

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

September/October 2005

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Mark Arlinghaus

This is my first newsletter as chair of the executive committee, so I will begin by introducing myself. I am a Senior Engineer with General Mills in the Strategic Technology group supporting research on dough products such as breads, cinnamon rolls and biscuits. I have been with General Mills for 7 years. I also have experience at Procter & Gamble in their Food & Beverage R&D group. This is my second year as an active member of the local AIChE chapter. Last year I served as vice-chair of the executive committee.

Active participation in the local chapter events has many benefits. The monthly meetings provide updates on new technologies, exposure to real stories of entrepreneurship, the opportunity to visit facilities that would be otherwise closed, and a chance to compare work life at many companies. AIChE meetings are also a great place for networking. Despite the explosion of on-line resume repositories and job postings, nothing beats good-old-fashion person contacts when it comes to looking for new job options or career changes. AIChE is the best place to meet chemical engineers from a variety of industries. AIChE also encourages engineers to help others. You will be hearing more in future newsletters about opportunities to volunteer with the University of Minnesota's mentoring

program.

The mission statement for our chapter is "To provide opportunities for chemical engineers in traditional and non-traditional fields for enhanced professional and personal growth." I hope to achieve this by concentrating on three things this year: continuing to hold informative and relevant monthly events, increasing member participation our monthly events, and increasing participation at our annual symposium.

I am proud of the monthly events we had last year and I am confident that our vice-chair, Kurt Waananen, will continue that tradition with great tours and speakers this year. To increase event participation I plan to recruit more company chairs and to solicit help from executives and business owners who manage engineers. I believe that AIChE has a great deal to offer their employees, and I want their help encouraging participation in chapter meetings. You can do your part by bringing co-workers to the events and making sure that all the engineers where you work are aware of the meetings. Finally, to make our symposium a success I ask your help. Our theme for this year is food. Let us know the topics related to food that interest you. We want the symposium to have speakers relevant to those in the food industry and to those who are not. Please send your suggestions to our symposium chairs Jim Easton and Brian E. Jensen.

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MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT:

<http://www.aichelocal.org/tc>

SEPTEMBER MEETING

3M Plant Tour: Cottage Grove Incinerator

**Tour Host: Gary Garner, Manager, 3M Corporate Incinerator /
Cottage Grove Wells and Wastewater**

**Tuesday September 27th, 2005
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Location:
3M Corporate Incinerator
10746 Innovation Road
Cottage Grove, MN 66016**

Tour Description

On this tour you will have the opportunity to visit a rotary kiln hazardous waste incinerator operated by 3M Company at its manufacturing site in Cottage Grove, MN. In 2000 the facility completed a number of improvements targeted at complying with emissions limitations established under the NESHAP for Hazardous Waste Combustors (MACT standard). Attendees will tour the material handling, combustion, and air pollution control installations of the facility. The tour will also include a presentation describing 3M Company's U.S. waste management program and 3M's strategy for MACT compliance.

Reservations.

Reserve a tour spot by sending an e-mail to kurt.waananen@genmills.com by Sept. 23 (please indicate name and company/affiliation).

Cost

The tour is free!

Agenda

6:30-7:15 – Tour

7:15 – Wrap-Up and light snacks provided by 3M

Directions

Drive time from downtown Minneapolis is approximately 45 minutes. Cottage Grove is located 17 miles southeast of St. Paul.

- Directions from I-494 and US Highway 61:
- Take the US-10 E/US-61 S exit, exit number 63B, towards HASTINGS (0.2 miles)
- Merge onto US-10 E / US-61 S. (7.1 miles)
- Take the INNOVATION RD exit towards CR-19 (0.4 miles)
- Turn RIGHT onto INNOVATION RD. (0.7 miles)

- After crossing the railroad tracks, stop at 3M Building 65 Security to sign-in.

- Access procedures (allow 5-10 min):
- Visitors must use the left entrance lane.
- Stop at the gate arm and announce your name and destination over the intercom to the security guard.
- After passing through the gate, park in the parking location to your left.
- Enter the security building to sign in and receive an access badge.

- After leaving the security building this pass will open the second security gate arm, or the gate may be opened by contacting security over the intercom.
- To go to the 3M Incinerator Building (Bldg. 145), turn right at the first road (Incinerator Road) after passing through the second security gate.
- Proceed approximately 1/4 mile and turn left into the parking lot signed as 'Visitor Parking'
- Walk across the walkway to the building entrance and enter the lobby.
- If your escort is not in the lobby, use the phone to call and indicate your arrival (use the last 5 digits of the phone number). For Gary Garner, call 8-1340. For a building page, dial 213.
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- Exiting after tour:
- Return badges in the drop box that is built into the exit reader.
- The speed limit on the exit is 15 MPH. Any speed in excess of 15 MPH will require that the driver slow down in order to safely get through the “pedestrian crossing gate” just south of BLDG. 65.

