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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear members & friends,

Families celebrate milestones and anniversaries and take stock on what makes them resilient, successful and fulfilled. Our STS Family did just that on October 21st to commemorate the founding of the organization in March 1942. Having the presence of many past chairs and many 50+ year members gave us one simple realization. People find STS a natural home from the start of their career to past active employment. I was grateful to be present with my wife Rallou, to witness this event,

and see her cut the cake. I am also equally thankful to the organizing committee for the excellent delivery ([Tom Rehm](#), **Gary Gilbert**, **Erin Green-Colaco**, **Jimmy Kumana**, **John Middleton**). In the last three months we also enjoyed three remarkable dinners with six equally remarkable keynote speakers and workshop leaders. [Prof. Lisa Biswal](#) and [Shyamal Bej](#) in September, [Jane Stricker](#) and [Mickey Reeves](#) in October, and [Zoë Baldwin](#) and [Bill Poe](#) in November.

During the past four events we also enjoyed the increased attendance of University ChE students, by establishing direct contact with six local AIChE Student Chapters and by sponsoring free event attendance for a fraction of them. The mentoring survey has concluded and the mentorship chair, **Mona Setoodeh**, has proposed the five matching pairs. The kickoff will happen in December. After this cycle we will reopen the survey form in mid-January for further recruitment.

The next two months will only focus on one event, the three-day [ChemE Show](#) in Galveston where SPTC is hosted this year. We partnered with [Gulf Energy](#) in delivering the technical program for November 29 and 30th. Join us at the [Networking Mixer](#) on November 29 at 4:30-6:30 pm (free for STS members). See below for details.

This is my last letter as Chair. I was greatly honored, fulfilled & endowed to serve as your leader this year. I am impressed by the depth, breadth and dedication of our numerous volunteers. When I take stock at what we have accomplished this year (see [slides](#)) and how many people we have touched, I can't avoid being deeply thankful. This is a good mindset for all of us as we approach Thanksgiving. We all have a great leader to trust as Chair in 2024, in the name of **Bill Shaw**. He has been a member of our Executive Committee for a year, and he brings lots of passion and ideas on how to connect with you all. Thank you for helping me deliver the STS mission this year.

Best Regards,

Andreas Matzakos, Ph.D.

2023 STS AIChE Chair

E: sts-chair@aiiche.org

www.linkedin.com/in/matzakos

LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date	Event Name	Speaker/Guests	Venue
November 28-30, 2023	ChemE Show featuring SPTC (with networking mixer on 11/29 at 4:30-6:30 PM)	Many	Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX
January 11, 2024	Dinner Meeting and Workshop	TBD	The Bougainvilleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2023 Elections - STS AIChE Call for Officers



The STS AIChE nominating committee approved the nominees for the following officer elections:

- STS AIChE Chair-Elect
 - **Hady Abdulhady**
 - **Kirtan Trivedi**
- STS AIChE Secretary
 - **Joseph Hernandez**
- Position 2
 - **Jacinta Conrad**
- Position 4
 - **Dale Embry**

Use this link to read the [bio and mission/vision statements](#) from the candidates. The voting closes at 11:59PM CDT November 25.

[Click HERE to vote](#)

ChemE Show featuring STS AIChE SPTC and TIEPP Energy Forum, November 28-30, 2023 ([Link](#), *PDH Certificates Available*)



Join us for the leading show for chemical engineering professionals!

Co-hosted by [AIChE®](#) and [Hydrocarbon Processing](#). The [2023 ChemE Show](#) will be held on November 28-30, 2023, at Moody

Gardens in Galveston, Texas. The [South Texas Section](#) is organizing the technical sessions on November 29 and 30, as part of the annual *Southwest Process Technology Conference*. **STS members will get 10% off their registration.** Please contact Bill Shaw at sts-chairelect@aiiche.org for more information and for the discount code.

- The [Southwest Process Technology Conference \(SPTC\)](#) is the flagship conference of the Southwest Region organized by the STS AIChE. This year STS AIChE is collaborating with [Gulf Energy](#) to organize SPTC as part of the [ChemE Show](#).
- Excellent opportunity for our community to grow their network and connect with colleagues in several industries, including fertilizer, agrichemical, refining/ petrochemical, pharmaceutical, and adhesives. Join the STS and TIEEP co-sponsored [Networking Mixer](#) on November 29 at 4:30-6:30 pm (free for STS members).
- The [technical program](#) will be held between November 28-30 at the Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX. Hydrocarbon Processing is arranging the technical program for November 28. The SPTC technical program runs November 29-30. The November 29 afternoon program includes the [TIEEP Fall Energy Forum](#)
- Please contact [Bill Shaw \(sts-chairelect@aiiche.org\)](mailto:sts-chairelect@aiiche.org) for sponsorships and exhibit sales and [Virginia Sommer \(Virginia.Sommer@fluor.com\)](mailto:Virginia.Sommer@fluor.com) for technical programming.

