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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF DOW IN LOUISIANA

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Generations of great chemistry

Their father was a man of many interests - vintage cars and chemistry were chief among them. He told them The Dow Chemical Company was a good company to work for. These sisters, both engineers, ended up where their Dad left off. They love the flexible, family-friendly culture. We love the generations of families who have made us great.

Amerchol, ANGUS, Grand Bayou Operations, Louisiana Operations, St. Charles Operations, Weeks Island
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Greetings Friends and Neighbors!

What a great year it has been! 2011 was nothing short of spectacular for Dow’s six manufacturing sites in Louisiana. Our commitment to our communities has never been stronger, and we spent the year living out our values through multiple projects with impact.

For the first time in 2011, we made a $1 million donation to education by supporting the Louisiana Community and Technical College System in Iberville Parish. We supported an effort to restore the whooping crane population to Southern Louisiana, and we continue our strong support of United Way and other local non-profit organizations that do amazing work to meet the needs of the regions.

All of this, and we continue to operate our plants safely (see the Safety Star article on page 5) and promote our drive to grow (see the story about our Angus expansion on page 11). We love to sprinkle in recreation (see our story about the MS150 team on page 12) and a bit of fun (check out the photos of our crawfish boil on page 9).

It’s not just Louisiana where great things are happening! In this issue of Louisiana’s Impact, you’ll also find articles about the impact of other Dow locations around the world (pages 18 and 19). This is just a sampling of the many articles you’ll find in this edition. I hope you’ll take some time to see what your friends and neighbors are doing in Louisiana to help make this a great place to live, work and play.

As always, we at Dow are honored to partner with the many individuals and organizations that share our passion for community success.

Stacey Chiasson
Public Affairs Leader
Dow in Louisiana
A bright safety star is shining on Dow’s Louisiana Operations (LAO)! The site celebrated 21 years of achieving Star status with the Occupational, Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)’s Voluntary Protection Program.

Star status is the highest level of recognition within the OSHA VPP program, and this marks the fifth successful OSHA VPP certification for Louisiana Operations, with initial certification achieved on April 9, 1990. The two-week re-approval process emphasized Process Safety Management Program implementation in addition to Worker Health and Safety System audits.

This outstanding milestone was cause for celebration, and in August, Dow LAO employees gathered at the Dow Plantation Grounds to revel in their achievement. The site’s longstanding dedication to worker health and safety was celebrated with food and drinks, tailgate games and a snowball stand, a welcome relief from the summer heat.

Congratulations to LAO for continuing to set the highest standards in worker health and safety!

Thank you to the employees who came out to celebrate!
Thousands of Dow employees across Louisiana threw down this year, taking part in premier and traditional events, to set new site records in raising funds for United Way.

With community needs at an all-time high because of hard economic conditions, United Way supports desperately needed food distribution programs, emergency funds, disaster relief services, educational programs, substance abuse counseling and prevention... and so much more. They do it with help from Dow people, who share the mission of helping individuals and families achieve their human potential.

This year, United Way events for Dow’s Louisiana sites included golf tournaments, on-site cook-offs and other unique programming for employees of St. Charles, Grand Bayou and Louisiana Operations as well as Dow’s ANGUS facility.

A centerpiece of Dow’s Capital Area United Way support is its sponsorship of the Annual Jambalaya Jam, held in downtown Baton Rouge on October 6. At this street party like no other, guests enjoyed cold drinks and live entertainment while sampling some of South Louisiana’s best jambalaya from 45 competing teams. This is Dow’s third year as the event’s premier sponsor.

“I can’t say enough about the wonderful, down-to-earth people at Dow who have helped make this event a huge success again this year,” says Christine Dupuy, Relationship Development Manager at the Capital Area United Way. “Each year, Dow has increased their support – which enables us to generate more support for our communities. Working with the people of Dow has just been a dream partnership.”

