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NEXT MEETING: HUMOR THAT WORKS

An Engineer’s Guide to Using Humor

<http://fuze.me/22661987>

(detailed directions on page 4)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014

9:00 pm EST, 8:00 pm CST, 7:00 pm MST, 6:00 pm PST

Engineers strive for efficiency and effectiveness. Sadly, humans aren’t always successful. Luckily we have a tool to help us get the most out of ourselves and our co-workers. Humor has been shown to improve communication, build relationships, enhance problem-solving, increase productivity, and reduce stress, all while helping us to enjoy work more (and get paid more doing it). This session will cover how to use humor to be more effective with people, have more fun at work, and get more done. The session attendees will learn:

1. The Definition of Humor
2. Why Engineers Should Use Humor
3. Appropriate vs. Inappropriate Humor
4. The Humor MAP and How to Get Started
5. Humor That You Can Use Today

Presenter Bio: Andrew Tarvin is a computer science engineer turned award-winning speaker and best-selling author. Through his company, Humor That Works, he teaches individuals and organizations how to use humor to be more effective, more productive, and more awesome. Andrew has worked with more than 100 organizations including Procter & Gamble, GE, and IBM on topics including humor in the workplace, communicating confidently, and strategic disengagement. He loves the color orange and is obsessed with milkshakes. For more information, visit www.HumorThatWorks.com.

From Dan Lambert on <http://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/virtual-local-section>

From the Editor:

Have the long, cold, dark nights of December in the northern hemisphere (where most of the VLS members reside) plunged our Virtual Local Section into winter hibernation? Not at all! Even though there was no newsletter in December, it has been a very busy time. Your executive committee has been meeting, the candidates have been nominated for the upcoming election, and discussions of the national AIChE priorities for invigorating local sections are continuing. All this volunteer participation at a busy time of year for non-AIChE activities, like holidays and bowl games!

For me, this time included a 3000 mile road trip from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast, where we welcomed the fourth chemical engineer in three generations into my family. Driving across 9 states containing about 20% of the area of the US and only 6 "local" AIChE sections really makes you realize how hard it is for some folks to participate in "local" sections other than the VLS. (Actually, "local" is even less "local" than I realized during the drive: the total area served by these six sections is close to a third of the area of 50 states.) Chemical engineers out there are often widely dispersed geographically, and they enjoy a diverse range of employment opportunities: food processing, agricultural production, pharmaceuticals, alternate and conventional energy production, the environment, plastics, specialty chemicals, electronics and oil refining.

A brief stop in the bitter cold to view the Teapot Dome in Wyoming, reminded my geophysicist daughter and me that oil production has a long and colorful history in these wide open spaces; with oil, there are always chemical engineers, like her new

husband, who logs wells in the hinterlands.

In modern times, VLS members can help bridge the distances between far-flung chemical engineers. All members can reach out and share their most-valued VLS experiences with each other or potential new members. Easy ways that anyone can spread the word about VLS are by inviting people to attend our meetings or by forwarding interesting items from the newsletter or the website. If you have the time and inclination to become more active, there are countless other avenues open. Join VLS social media pages on LinkedIn and Facebook. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. Contact an officer about volunteer opportunities. Enjoy the benefits of becoming a habitual virtual connector through VLS.

"No chemical engineer left behind."

-- Jennifer Brand

AN INTERVIEW WITH NEIL YEOMAN

I thought that interviewing Neil Yeoman was going to be a discussion of his long and illustrious career, highlighting a few of the outstanding accomplishments which led the AIChE Board of Directors to award him the 2013 E. J. and Dorothy Van Antwerpen Award for Service to the Institute, in both the professional and technical areas of Institute activities. It turned out to be much more interesting!

Neil is self-described as "a 2001 retiree from Koch-Glitsch, LP and a chemical engineering enthusiast" who cares deeply about the profession and AIChE. After a successful industrial career, spanning decades, he retired, or, more accurately, he shifted his focus.

The Van Antwerpen Award is not his first Institute award. While appreciative of the recognition and the honors, he wanted to

talk more about ongoing and future work than past accomplishments. "The unique thing about me", he said, "is that I am retired after a very demanding career and am doing a lot of stuff I couldn't do while working, maybe too much for somebody my age." That stuff ranges from civic involvement to a crusade to build a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive AIChE.

After retirement, he became more active in AIChE at the Institute level. He found some intriguing challenges. At first, like many other newbie AIChE activists, he found the overall AIChE structure very complex, even though he had been active at the division level for many years. Communication channels were in need of improvement, as well.

Armed with data, he analyzed the situation and took some significant actions. Roughly 20% of graduate chemical engineers were AIChE members. Excluding students, roughly 10% of the members are academics, 30% are "industrial developers" who are doing R&D in non-academic settings, and 60% are other types of practicing industrial chemical engineers. Academics and industrial developers have traditionally been fairly satisfied with what AIChE provides, the academics more so than the industrial developers, but the other 60% of the membership did not feel as connected or well served. Extensive survey and other Institute data reflect a disengagement of industry. For example, the Annual Fall Meeting attendance runs about 4000-5000, mostly academics and their students, and is a sharp contrast to the "industrial" Spring Meeting with a typical attendance of 1500.