Mapquest directions to the 3M site in Cottage Grove can be reached through the attached link:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?address=10746%20Innovation%20Rd&city=Cottage%20Grove&state=MN&zipcode=55016%2d4600&country=US&title=10746%20Innovation%20Rd%20Cottage%20Grove%2c%20MN%2055016%2d4600%2c%20US&cid=lfmaplink2>

Place an ad here and get results! Reach over 600 chemical engineers!

**Nathan Johnson, doc_curtis@rocketmail.com
651-733-2184**

OCTOBER MEETING

Rock-Tenn Company –Recycled Paperboard Manufacturer

Tour Host: Brian West, Technical Manager, Rock-Tenn St. Paul Mills

Thursday, October 20, 2005

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Rock-Tenn Company

2250 Wabash Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55114

Tour Description

On this tour you will have the opportunity to visit a paper mill that specializes in manufacturing approximately 1000 tons per day of recycled coated boxboard and corrugating medium. This paper mill is located near the Midway area of St. Paul, just south of University Avenue and approximately 3 blocks east of Highway 280. This facility has been operating at this location since 1908. The tour will include details of how recycled fiber is procured and processed to produce a product that is used in the manufacture of printed folding cartons as well as corrugating medium which is used for the fluting in corrugated containers. This site has a total of four paper machines.

Reservations

Reserve a tour spot by sending an e-mail to kurt.waananen@genmills.com by October 17 (include name and company/affiliation).

Tour will be limited to the first 25 reservations.

Cost

The tour is free!

Agenda

5:00 p.m. – 6:15p.m. Discussion and tour

6:15 – Wrap-Up and pizza provided by Rock-Tenn Company

Link to Directions

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?address=2250%20Wabash%20Ave&city=Saint%20Paul&state=MN&zipcode=55114%2d1828&country=US&title=2250%20Wabash%20Ave%20Saint%20Paul%2c%20MN%2055114%2d1828%2c%20US&cid=lfmaplink2>

YPAB UPDATE

The Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB) held two different events since our last newsletter. The events were the Saints game and the Minnesota Engineering Societies Picnic.

The St. Paul Saints baseball game and tailgating had a great turnout. We had 24 individuals that included both American Chemical Society and AIChE members. The attendees ranged from the University of Minnesota Student Chapter members to a number of industry professionals. Tailgating allowed us to get to know a number of other attendees before cheering on our favorite, and only, local minor league team in the Twin Cities!

The 1st annual Minnesota Engineering Societies Picnic was sponsored by a number of engineering societies including ASME, SWE, IEEE, and AIChE. This event is hopefully one of many in the future that will allow our different engineering professions to network and provide more opportunities for personal and professional growth for all members of the different societies in the future.

Upcoming Events:

- National Conference YPAB meeting – please email me if you are going to Cincinnati and would like details on this event.
- National Student Conference Costume Party Bash – please let me know if you will be in Cincinnati and would like to attend this function.

Matt Atkins

YPAB Chair

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SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

by Tom Kempf

Dear Upper Midwest AIChE Member:

Our local section is bringing a short course offered nationally by AIChE and ASME to Minneapolis this October. Dates are Oct 17 and 18 for a full two-day course. The course is CH710:Essentials of Chemical Engineering for Non-Engineers. This is Nationally one of the most popular and best received classes and will not be offered in our region again this year. This course is open to members and non-members and is brought to you at a discount to National prices (see below).

You Should Attend If : You need an overview of the basic mechanics and chemistry behind the process equipment you work with on a daily basis. This course will help operations personnel communicate effectively with the process engineers and technical managers they collaborate with. It is also ideal for scientists from other disciplines, designers, technicians, purchasing personnel, and others who would benefit from improved communication with the engineers with whom they work.

About the Instructor: Jack Hipple is a Chemical Engineer from Carnegie Mellon and a 30-year veteran of the process industries. He is an innovation leader with broad experience in aligning strategy and tactics across a broad range of process and product technologies. Skilled in development and assessment of new technology, Mr. Hipple also has a diverse background in linking technology with changing market needs. As a specialist in R&D/manufacturing/commercial technology transfer, Mr. Hipple taught organizational innovation and new technology assessment and commercialization in managing his own consulting firm, Mr. Hipple has focused on helping customers in organizational innovation, breakthrough innovation and new product development techniques. His problem-solving sessions for industrial and service clients have provided breakthrough solutions to difficult problems in various industries.