To view feature videos of the Jam, use a smart phone to scan the QR code above or visit http://www.dow.com/louisiana/impact to view the online version of Louisiana Impact Fall 2011 and feature videos.
Greg Deatrick, the 2011 United Way Employee Campaign Chairman for Dow St. Charles Operations, sounds like a proud parent when he trumpets the enthusiasm among SCO employees for this year’s campaign efforts:

“The response from our employees this year has been overwhelming. Twenty-one teams participated [in our kick-off event] and we raised an all-time [event] high of over $9,500 for the United Way!” says Greg. He was particularly impressed with the results of the individual contribution period. “By the ninth day, we had met our campaign goals and exceeded the amounts raised by employees’ pledges the previous year by over $30,000!”

Maggie Williams, Louisiana Operations Campaign Chair, agrees that education is a key component to this year’s success: “[We’ve tried] to bring a personal touch to the campaign and gain a greater sense of community.”
Dow employee Greg Nesmith was intrigued by a company email he read last fall. Nesmith, a process safety technology leader for Dow’s Engineering Solutions business in Plaquemine, just couldn’t pass up the opportunity presented there: a contest to win free solar shingles for his house.

“To enter we just had to explain why our home would be a good candidate for solar power and create a short video,” says Nesmith. “Winning DOW™ POWERHOUSE™ Solar Shingles was definitely worth our time. So I did some research and then recruited a fantastic creative team … my family.”

**The Family Meeting**

Nesmith’s two-minute video entry brought a family of strengths to the contest. Entitled “The Family Meeting,” the video shows Nesmith, his wife, and kids as they parody a business meeting between executives.

The topic of heated debate at the meeting: family energy policy and how to save money. “In the video, we threw out all sorts of energy-saving suggestions, but we’d already done them,” says Nesmith. “When the idea of solar power was suggested by my daughter, we criticized it as being too expensive, hard to maintain, and unattractive.”

Then Nesmith’s son, six-year-old meeting leader Tanner asked “Have you heard about DOW™ POWERHOUSE™ Solar Shingles?” And with those words — and the advantages of Dow’s new solar energy technology clearly highlighted — the Nesmith Family’s video became a contest winner.

“The whole family was excited when Dow surprised us with the news that we won. We couldn’t believe it,” says Nesmith. “My wife and I had actually considered solar power earlier and even thought of waiting for DOW™ POWERHOUSE™ Solar Shingles to become available. We never dreamed we’d get them so soon!”

**Up on the Rooftop**

First Dow visited the Nesmith home to ensure it was truly a candidate for installation. “Our 40-year-old house in Ascension Parish provided a great retro-fit opportunity, rather than a new-build situation Dow worked with before,” says Nesmith. “And our rural neighborhood is free of issues that might be problematic, like too much shade or homeowner association rules.”

Installing the DOW™ POWERHOUSE™ Solar Shingles took a total of … wait for it … three days. Using conventional equipment and materials, local roofing company Garcia Roofing easily handled the innovative technology with just 30 minutes of training by Dow.

Local electrical contractor Rescom Electric — also trained by Dow — installed the inverters that switch DC power to AC for residential usage, and wired them into the home’s electrical grid.

“Our house is now on a net metering system. That means if we generate more power than we consume, we sell the excess to DEMCO, our electric company,” says Nesmith. “We’d love to see a zero on our electric bill. That hasn’t happened yet with our Louisiana summers. But it just might this winter.”

**Beyond Cool**

Nesmith is the first to acknowledge the “wow factor” of DOW™ POWERHOUSE™ Solar Shingles, especially how all that innovation blends right into the roofline of his home.

However the most eye-opening experience of the “Power to the People” contest for Nesmith was learning the power of reducing energy consumption.

“We also realized that there isn’t a ‘silver bullet’ to energy savings. We need to be responsible energy consumers in addition to using a clean source of energy like solar power.”

View the Nesmith family video on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu19fMWDhQ.
Party like it’s 1999!

Employees and their guests celebrated at Louisiana Operations first crawfish boil since 1999.
What’s your status? Curious about ours? Now it’s easier than ever to stay connected and keep up-to-date with site and community events. This summer, Dow’s St. Charles Operations and Louisiana Operations launched Facebook pages to reach employees, families, and our communities.

“We wanted employees and community members to have a resource that’s easy-to-use, comfortable, and accessible,” says Maggie Sisco, communications specialist. “Our Facebook pages are a great way to help everyone interested and involved in our sites stay connected with us and each other.”

