



AICHE Orange County

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SECTION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

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November, 2001

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

Duration and Conditions for

Immunization:

The Case for Asset Allocation

Armin Azod

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

5:30 PM

Armin Azod is our November speaker. He is a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley and will be talking about asset allocation principles that have done well in prior times of crisis. To illustrate, he will give an example of a well-diversified portfolio and how such a portfolio has performed during the 1987 crash and the years of "slow death" from 1973 to 1980. Armin looks forward to discussing your approach to coping with the uncertainty of today's stock market.

Armin has a degree in German Literature from UCLA and was studying Chemical Engineering at Long Beach prior to joining Morgan Stanley in February of this year. He is the junior member of a team of Financial Advisors. Armin specializes in managing money for non-profit organizations.

Meeting Schedule:

5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:30 p.m.	After-Dinner Program

Place: Wyndham Garden Hotel, Costa Mesa

Directions: From Interstate 405, go north on Bristol Ave., right on Anton, left on Avenue of the Arts. The Wyndham is on the right at 3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa.

Reservations: Please make a reservation at (800) 783-8741 by voice by Wednesday, November 21. Or, you may email your reservation to ocaiche@aol.com. Please specify your preference for either the main menu or the vegetarian menu when making your reservation.

Cost: Members, \$20 with a reservation, \$25 at the door; Students/Unemployed, \$15 with reservation, and \$20 at the door.

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Southern California AICHE Meetings

The Southern California Section had a dinner meeting in LA County on Tuesday November 13 (second Tuesday) at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello. Prof. Ziyad Duron presented "An Engineer's View of the Structural Collapse of the World Trade Center". See their website at http://www.geocities.com/aiche_sc. Usually, the meeting is on the third Tuesday of the month, but there is no meeting in December. For future reservations call (800) 274-3847.



Legal Corner

by Peter Hsiao and Siegmund Shyu,
Morrison & Foerster, LLP

EPA Uses Superfund Money To Clean Up Anthrax-Contaminated Building

On October 20, 2001, after completing its criminal investigation, the FBI turned over the anthrax-contaminated building of American Media Inc. in Boca Raton, Florida to the EPA for cleanup. Contrary to some press reports, an EPA spokesperson stated that the site has not been declared a Superfund site, but that \$500,000 of Superfund money will be used for the cleanup under the emergency response provisions of Superfund. EPA officials, however, cautioned that they do not know how much the cleanup would ultimately cost. The American Media building had been closed since October 8 after anthrax spores were found inside the mailroom and the desk of an employee who later died from the disease. The EPA is weighing several options for cleanup, including use of a standard bleach solution, vaporized hydrogen peroxide, chlorine dioxide gas, and a special bacteria-killing foam. The EPA stated that it could successfully decontaminate the building so that it would be safe for people to go back in, but American Media, which publishes many well-known tabloids, has already announced that it would not return to the building.

EPA Releases Draft Guidance On Completion Of RCRA Corrective Action Measures For Comment

On October 2, 2001, EPA published a notice for comment on a draft guidance regarding when agencies can make a determination that corrective action activities at contaminated sites have been completed (66 Federal Register 50195 (Oct. 2, 2001)). The guidance was directed at treatment, storage, and disposal facilities that are undergoing cleanup for contamination under RCRA's corrective action program. EPA stated that the guidance was necessary since having an official determination would greatly aid owners in transferring ownership of property and returning the property to other productive uses, and for the EPA to remove that facility from its workload universe to focus resources on other facilities. Comments to the draft guidance are due to EPA by November 1, 2001.

Something Completely Different

As reported by the Environmental News Network, this month Clancy, the first mercury-detecting dog in the United States, went to work in the schools of Minnesota. Clancy, a 2-year-old black/chocolate Labrador retriever rescued by the Humane Society, has been employed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to check schools and other facilities for latent mercury spills and leaks. Such mercury-detecting dogs are currently being used in Sweden, and are trained in the same fashion as dogs trained to find illegal and dangerous substances. Initially, Clancy would be used in schools as part of Minnesota's Mercury-Free Zone program, since schools

may have latent mercury from thermometers, barometers, blood pressure cuffs, and laboratory material. The Swedish program, on which the Minnesota program is based, checked 1,100 schools with two dogs, which led to the removal of 1.4 tons of mercury.

Legal Corner reports on recent news, and is not intended to be legal advice. The reader should consult an attorney about the specific facts before acting upon this information.



Experts Wanted!

To guide those who are looking for expert consultants or banquet speakers, your local section is building a web page list of presentations and publications. If you would like to be included in the list, please send the Newsletter Editor the titles of the publications and presentations you have made in the past couple of years along with the publication citation or occasion for the presentation and some key words. Presentations at the local AIChE sections will be included automatically.



Helpful Hints

Tell us about technical tools or methods that have worked for you. Rules of thumb, favorite software, web sites, technical book, magazine, etc. The newsletter would like a non-commercial article that would help our readers. Please send ideas to the Newsletter Editor, RLDeshotel@aol.com.

Professional Engineering Employment Update

Bill Doulas, former chair of the AIChE Government Relations Committee, credits the persistence of Bob Katin for National AIChE involvement with the California problem on professional licensing. The National AIChE Board of Directors on April 25, 2001, sent a letter on Generic Licensing Policy to the legislative Chair, Senator Figueroa.

For further news on this vital topic, please check the NorCal AIChE website <http://www.aiche-norcal.org/>; from there select the tab on the left edge that links to LOBBYING.



Job Seekers can now receive a list of web sites of area companies that sometimes hire chemical engineers. Special thanks to Ron Ambrosini, Alexandre Dokoutchaev, Edgar Lara, and Dung Phan, who volunteered to help with this list. Contact the Newsletter Editor to receive this list by e-mail as an Excel or Word file.



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Job Opportunities

AIChE's next Career Fair will be held in Reno, Nevada on Sunday and Monday, November 4 and 5, 2001 in conjunction with the Institute's Annual Meeting. Our career fairs feature onsite interviewing, informal networking, and practical job search workshops.

If members are exploring employment options at this time, they should consider attending the fair. Also, they may place their credentials (at no cost) in AIChE's Career Fair Resume Book, an online database made available to employers before the event and for several months after it. Many participating employers use the database to pre-select engineers for onsite interviews.

Members unable to attend in person can introduce themselves to employers "virtually" by posting a resume (again, at no cost) in the career fair resume book.

Details are located at
<http://www.aiche.org/careerservices/jobs/carfair.htm>.

[Advertise your company here for \$30]

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