



Los Angeles Basin Section
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Los Angeles Basin Section Society of Petroleum Engineers

A Message from the Chair



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Day as we count our blessings and spend time with our loved ones. As we

reflect on 2009,

we can all agree that we have had a challenging year with the down economy. As we all hope that we have seen the worst, let us take time to collaborate and come up with new ideas on fulfilling the SPE mission and work on how we can approve for 2009. Not only does the Los Angeles Board work on our local section, we have our monthly regional meetings and discuss ways in improving our committees and programs. We share ideas with other regions and see what has been successful and what areas need improvement such as providing more services to our members. Other topics that we share and compare with other sections are our forum meeting, student outreach, scholarships, short courses, Distinguished

Lecturers, continuing education, membership, newsletter, website, Young Professional (YP), and the list goes on. Our number one priority and discussion is working on 2010 SPE Western Regional Meeting (WRM) in collaboration with the Pacific Section AAPG and Cordilleran Section GSA to be held in Anaheim, CA on May 27 - 29, 2010.

Even with our busy work schedules, our board and committee members continue to work hard and dedicate their time to give to SPE. On December 5th, 2009, SPE Young Professionals went on a social event to the USC game for networking and a fun gathering. LA SPE proudly sponsors our YP program and keeps the program thriving and continually recruiting. Candra Janova is the current liaison member so if you have any questions or you would like to attend a future event, you may contact him via email. (All Board/ Committee Members emails are

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PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY FORUM PROGRAM, DECEMBER 8

The next **Petroleum Technology Forum** will be held on **Tuesday, December 8, 2009** at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807. The speaker is Michael E. Utt **presenting "West Seno - Unocal's Last Big Construction Project"**. Abstract and speaker bio follow.

| <u>Location:</u> | <u>Time:</u> | <u>Cost:</u> |
|---|---|--|
| Long Beach Petroleum Club 3636 Linden Avenue Long Beach, CA 90807 | Registration: 11:30 AM Buffet Lunch: 11:30 AM Presentation: 12:00-1:00 PM | \$20.00 members, Free for students. |

continues on page 2...

FORUM FROM PAGE 1 . . .

West Seno – Unocal’s Last Big Construction Project



by Mike Utt

Guest Speaker December 8th

Abstract:

A few years ago, Unocal Corporation built the first deepwater oil & gas production system in Indonesia. The West Seno field is located almost on the equator in the Makassar Strait, east of Borneo, west of Sulawesi. The water depth is over 1,000 meters. West Seno was Unocal’s first floating production system. It consists of a tension-leg drilling and production platform designed for tender-supported drilling, a spread-moored barge floating production unit, and the associated pipelines. Mike will explain how the project was designed, constructed, installed and commissioned in just over 2 years. This required coordination of fabrication work at multiple sites in several countries, and the development of some new technology. As it happened, West Seno was Unocal’s the last major field development.

Biography:

Mike Utt is a native of Corvallis, Oregon. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1969, and entered the U.S. Navy. He was commissioned an officer in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps, and spent most of his active duty time in San Diego. Upon leaving the Navy in 1972, he returned to Oregon State, where he earned a Master’s degree in the Ocean Engineering program.

He joined Union Oil Company of California in 1974. His first job was as an engineer in the Reservoir, Ocean and Arctic Engineering group of the Research Department in Brea, California. In 1986, he became Supervisor of Ocean & Arctic Engineering. In the following years he held several management and technical positions, all related to oil and gas drilling and production technology. In 1995, he moved to Sugar Land, Texas with Unocal’s Exploration & Production Technology group. He retired in 2004 from the position of Manager, Deepwater Technology, in Unocal’s Engineering & Construction organization.

Mike is currently a self-employed engineering consultant, based in Yorba Linda, California.

Katherine Wallgren
Forum Chairperson
Katherine_Wallgren@oxy.com

Calendar

2009

December 8th

LASPE Board Meeting
Petroleum Technology Forum at The Long Beach Petroleum Club

2010

May 27-29th WRM Anaheim, CA

LASPE and the AAPG, Pacific Section will host the Western Regional Meeting at the Anaheim Convention Center.

May 7th

Annual LA Basin SPE Charity Golf Tournament

Message from the Chair

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listed on LA SPE website under Contacts)

I’d like to give thanks to our LA SPE Board for their commitment on attending our monthly board meetings and all of our members who continue to support SPE by attending the monthly forum meetings. By your participation and your recruitment of new SPE members, it will allow SPE to continue be a successful organization. I encourage everyone to read our LA SPE newsletter to stay informed of all our new activities and opportunities that SPE has to offer throughout the year. Next month, we will be announcing our new Vice Chairperson for the 2009-2010 term and filling any Board positions that are open. Wishing you and your family Happy Holidays.