Special for Professional Engineers: Do you need to complete your continuing education? *PDH certificates will be available for all sessions, including Engineering Ethics.*

Spring 2024 PE Course ([Link to Course](#), [Register](#))



Are you looking to **become certified as a Professional Engineer (PE)? Need to take the PE exam but don't feel properly prepared?** [AIChE® South Texas Local Section](#) will help you advance your career with the [Spring 2024 PE Review Course for Chemical Engineering](#) hosted by the [University of Houston](#).

[Register Now for the PE Exam Course](#)

The [Spring 2024 PE Review Course for Chemical Engineering](#) will provide you with both test taking strategies and help refresh your knowledge about chemical engineering fundamentals. Professionals who specialize in the areas covered by the

exam will walk you through the NCEES reference manual and the NCEES practice exam questions, so you get comfortable with the exam structure and materials.

Key learnings

- Chemical engineering fundamentals covered by the NCEES exam
- NCEES practice exam questions
- Test taking and preparation strategies
- Practice exam in a simulated testing environment

Key dates and information

- PE course enrollment closes January 17
- PE course will start January 26
- Course cost \$750/AIChE members, \$1000/non-members
- Hybrid course offering for in-person or virtual attendance

[Register Now for the PE Exam Course](#)

STS - AIChE Awards: Call for Nominations ([Link](#))



Nominations are being accepted through May 1st, 2024 for the following STS-AIChE Annual Awards:

- 2023 STS Best Applied Paper Award
- 2023 STS Best Fundamental Paper Award
- 2023 STS Best In-Practice Paper Award
- 2023 STS Outstanding Young Professional Award (Under 35)
- 2023 STS Distinguished Service Award
- 2023 STS Special Service Award(s)

Nomination Forms are available in the South Texan or on the STS–AIChE website. Nominations can also be made by contacting:

- Mickey Reeves, mickey.reeves@gmail.com
- Harsh Agarwal, Harsh.H.Agarwal@Shell.com
- Matt Christiansen, Matthew.Christiansen@shell.com
- Tom Menn 281-485-3719 ThomasMenn@SBCGlobal.net

2024 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC): Volunteers Needed ([Link](#))

- To be held between May 6-9, 2024 at NRG Park, Houston, Texas.
- Receive Free Pass, Parking, and all the free goodies/junk you can carry away! (* entire OTC). Note: You may attend Technical Sessions.
- Attend Orientation Mandatory Meeting & serve 4 hours in either Arrangements or Registration.
- Contact Tom Menn, thomasmenn@sbcglobal.net

LinkedIn Page for STS AIChE



Follow our [LinkedIn page](#) for updates. Don't forget to tag the page (type "@South Texas" and select South Texas Section of AIChE) in your personal posts related to STS AIChE.

Add STS to your AIChE National membership.



For those that forgot to include STS in their AIChE 2024 renewal, you can use [this link](#) or type <https://bit.ly/490jVGP> in a browser. Membership is free for students.

RECENT ENGAGEMENTS:

STS AIChE 80th Anniversary Celebration BBQ



- Held on October 21, Saturday at Christia Adair Park, Houston.

- About 70 STS members and guests attended a celebration of the 80th anniversary of the AIChE South Texas Section. In November 2018, a 75th Diamond Jubilee was held. This year's more modest and casual celebration was a BBQ that included Bingo games, a cornhole tournament, live music, and shared stories from members.
- Among the 650 STS members are 91 who have achieved 50 or more years of AIChE membership. A few of them attended the 80th anniversary celebration, including past Chairs. Notable attendees were **Gary Gildert**, *the event Bingo caller and 2013 Chair*, and **Tom Rehm**, *chair of the event planning committee and 2019 Chair*.
- Other Past Chairs included **Moye Wicks**, 1991; **David Mitchell**, 2003 (shown below with **Moye Wicks** and **Ronette Mitchell**); **Freeman Self**, 1987; **Dennis Griffith**, 1996; **Mickey Reeves**, 1999; **Alan Rossiter**, 2010; **Ken Cox**, 2011; **Carlos Salamanca**, 2018; and **Julie White**, 2022.
- BBQ was provided by [Gettin' Sauced](#), 2022 Champion in the Houston Rodeo BBQ competition. Live music was provided by [Hannah Kay](#), contestant on The Voice. Jimmy Kumana and Judy Carsson danced to the music.
- In the evening program, [Dr. Billy Bardin](#), 2023 AIChE President, provided an uplifting message. [Dr. Andreas Matzakos](#), 2023 STS Chair, then presented four STS members with certificates recognizing *50 years of AIChE membership: Tom Rehm, Jimmy Kumana, Freeman Self, and George Kurdy*. Winners of the cornhole tournament were applauded: Dale and Jane Embry, and Aniket Patankar. The evening program closed with stories from several members.
- The planning committee deserves our thanks for making this event a success. **Tom Rehm** chaired the committee. Members included **Jimmy Kumana**, **Erin Green Colaco**, **John Middleton**, **Gary Gildert**, and **Andreas Matzakos**. Committee members are noted within this article, except **John Middleton**. John drove about 200 miles checking out numerous park locations, and he handled the event check-in table. Many thanks to our planning committee!
- **Many thanks to our sponsor, [PlasmaWhirl](#)**. *By combining the power of plasma (lightning) and angular momentum (cyclonic motion - WHIRLpool) Foret Plasma Labs has invented, developed and patented an efficient, cost-effective means to couple water treatment, steam generation and gasification and/or thermal oxidation into one processing unit.* [Todd Foret](#), Managing Member, Foret Plasma Labs, attended our event.
- Please find here the [link to all the event pictures](#).





