



Louisiana Engineering Society New Orleans Chapter

<http://www.no-les.org>



Words from Our President - Frank P. Gallagher, III, P.E., CIH

November 3, 2009

The Chemical Safety Board's "Anatomy of a Disaster" was presented by Gregg

Varble, an expert concerning refinery and chemical plant profess safety requirements. This presentation at our 21 October meeting was very well received by our members and their guests and produced some very thought provoking questions.



Frank Gallagher, P.E. CIH
President NOLES 2009 - 2010

Three of our five Chapter 2009 College Scholarship Awardees were in attendance: Adam Guarino, Jesse Adams and Trilby Lyons. Adam and Jesse are pursuing engineering degrees at UNO; and Tribly is attending UL Lafayette. Andrew Hubert and George Adams were unable to attend; both are attending the LSU School of Engineering.

The Mission of LES was reiterated – to be of service to the engineering profession and its members. Board member [Wayne Westerfield](#) was recognized by the board for his work with the fledgling LES Student Chapter at UNO. By drawing support from our chapter and its members we continue to strive to maintain interest in and pursuance of the engineering profession.

[Becky Johnson](#), our MathCounts Chairperson is asking for volunteers to assist in our local competition which will be held at UNO on February 6, 2010. MathCounts impresses and helps nurture the importance of attaining mathematic skills among middle school students. Our LES chapter has a long history of serving the community with the position of Technical Advisor to the Jefferson Parish Government and more recently by serving on the selection of the South Louisiana Flood Protection Authority Board Members.

The meeting was concluded with LES's interest in reviewing legislation that affects our profession, a service that initiates at the NSPE and LES state organizational levels.

The topic for the November 18 meeting will address another interesting and very timely matter – the Chinese Drywall problem facing many home owners who rebuilt following the storms of 2005. Look forward to seeing you there!

[Frank P. Gallagher, III, P.E., CIH](#)

NOLES Chapter President

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[MATHCOUNTS](#)

We wish to Thank URS in Metairie for allowing us to use their office for our October meeting.

Please recall we Honor Our Veterans on November 11!!

18 November [Cannon's Restaurant, 4141 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA. 70115](#) 504 891-3200



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After the deadline of Noon, 16 November, your reservation cannot be guaranteed.

1 PDH

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6:30 PM

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7:00 PM

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8:00 PM

Presentation

9:00 PM

A d j o u r n

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OCTOBER SPEAKER RECAP

Gregg Varble P.E., URS Process Engineering Manager's 21 October presentation on the March 2005 BP Texas City Refinery industrial disaster focused on the findings of the Chemical Safety Board investigation of the accident, the factors that contributed to a lack of safeguards that might have prevented the accident or minimized its severity. A video produced by the CSB to document the results and findings of their investigation was shown. In his introductory remarks Gregg stated that despite all of his experience working in and for refineries, including participation in numerous HAZOPS and many unit start-ups that the preparation for this topic was an eye opening experience concerning the number of independent unsafe conditions that could exist at a major refinery, regulated by OSHA, owned by a leading multinational company, and staffed by intelligent, talented, well intentioned managers, engineers and operators.

BP both cooperated with the CSB investigation as well as the Independent Baker panel commissioned at the suggestion of the CSB. BP has also appointed a former member of the Baker panel to an Independent Expert (IE) position report to their board, to monitor and report on progress in complying with the recommendations for improvements. The report is available on the [BP web site](#) and the CSB and Baker panel reports are available at www.csb.gov, along with a wealth of other information on this and other industrial accidents.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Scott G. Wolfe, Jr., [Wolfe Law Offices](#), [4821 Prytania Street, New Orleans, LA 70115](#)

Topic: Chinese Drywall Issues and Answers

Scott Wolfe, Jr., our November speaker, is the founding member of Wolfe Law Group, L.L.C., a boutique construction law practice with offices in New Orleans, Louisiana and Seattle, Washington. The Wolfe Law Group publishes the [Chinese Drywall Blog](#), providing builders, suppliers and others with information on legal developments related to imported drywall. As an attorney, *New Orleans City Business* magazine recognized Scott as one of the “Top 50 Leaders in Law” in 2006, 2007, and 2008. He is also an entrepreneur and co-founder of Express Lien, one of New Orleans’ “Top Innovations” in 2008. Scott is a graduate of Brother Martin High School, Southern Methodist University, and Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. His presentation to the New Orleans Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society will be “Chinese Drywall Issues and Answers” at Cannons Restaurant on November 18, 2009 is a topic certainly timely and hopefully interesting to our members and guests.

MATHCOUNTS - Calling all Volunteers.

It's time to start thinking about MathCounts again. MathCounts is a math competition organized by LES for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. It is held at UNO and the date for the competition is Feb. 6th. We need volunteers from 7:30 until 2:30. If you can help set-up, take-down, grade tests, proctor class rooms, or just want to come out, please let me know. I can be reached at **985-377-1038**. We also need sponsorships. If you or your company is interested, please let me know and I will give you our tax ID number. Thank you for your continued support!

[Becky Johnson](#)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES 2009

Each year, the New Orleans Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society raises money to award scholarships to advanced engineering students. Your participation in our monthly 50 / 50 raffle, Corporate and personal advertisers in this newsletter, and your donations through our Golf Tournament or direct to our Scholarship Fund help make this support possible. We are a non profit organization and can furnish our tax ID number on request, to donors. This year we awarded five (5) scholarships to advanced engineering students. Three of our five Chapter 2009 College Scholarship Awardees were in attendance at our last monthly meeting: Adam Guarino, Jesse Adams and Trilby Lyons. Adam and Jesse are pursuing engineering degrees at UNO; and Tribly is attending UL Lafayette. Andrew Hubert and George Adams were unable to attend; both are attending the LSU School of Engineering.

Pictured below are each of the three awardees in attendance, being presented their award by Bodin Hugger, P.E., our Scholarship Chair and Treasurer.



Bodin Hugger, P.E. & Trilby Lyons



Bodin Hugger, P.E. & Jesse Adams



Bodin Hugger, P.E. & Adam Guarino

[Engineers, Member Companies, and friends of Louisiana Engineering Society, We need your help.](#) We know we are in difficult times. And in these times we need your support more than ever to help nurture and advance the brightest who enter our profession. We ask your consideration to help us provide scholarships to advanced Engineering Students. Our funding sources are limited and like you we strive to insure our dollars are wisely spent and timely saved. Your business card advertisement in this publication and your generous donation of cash helps us in awarding scholarships. It helps the LES by allowing us to give service to the Profession, It helps you, our Engineers and Member Companies. by having an increased pool of well qualified Engineers to further your business goals. Please consider a donation.

The 2nd Annual LES New Orleans Chapter Golf Tournament was held on October 9, 2009 at Ormond Country Club in Destrehan, LA. **Building on last year's tournament success, our 2009 tournament** consisted of thirty (30) golfers, various hole sponsorships, various company door-prize donations, as well as, a net profit of approximately \$1,000 which will go toward our 2009 scholarship fund. We would like to thank all of you who participated, sponsored, and/or volunteered for your continued support of the Louisiana Engineering Society's New Orleans Chapter and we look forward to seeing you at next year's tournament.