News specific to each site is regularly updated so that our St. Charles Operations and Louisiana Operations Facebook pages are informative and timely. Visitors can expect to see and read about what’s important locally right now.

“We also use our Facebook pages to share community news,” says Sisco. “This past summer during tropical storm Lee, Tommy Faucheux, our Public Affairs leader at St. Charles Operations, was able to give weather updates and community safety procedures in real time.”

So Much to Like


Read about what’s going on, post comments, and even tag photos. And be sure to “like” the pages to get instant notification of updates.

“We’ve gotten wonderful support already. It’s exciting,” says Sisco. “We hope people will continue to participate and share with their communities. It’s our Dow neighborhood on the Net.”

Delicious Pralines

This delicious pralines recipes was submitted from the Favorites of Louisiana cookbook, a fundraiser for United Way.

Still need to purchase yours? Now available for only $10!

Message us on Facebook or call 225.353.8372.

Combine sugar, water, condensed milk, corn syrup, and salt in deep saucepan. Cook over medium heat until a little dropped in cold water forms a soft ball, (235 degrees) on candy thermometer. Remove from heat. Add remaining ingredients. Beat with wooden spoon until it begins to lose its gloss. Immediately drop by spoonfuls on wax paper. Let dry before removing.

Hint: Waxed paper will sometimes stick to your counter from the heat of the pralines. This can be avoided by placing newspaper under the waxed paper.
Modernization Powers Future Growth in Louisiana

Retain employees. Increase revenue. Exceed customer expectations. Strengthen investment, expansion, and job creation. Those are tall orders for any company, especially considering today’s global economic uncertainty. For ANGUS Chemical Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow’s facility in Sterlington, the power to support future development is now in sight with its newly completed modernization project.

Plans to significantly update the ANGUS facility’s electrical system began in June 2008. But it was Gov. Bobby Jindal’s visit to Sterlington last June that put a bright spotlight on the $10.8 million capital investment in a new electrical substation and upgrades to the facility’s electrical system.

“We were extremely excited by the Governor’s visit, especially his strong support of our modernization project,” says Ernest Green, ANGUS Site leader. “We wanted to continue our commitment to our Sterlington facility, but the electrical system we had was too old, unreliable, and costly, with outages that added up to $2.4 million a year in lost plant asset utilization and related sales. We needed help to continue our success.”

Sparking Investment

ANGUS was the first company to apply for the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Retention and Modernization Program put in place by Gov. Jindal. Created to facilitate capital investments and upgrades to help Louisiana companies retain and create jobs, the program’s five-percent refundable tax credit made it possible for ANGUS to stay competitive in Sterlington.

“There is definite growth in our business, but not if we can’t meet our customers’ needs,” says Green. “Now that we have a reliable power system with dual sources, we can run efficiently and competitively for many years to come. We can make quality products and deliver those products to our customers on time.”

The Positive Impact for ANGUS

The ANGUS site in Sterlington is the largest manufacturing site within Dow’s Performance Additives Business, producing more than 40 specialty products that are used in paints and coatings, pharmaceuticals, metalworking fluids, and biocides.

Its recent modernization project adds critical competitiveness to the company-community-employee success mix. This positive impact includes:

- $10.8 million in capital investment
- 174 direct jobs retained
- 100 contract jobs retained
- 1,686 indirect jobs retained
- 50 construction jobs created
- $40.7 million in retained state tax revenue
- $9.5 million in retained local tax revenue

Statistics from Louisiana Economic Development (LED)

Powered Up

The new electrical substation was powered up in October and is now running production at ANGUS. With its improved reliability, ANGUS can increase capacity and enhance opportunities for growth that benefit the company, its employees, the community, and Northeast Louisiana.

The ANGUS modernization project – from start to power – was made possible with the support and commitment of:

- LED Retention and Modernization Program
- The Dow Chemical Company
- Ernest Green, Site Leader, ANGUS/Dow
- Peggy Wells, Project Manager, ANGUS/Dow
- Paul Gore, Technologist, ANGUS/Dow
- Danny Aucoin, Electrical Engineer, Dow
- Copeland Electric, Electrical Contractor
150 Miles, Two Days, One Great Team

Volunteer Riders Raise More Than $30,000 for MS

On a Saturday morning in early October, more than 1,300 cyclists and hundreds of friends and volunteers crowded the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana.