Some snippets of STS Members Enjoying the Gathering for the 80th Anniversary Celebration. Image (C) Patrick Buckner Photography.

Energy Day Houston

- Held on October 21 in Sam Houston Park (Downtown Houston).
- Event aimed at educating K-12 students and their teachers and parents.
- Overall event was sponsored by Consumer's Energy Alliance. Exhibitors included industry, trade organizations, government, nonprofit organizations, universities, teachers, and professional societies.
- STS volunteers were **Matt Kolodney** and **Hugh Kaiser**. Our exhibit included, molecular models, demonstration valves (lent by the Chemical Technology Department of San Jacinto College), and process flow diagrams.

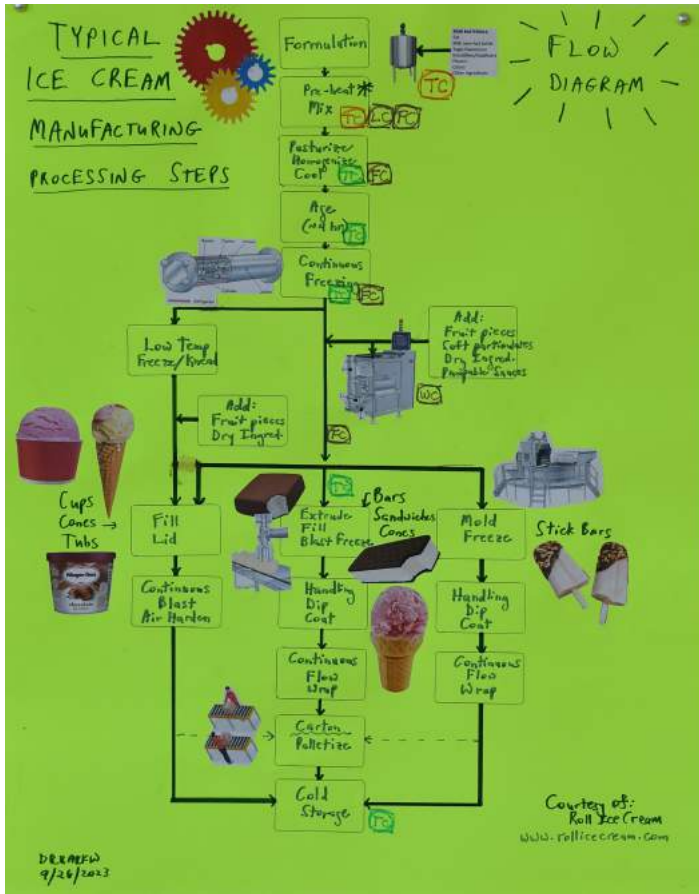


Snippets of Energy Day event held on October 21.

2023 Reach for the Stars STEM Festival

- Held on September 30, Saturday at Rice University.
- Yearly event dedicated to girls in the junior high school grades.
- Promotes the use of science, engineering, mathematics and technology as attractive choices for an educational and career path.

- Several STS volunteers including **Matt Kolodney**, **Erin Green Colaco**, **Lucas Von Ruff** and others offered demos and participated in presentations in the fourth track of Engineering And Robotics.



Snippets of the workflow created by students and gathering as part of the 2023 Reach for the Stars STEM Festival. Some of

our volunteers are depicted above.

Honoring STS - AIChE Awardees for 2022

- STS-AIChE awards presented at the October and November monthly dinner meetings.
- **Syamal K. Poddar** is awarded the *2022 Distinguished Service Award*.
- **Ramprasad Kamisetty** is awarded the *2022 Outstanding Young Professional Award*.
- **John Middleton** is awarded the *2022 Special Service Award*.
- **Akhilesh Gandhi, Manali S. Zantye, and M.M. Faruque Hasan** are awarded the *2022 Best Applied Paper Award*.
- **Harold U. Escobar-Hernandez, Lisa M. Pérez, Pingfan Hu, Fernando A. Soto, Maria I. Papadaki, Hong-Cai Zhou, and Qingsheng Wang** are awarded the *2022 Best Fundamental Paper Award*..
- **Victor Edwards** is awarded the *2022 Best In-Practice Paper Award*.

STS-AIChE extends huge congratulations to all the awardees of the year 2022.





John Middleton, Ramprasad Kamisetty and Syamal K. Poddar (top to bottom), recipients of 2022 AICHE STS Awards, displaying their plaques during the dinner meeting.

CONTACT:

Contact STS-AICHE Newsletter Editor, Dr. Harsh Agarwal at aiche.sts.newsletter@gmail.com with feedback, questions, and ideas for the next newsletter.

Reach out to the communication officer at sts-position3@aiche.org if you have any questions

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Our mailing address is:

STS AICHE
16107 Kensington Dr. #193
Sugar Land, Texas 77479-4224

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