For the future of the profession and the Institute, Neil decided to focus primarily on the 60% who were less satisfied. These

engineers worked in areas ranging from sales to finance to estimating to traditional process engineering, and too often, as the only chemical engineer in a plant. Although they were the majority of the members, they were too diverse to feel like a majority. By contrast, the researchers, academic and otherwise, were fairly homogeneous and could connect with colleagues more easily through the Institute. Neil helped found the Virtual Local Section as part of a campaign to make all members, especially the industrial members, feel included.

I did not realize I had "met" Neil virtually before, but I have directly benefitted from his determined dedication to improving communications with members. He sent about 16,000 emails to AIChE members who did not have a local section, letting us know that the VLS existed and inviting us to investigate. Although I knew of the VLS, his emails were the catalyst that led to me becoming a member. Another of his email campaigns was a three year effort where, once a year, he contacted the 6000 oldest members who were eligible for upgrade to Senior Membership, explaining the procedure for upgrading, primarily in order to position them for possible future election to Fellow. Each year, he got about 400 replies, so the campaign resulted in about 1200 people, including yours truly, upgrading to Senior Member. I had simply never given it any thought before Neil contacted me.

Our conversation went on, but this article will stop now. In summary, Neil Yeoman is a force of continuous improvement for AIChE and the profession, and we will no doubt be hearing more from him in the future. Visit his AIChE profile for more information.

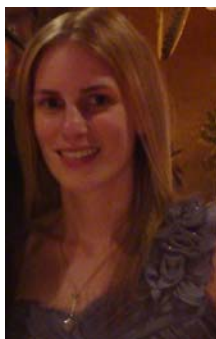
<http://www.aiche.org/profile/neil-yeoman>

JANUARY ELECTION: MEET THE CANDIDATES

The annual VLS elections will be held from January 14 to 21, 2014. Voting will be by electronic ballot and results will be announced January 23, 2014, meeting. The nominating committee proposed the candidates, below, for four offices, the vice-chair, the treasurer, and two open Board positions. The vice chair is chair elect , so this is a 3 year position; the treasurer position is two years, and the two Board positions are 3 years each.

Amanda Scalza - Vice Chair (Chair-elect)

Amanda has been a member of AIChE since 2009 when she helped form a student chapter the University of New Haven. She graduated from the University of New Haven in 2012 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and a B.S. in Chemistry. She began her career at Pall Corporation working on development of systems for biofuels purification. Currently, she is an operations compliance engineer at BASF. Amanda joined the VLS in 2012 and has been working on membership of the chapter. She is looking forward to the possibility of helping the chapter grow and increase involvement amongst members.



<http://www.aiche.org/profile/amanda-scalza>

Neil Yeoman – treasurer

Neil has been a member of the Design Practices Committee (DPC) of Fractionation



Research, Inc. since the DPC’s founding in 1976, serving eight years as chair, from 1981 to 1989, and as secretary since 2002. He was also one of the founders, in 1990, of the Separations Division of AIChE, and, in 2010, of the Virtual Local Section of AIChE, and he has served as treasurer of each since their founding.

<http://www.aiche.org/profile/neil-yeoman>

Sujata Bhatia - Board of Directors

Sujata K. Bhatia, MD, PhD, PE is a physician, bioengineer, and professionally licensed chemical



engineer who serves on the biomedical engineering faculty at Harvard University. She is Assistant Director for Undergraduate Studies in Biomedical Engineering at Harvard; she is the academic advisor for all Harvard undergraduate students in bioengineering and biomedical engineering. In addition, she is an Associate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government for the Science, Technology, and Globalization Project. She is a faculty member in the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education program on Innovation for Economic Development. She has previously served as Chair of the Wilmington Local Section of AIChE, and she currently serves as a member of the AIChE Career and Education Operating Council.

<http://www.aiche.org/profile/sujata-bhatia>

Deb Grubbe - Board of Directors

I am interested in seeing the concept of the Virtual Local Section succeed,



and would like to lend my support to it. With AIChE, I have been a Member of the Board of Directors, and am currently the Chair of the Institute for Sustainability. I was employed in senior leadership positions for international corporations for over 30 years, and now manage my own consulting business, where I assist mid-size and large firms with operational and safety improvements. I currently serve on the Board of Directors of PetroMall, a startup company based in the UK.
<http://www.aiche.org/profile/deborah-grubbe>

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Is your inner journalist yearning for a little exercise? Please feel free to contribute letters to the editor, short articles, announcements of general interest, and news items, and announcements such as member awards and promotions. On-call volunteers for editing, interviewing, and other newsletter activities are also welcomed. Contact the editor at jbrand@unl.edu using "VLS Newsletter" in the subject line

ATTENDING A VLS MEETING

- Go to <http://fuze.me/22661987> and follow directions. (The "name" requested will be the name displayed to other meeting participants.)
- For audio only: (If prompted, enter the meeting number: 22661987, then press #)
 - From a browser, select the internet audio option after joining.
 - From a phone:
 - US: +12014794595 or +18553463893
 - international access numbers <https://www.fuzebox.com/extras/symphony>
- Having problems? Follow the meeting link from our website virtual.aiche.org
- Need more help? You can connect to the Customer Support Team or access self-help tools at www.fuzebox.com/support.

Attendance at a Virtual Section Meeting is open to AIChE Virtual Local Section Members, AIChE members and other interested people.