Somewhere in the swirl of brightly colored jerseys was Team Dow, 58 men and women who’d been training for this ride for weeks and months. Bike MS: Louisiana 2011 is an annual ride that covers 150 miles over two days and is a major fundraiser for the Louisiana Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Day One: Electricity in the air

A buzz hovered in the air as Team Dow readied for the ride. They checked their bikes, pumped up tires and lubed gears. Some pinned numbers on each other’s jerseys. Others huddled in groups of two or three or four, smiling big for a camera. Everyone had trained hard and they were eager to begin.

David Ogra, an operations reliability associate at Dow’s Plaquemine location, loves this part of ride day. “No matter how many times you’ve ridden, you get butterflies in your stomach. The atmosphere is electric.”

Ogra is a driving force behind Team Dow. An avid cyclist since 1992, he’s been bringing coworkers, friends and family members into the cycling community for nearly 20 years. In 2001, he began recruiting Dow employees to participate in the Bike MS: Louisiana event. Four years ago he was joined in that effort by Greg Barbay. Today Barbay, a senior research technologist for Dow, is team captain.

Ready, set … ride!

At 8:00 a.m., ride organizers sounded the horn and Ogra, Barbay and the rest of Team Dow began their 75-mile ride. From Hammond, they zigzagged in a northerly direction for nearly 60 miles, mostly along farm-to-market back roads on a course running roughly parallel to the Tangipahoa River. Once the cyclists crossed the Mississippi state line, they pedaled another 17 miles before arriving at Percy Quin State Park, the overnight spot for the ride.

Along the route, members of Team Dow naturally fell into groups, typically the same ones they trained with. Ogra and Barbay are part of a core group of 15 to 20 people who had ridden three days a week in the months leading up to the ride. On ride day the group pushed hard to beat their own personal best times, stopping as little as possible along the way.

Most extreme cyclists ride about 23 miles per hour. Barbay and Ogra’s core group of training partners rode around 20 miles an hour, finishing the first day in three and a half to four hours. Barbay pedaled in hours later at 3:00 p.m. “It was the slowest time I’d ever had, but that was okay because I was able to ride with my wife and see her finish the first leg of her first-ever MS-150 ride.”

“Why I Ride”

The MS-150 is a great event! This ride brings together people of all ages, backgrounds and cycling abilities. There is a deep sense of commitment demonstrated by both the riders and volunteers. Even new riders learn quickly the importance of this ride and how it impacts the lives of those that are affected by this disease. This is my tenth year of riding and I look forward to many more years. This event is like a “family picnic on wheels!”

Glenn Miano – Louisiana Operations
Plaquemine, Louisiana

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I committed to my first ride out of respect and love for a former dedicated team member, Jim Henry, who died of cancer. The opportunity to raise money for MS while at the same time improving my own health has been beneficial. In 2010 I joined my son and two of his friends on a graduation road trip to Texas theme parks, and I learned exactly what living with MS meant from his friend who suffers from MS. I was inspired by his determination not to hold the guys back and the guys' flexibility and willingness to make things work for their friend. Each year I’ve become aware of more people who are affected by MS. I continue to ride to support the effort to find a cure to help these people.

Donald Lambert – Basic Chemicals Reliability Subject Matter Expert
Plaquemine, Louisiana
Meet Our Louisiana Responsible Care® Leaders

Taking the Lead through Voluntary Safety Measures

For more than 20 years, the Responsible Care® program has helped American Chemistry Council (ACC) member companies significantly enhance the safe, responsible, and sustainable management of chemicals through their entire life cycle. ACC members like Dow and ANGUS Chemical Company are bound together by a commitment to address challenges and continuously improve the performance of the chemical industry.

Responsible Care® Leaders for Dow and ANGUS work with committed leaders in various functions across a business or site to unite operations in a manner that protects employees, communities, and the environment.

Jean Algate  
St. Charles Operations

Jean Algate begins her new position as Responsible Care® Leader (RCL) for St. Charles Operations with 30 years of appreciation for the safety of Dow people. In her current role as Hydrocarbons Process Safety Director, Jean led the business to improve its Process Safety Performance. As RCL she will now lead Environmental, Health & Safety improvement efforts for the site. Jean also joins the St. Charles Operations Site Leadership Team and Community Advisory Panel.