For all the detailed information on the course follow the link:

http://ww2.asme.org/pd/courseDetail.cfm?CO_ID=834

The cost to attend the course is \$1250. for members and \$1350. for non-members BEFORE SEPT 23. After the 23rd, the price increases to the same price as when this course is offered nationally to \$1395 for members and

\$1545 for non-members. This fee includes all course material (includes a CD that sells through national for \$1000.), continental breakfast, lunch and snacks. Please respond to me (thomas.kempf@genmills.com) if you have any questions. To register for the class please send a check made out to AIChE to:

Tom Kempf
General Mills
Strategic Technology
Riverside Tech Center 27-51
330 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55416
763-764-2873

There are several advantages to you in attending one of these short courses. First is the professional growth and continuing education credits (this course counts for 15 Professional Development Hours). Attending locally also reduces your travel load and associated costs (plane, rental car, hotel, meals, time away from home,...). In addition, taking a 2 day class typically requires investment of 4 days if you have to fly to a remote site.

We have a minimum sign up for this class. If we do not get the minimum registrations by Sept 30th we will be forced to cancel the class and refund money to those previously registered. If you sign up and are unable to attend you can have a different student take your place or get a full refund up to Sept 30th. Due to the commitments to the instructor and meeting facilities, there can be no refunds after Sept 30th.

Don't delay, SIGN UP TODAY!

10 Steps to Proactive Career Advancement

by Louise Fletcher, Blue Sky Résumés

It's not easy to focus on finding a new opportunity when you're busy with your current position. Nevertheless, it's vital to find a good balance between the two because no one can afford NOT to run a permanent, proactive job search. This goes hand-in-hand with the advice offered by recruiter Karen Pinkman in a recent column: "Senior-level job seekers have to view themselves as 'Me Inc.'" The best way to get noticed ... is to become a visible presence." Establishing yourself as a permanent "presence" is the best way to ensure satisfying employment. Although following these 10 steps should make a difference to those who are actively searching, I do hope you'll also take these points to heart once you find that next role.

1) Establish a work-related Web presence—either a blog or a regular Web site. Whatever you choose, it's important to create a professional image online, as many recruiters now research candidates on the Web. And, unless you're an expert designer, don't try to design your own Web site—hire someone to do it for you. A poorly designed Web site is worse than not having one at all. Blogs are much easier to design, but beware—a blog that is rarely updated is just as harmful to your reputation as a poorly designed site.

2) Don't wait until a great opportunity presents itself to update your résumé—do it every 6-9 months. And please, please, please, work with a professional on your résumé. Since you wouldn't perform your own dental surgery, don't try to prepare your own marketing materials!

3) Start an accomplishment notebook. Each time you complete a project or achieve a success, write down the challenge you faced, the actions you took, and the results you achieved. Then, when it comes time to update your résumé, you won't be wracking your brains for important details.

4) Don't let your subscriptions to career newsletters and/or blogs run out after you find a new job. Stay current with the latest job search techniques and review job listings regularly. Just as athletes stay in shape during the off-season, you should keep abreast of what's going on even when you're happy in your present role.

5) Audit your network. Take the time to go through your contacts and organize them, either in an address book, Excel spreadsheet, database or contact management program like Outlook or Act!

6) Once you've updated your network, get in touch. This is the ideal time to reach out because you don't need anything. Send a friendly note or make a quick call to enquire after a person's health, family or well-being. Once you're in contact again, maintain it in a thoughtful

way. For example, if you see an article that might interest someone, send them a quick email with a link, or drop a copy of the article in an envelope with a short note. Also, keep track of your conversations to stay on top of your networking efforts.

7) Seek out opportunities to help others. It's only natural for people to want to help those who've shown them kindness. If someone asks for help, look at it as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for future return favors.

8) Raise your industry or functional profile. Look for conferences in your field and submit speaking proposals. If you're a good writer, contact industry-related web publications and offer to write articles. This will raise your profile, especially if someone searches for you online.

9) Don't forget online networking—join a few select message boards related to your profession. This gives you an opportunity to help others while allowing you to network with people too far away to meet in person.

10) Make sure all recruiters in your field or industry have an updated version of your résumé and know where to find you. Also let them know that you can be a good source of referrals. If you help them locate strong candidates, they're more likely to remember you when the next great opportunity comes along.

If you're currently looking for a job, you're probably doing some of these things and you should be doing all of them. But when you find your next job, don't let them slide. Think proactively about your career advancement and make it a part of your everyday work life.

Louise Fletcher is President and Co-Founder of Blue Sky Résumés (www.blueskyresumes.com). She specializes in executive career marketing and provides comprehensive job-search advice and career information via her blog at www.blueskyresumes.com/weblog.

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