skills and have the opportunity to network, and get a sense of encouragement as we move through the phases of our work lives.

Well Melissa, we really appreciate your thoughts and allowing us to feature you in this months newsletter. Many thanks and good luck in your career and we hope you get a chance to see the rest of the world you haven't seen yet.

Gerald Mueller,

Legislative Forum - Andrew Gibson

I recently met and spoke with Representative Jill Chambers of the Georgia Legislature. She represents part of North Dekalb and recently had some notoriety in her role as a much-needed critical overseer of MARTA's excess spending (country clubs, etc.). But one of her other assignments is as the legislative Committee Chair of Homeland Security for the state. I offered our services as a resource if she ever needed consulting or advice on chemical-related incidents.

At an officers' meeting on January 28th, your Section officers endorsed this as long as we don't make recommendations that could make us liable.

What I need is a cadre of volunteers that would be willing to respond to questions that might arise in an emergency. If you are willing to serve as a

phone contact for Jill's office, send your info to me. It should include:

Name, Employer, phone, fax, and cell nos., and E-mail address.

Don't feel as though you will have to have all the answers for what may come up. The important fact is that you know of others in the Section or at work who may be able to help Jill. She makes no bones about her lack of technical background and is eagerly seeking help in that area. She is a dynamic and smart legislator and fun to work with.

I will try to arrange a visit to her office for a very small group (3-4) from the volunteer cadre in the near future and will keep you posted on that.

Employment Opportunities:

Posting 1:

Process Engineer

Position is in Forest Park, GA, and Hexion offers relocation.

Requirements:

3-8yrs experience in the chemical processing environment, exp. in coatings and inks.

Exp. with Root Cause Analysis

BS in Chemical Engineering

High level troubleshooting skills.

Preferred:

SAP exp.

Six Sigma exp.

PSM/PHA

Posting 2:

Production Superintendent

Position is in Diboll, TX, and Hexion offers relocation.

Requirements:

At least 3yrs exp. in Plant Production Supervision.

BS in Chemical Engineering

Previous exp. working with adhesives and resins is a plus.

Preferred:

Exp. with OSHA regulations, environmental permits, Hazmat, Water and Waste exp. is a plus.

PSM

(Continued on next page)

Employment Opportunities (Cont'd):

Hexion Specialty Chemicals is a Fortune 100 company and the largest provider of thermosets in the US, it only recently merged with Borden Chemicals and so many opportunities are arising. If you find anyone that is interested in a new opportunity please don't hesitate in forwarding my details or if they wish they can send me their resumes, which I will be more than happy to look at and see if their profile fits any of the positions available. I can also upload their details on our database and save the information for any other opportunities that arise.

Kind regards,

Julieta Cameron

julieta@avature.net

212 380 4160 Ex: 321

Job Seekers:

None identified this month

2005-2006 Committee Chairs

Philanthropy

Rob Madayag
O: (770) 541-7444
RMadayag@mkiplaw.com

Member Relations

Charlie Churchman
H: (770) 263-6937
Jyrodyne@comcast.net

Student Chair

Rebecca Shiels
Georgia Institute of Technology
ChE Graduate Student
Rebecca.Shiels@chbe.gatech.edu

Membership

Charlie Churchman
H: (770) 263-6937
Jyrodyne@comcast.net

Government Interaction

Andy Gibson
Gibson Technologies, Inc.
O: (770) 351-9174
aggibson@aol.com

Newsletter

Dave Crowther, PE
Professional Engineering Solutions
O: (678) 513-6011
dave@ProfessionalEngineeringSolutions.com

Web / Internet

Chris Hurst
Georgia EPD
O: (404) 463-7508
cjhurst@mindspring.com

Gerald Mueller
MACTEC Engineering & Consulting
O: (770) 421-3436
grmueller@mactec.com