In 2003 and 2008, Jean was nominated for Dow’s GENESIS Award for Excellence in People Development. Her dedication to people and safety will be an important part of her new RCL position. “I have a passion for safety and ensuring our people go home the way they came to work. I appreciate the creativity Dow folk employ to ensure everyone who walks through the gates are safe. I am really looking forward to moving to Louisiana and working with the people at SCO.”

Tina Murray  
ANGUS Chemical Company

Tina Murray became ANGUS Responsible Care® Leader (RCL) for its Sterlington, La., Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Buffalo Grove, Ill. sites in October 2010. As RCL and Sterlington Quality Assurance Leader, she uses her diverse experience to lead efforts to improve employee and community safety, environmental integrity, and product quality. She is also a member of the Sterlington Leadership Team and Community Advisory Panel.

Tina’s 13 years in technology, production, and management positions at ANGUS have taught her that success comes with persistence and focus. “Employee health and safety and environmental protection are of utmost importance to everyone. We continuously strive to reach our vision of zero injuries and environmental impact. The integration of Responsible Care® principles in the way we work helps us build a foundation for success.”

Scott White  
Louisiana Operations Hub

Scott White leaves his position as a Production Leader and Technology Leader for a critical new leadership role. As incoming Responsible® Care Leader (RCL) for the Louisiana Operations Hub sites Plaquemine, Grand Bayou Operations, Amerchol, and Weeks Island, Scott will lead the implementation of Environmental, Health & Safety and Emergency Services and Security and drive significant improvement in illness, injury, leaks and spills, Process Safety, and compliance performance. In addition, Scott joins the Louisiana Operations Site Leadership Team and Community Advisory Board.

As RCL he will have an opportunity to use his 29 years of experience with Dow in new ways. “I’m excited to work with people who have responsibility in a variety of areas at Dow. With even more efficient and effective solutions, I can support and enable Environmental, Health & Safety success for all our leaders, employees, and the communities in which we work and live.”
Like many communities in Louisiana, St. Charles Parish values its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Parish is home to 23 industrial facilities and is susceptible to storm surges and flooding from hurricanes. During such a natural disaster, protection measures such as levees and flood control are the first line of defense, but it is the EOC that is the nerve-center of the response.

Since 2006, the St. Charles Parish EOC has been activated 19 times for severe weather, 18 times for industrial emergencies, and 538 times for “unusual” events – that’s an average of once every 3 days! These unusual events are incidents with the potential to impact the citizens of St. Charles Parish or require protective actions.

However, the current 2,500-square-foot home in the basement of the county courthouse building is crowded and vulnerable to flooding.

“We’ve outgrown our command facility,” says Scott Whelchel, Director, St. Charles Parish Emergency Preparedness Department. “The current location has served us very well, but it does have constraints. There’s not a lot of room, and when we hold meetings of industry representatives, it gets crowded. Our community has more than doubled since 1960, and we need a 21st century facility to deal with 21st century realities.”

The process to replace the aging and cramped facility began 2 ½ years ago, starting with $2.8 million put together from a Federal Grant and several Louisiana State Capital Outlays. When all funding sources were compiled and its own general fund accounted for, the Parish was left with a shortfall of approximately $870,000 of the estimated $5.1 million required for construction. Determined to complete the project, parish government officials approached industrial partners.

In the mean time, Dow had been seeking a community project to support in St. Charles Parish. “With 2011 marking Dow Chemical’s 10th anniversary within St. Charles Parish, we were looking for a parish need to help address in a meaningful way,” says Steve Milligan, site leader of Dow’s St. Charles Operations. “Community feedback identified emergency preparedness as an area in which local residents expect to see Dow lead, so being part of the Parish’s new EOC just seemed a natural fit. It’s definitely the right project for Dow to be involved in – this facility will benefit not only the Parish government, but the community and local industry as well.”

Dow is providing the full $870,000 that is needed for construction of the new EOC to move forward. The new 13,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility will be built across the street from the courthouse on River Road, on a property owned by the Parish.

With the very real threat of damage from hurricanes, the facility will be able to withstand winds in excess of 200 mph, and will be equipped with satellite technology that can be used during power outages. Large groups will also be able to meet comfortably in the new facility, in dedicated communications, operations and conference rooms. All in all, the new accommodations will allow government officials and other leaders to operate in a constructive environment, whether it be planning for emergencies, or responding to a crisis.

The groundbreaking is expected to take place after the start of the new year, with project completion and relocation anticipated by 2013.
Scottish politician John Buchan said “The task of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there.” In other words, effective leaders draw out the best in those around them.

Case in point: Steve Milligan, site leader at Dow’s St. Charles Operations (SCO). He is quick to give credit for the site’s growth and development, community success, and environmental improvements to the people who work at the site. “The progressive culture of the SCO people and the spirit of giving back not only give me the encouragement I need, but the support as well,” he says. “It is a special site, with extraordinary people!”

It is this unassuming approach that contributes to Steve’s success as a leader, and merited his inclusion in New Orleans’ Young Leadership Council (YLC)’s Class of Role Models for 2011.

In Steve’s 28 years with Dow, he has had a variety of roles requiring both innovative approaches and technical expertise, which prepared him well for his current position. His commitment to growth and sustainability for both St. Charles Operations and the New Orleans community is visible through his focus on community relations, the environment and cultural events.

For example, the site has expanded its outreach in his time at the helm, through sponsorship of a larger number of community organizations, and the single largest donation in the site’s history, to the recently-announced St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center (see page 15).

Steve’s focus on LC sustainability has led to an increase in Dow’s active participation in restoring Louisiana’s natural habitats, including a partnership with the Audubon Nature Institute to sponsor the Whooping Crane Recovery Program. The project is aiming to re-establish a non-migratory flock at White Lake in Vermillion Parish.

Also under his leadership, Dow sponsored YLC’s first Wednesday at the Square of 2011, in late March, at Lafayette Square in the New Orleans Central Business District. This program promotes New Orleans’ music and arts.

Steve is also involved in enhancing the Greater New Orleans Area’s relationship with the Baton Rouge community, playing a vital role on the Southeast Super-Region Committee. This group of top business executives from Baton Rouge and New Orleans discusses environmental, economic and political topics common to the regions.

Of the YLC Role Model Award, Steve says, “I am grateful for the hard work and dedication our SCO employees contribute on a daily basis. Any time one of us is recognized as a member of Dow before the Greater New Orleans Community, it is a reflection of the great things that happen here every day.”

SCO employees, family and friends came out to the Dow tent at YLC’s Wednesday at the Square. Photographed – Gary and Nelwyn Kern, JoAnn and Kim Waguespack.
Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a nonprofit organization that builds on the work of Morrill Worcester, who set out to honor the sacrifice of veterans by placing wreaths from his fresh wreath business at the graveside of soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Since 1992, the WAA tribute has grown to nation-wide participation during its annual December ceremonies.

According to Phil Collins, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) of the United States Air Force, and active in the Louisiana Civil Air Patrol, the work that WAA does is a meaningful way to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, and he is thankful for the support of Dow’s Louisiana Operations: “Dow is one of our strongest supporters and has funded our local ceremony since it began four years ago. The wreaths that Dow purchases are delivered directly to our national military cemetery at Port Hudson where there are 14,000 military gravesites, some dating back to the Civil War. And, as you can imagine, without the annual wreath laying many of the “older” soldiers would now be long forgotten.”

For Michael Eby, a Dow retiree and advocate of the work that WAA does, their mission says it all: Remember, Honor, Teach. “By placing fresh wreaths at Port Hudson, we visibly renew our commitment to remember and thank those who are no longer with us. I would encourage my fellow Dow retirees and employees to show their support by looking into similar WAA programs in their area. We should never forget or remember to teach the incredible history of sacrifice that has helped to shape and preserve our country.”

Local ceremonies will take place on December 10, 2011 at 12 noon EST. For more information or to learn how you can get involved visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

Meeting Private Smith

Dow employee Karen Jenkins, an Environment, Health & Safety employee in Weeks Island, struck up a friendship with Dow retiree Pvt. Harry Smith. Karen was so moved by Pvt. Smith’s comments that she wanted to share their conversation in a letter to Dow. That letter is reprinted below. Thank you, Karen.

For months while jogging past my neighbor’s home, I’ve hoped to catch him outside in the garden. My neighbor has a great garden. His harvests appear to always be plentiful and never lacking attention, water, rich soil, etc... I am a gardener who aspires to feed my family with the seasonal harvests. So getting to know this gardener was key to my plan.

Finally I worked up the nerve to introduce myself and he took me under his wing and mentored me from soil and seeds to what works best in this area. Private Harry Smith shared his secret of “Nothing tried nothing gained!” among other stories. One day while I was in his shop he asked me where I worked. When I told him Dow he laughed and opened his wallet and proudly displayed his Dow Retiree card. In Plaquemine this may not seem so odd, but in Sunset, LA (10 miles north of Lafayette) it is really amazing.

Private Smith worked in Block 49 and installed wells for the landfill among other projects in Plaquemine. He is so proud to have retired from Dow, and makes a point of telling my children of opportunities and challenges that he and others were encouraged to innovatively solve. He told my daughter that Dow has very high standards for the people that work there, and that says a lot about me. She was beaming with pride.

I have always been proud of working at Dow, but Private Smith really made me stop and remember that we will have good days and challenging days. However, every day our standards and values are what they are because of the people we work with and the commitment of our company.

Hope you have a great day!

Karen Jenkins,
Weeks Island, Louisiana
Powering Economic Growth

The power of collaboration. It’s obvious in the new 205,000 sq. ft. Dow Business Process Services Center in Midland, Michigan, adjacent to Dow’s corporate headquarters.

Having opened in August 2011 with 800 of its projected 1250 residents, the Center is a symbol of the type of teamwork that is springing up to contribute to the area’s economic resurgence.

Dow is no stranger to innovation. As founder Herbert H. Dow was known to say, “If you can’t do it better, why do it?” This is as true for its business practices as it is for its application of chemistry. Nothing demonstrates this more clearly than the new Center. As the name suggests, Dow people located there will provide business services in a variety of areas such as Purchasing, Finance, Supply Chain, Customer Service, Environment Health & Safety, Information Technology, and others.

The difference for the BPSC is a collaboration with Tata Consulting Services of India to lease space for its own business operations here in the U.S.

To celebrate Dow’s long history of inventiveness, the new Center is named for three past Dow executives who exemplified what the project represents: innovation, integrity and commitment.

Paul Oreffice, Dow Chief Executive Officer from 1978-1992, was a special guest at the Business Process Services Center grand opening celebration.
Kids Use Videos to Make Science Education Elemental

That’s what happened to the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) and The Dow Chemical Company with their sponsorship of the It’s Elemental video contest earlier this year. Incredible video submissions highlighted the talents, interest in chemistry, and techno savvy of 9th–12th grade students from around the country.

True “chemistry” was created when two organizations dedicated to education joined forces to celebrate the International Year of Chemistry (IYC 2011). Dow and the CHF, along with a grant from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, called on U.S. high school students to create short videos about an element of their choice. The contest drew nearly 700 entries from 36 states.

Contest Elements

Asked to include basic information about the elements and their uses, as well as historical background, the inspiring creativity of the students ranged from music videos to reenactments. Videos were judged on integration of scientific information; effective presentation and technical merit; and overall artistry and quality.

“In the spirit of IYC 2011, It’s Elemental offered students a chance to experience science education in a unique and stimulating way,” says Dr. Katie Hunt, director, Innovation Sourcing & Sustainable Technologies at Dow and contest judge. “After watching these videos, I’m even more optimistic about the next generation of chemists.”

Judge for Yourself

Judging the videos wasn’t easy. But thanks to the distinguished panel of chemical industry leaders, journalists, science authors, and Nobel prize-winning scientists, winners were chosen in several categories.

View the winners and other submissions on the interactive periodic table of the elements at the CHF web site.
The good life for many Louisianians is centered around family and cooking. The Gaserys are no exception. Percy Gasery and his son, Johaun, enjoy a passion for cooking, and for the Dow Chemical Company, which has afforded them a quality of life to enjoy their favorite pastime. That's generations of great chemistry in Louisiana.