Vanessa Perez
LA SPE Chairperson

PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY FORUM

**PHOTOS FROM NOVEMBER 10TH PRESENTATION “LISTENING TO THE RESERVOIR:
BY ROLAND HORNE, SPE DISTINGUISHED LECTURER**



2010 WRM MAY 27-29, 2010, ANAHEIM CALIFORNIA

The 2010 SPE Western Regional Meeting will be held 27-29 May 2010 in conjunction with the Pacific Section AAPG and the Cordilleran Section GSA in Anaheim, California. The theme of the joint conference is "From Mountains to Main Street."

Mr. Stephen Chazen, President and Chief Financial Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, will be the Keynote Speaker at the SPE WRM Regional Awards Luncheon Banquet scheduled for Friday May 28, 2010. On Thursday morning, May 27, 2010, Dr. Behrooz Fattahi, the SPE President, will moderate the Management Panel on: "Opportunities and Challenges in the Western North American Region". Key executives participating in the management panel include:

- Mr. Barry Biggs, Aera Energy
- Mr. John Dennis, BP Alaska
- Mr. Steve Rusch, PXP

- Mr. Todd Stevens, Oxy, California Operations
- Mr. Neal Schmale, Sempra
- Mr. Chris Williamson, Breitburn

A number of joint sessions with AAPG, plus short courses and workshops are being organized. Please mark your calendars for attending this important meeting of your professional society, SPE, and get a refresher on the state of our industry and the frontiers of oil and gas technology while networking with colleagues and industry leaders.

The program committee will be selecting the final program by early December. There is still time if you wish to submit an abstract. Please Visit <http://www.spe.org/events/wrm/>

Iraj Ershaghi
Chair, Program Committee

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AND FUNDRAISER



The Annual LA Basin SPE Charity Golf Tournament is set for May 7th, 2010. Once again we will be returning to Los Serranos Country Club in Chino Hills, for this great event. There is the pre-tournament BBQ, provide to us once again by Weatherford, golf is scheduled for a 1:00 shotgun start and for golfers and non-golfers

alike the always exciting Awards Banquet and Raffle will follow. T

This event is more than just golf; it is our major fund raiser of the year and provides the section with a large portion of the LA

Basin's operating funds. Make your plans to attend early; this event sells out, so don't get left out! Contact Mark Shemaria, mark_shemaria@oxy.co or Mike Filbey, mike_filbey@oxy.com for more information or sponsorship opportunities.

Best Regards,
Mark Shemaria
2010 Golf Tournament Chair



2010 SPE WRM - CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 2010 SPE Western Regional Meeting (WRM) will be held May 27-29, 2010 in conjunction with the AAPG Pacific Section & Cordilleran GSA in Anaheim California. The theme of the joint conference this year is "From Mountains to Main Street."

This conference will focus on technologies and issues affecting oil and gas fields in the Western North American Region. We desire presentations by engineers, geoscientists, managers, and team leaders that address improving operating costs and efficiency, new oil and gas technologies, and insights on regulatory and climate change legislation that affect energy supplies.

Technical papers are encouraged. To attract up-to-the-minute presentations, abstracts will also be accepted for poster sessions, panel sessions, and technical workshops that do not require papers. Conference sessions will be formulated based upon the abstracts submitted and accepted by the technical program committee.

Abstracts should be submitted to the program committee by January 10, 2009 that specify the type presentation, contain no more than 300 words, and summarize the subject matter, results of work, and conclusions in the topics listed below:

- Advanced Reservoir Modeling Concepts
- Arctic Operations/Permafrost Issues/Hydrates/Alaska Gas Pipeline
- Advanced Geophysical Techniques for Oil and Gas Development and Production Operations
- Advances in Drilling and Completion Operations applicable to WNAR Reservoirs
- Advances in Environmental Technologies
- California Extra Heavy Oil Resources
- Case Studies
- CO2 Capture and Storage
- Economic Uncertainty and Risk Analysis
- EOR Technologies (Thermal/Chemical/Miscible)
- Flow Assurance
- California Geothermal Systems
- Integrated Operations
- Locating By-Passed Oil
- Mature waterflood Management
- Production Enhancement
- Redevelopment of California Offshore Resources
- Renewable Energy to Cut OPEX
- Reservoir Characterization
- Social Responsibility, Health, Air and Water Quality and GHG Emissions
- Tight Plays: Monterey (Diatomites, fractured Siliceous Rocks), Bakken
- Waste Disposal

Program Committee Procedures: The paper proposal should contain significant new knowledge or experience in some field of relevance. The substance of the proposed paper must not have been published previously in trade journals or other professional or technical journals. Prior to paper proposal submission, clearance must be obtained. Any problems concerning clearance should be outlined when the paper proposal is submitted. All authors of papers presented at 2010 WRM will be required to complete and submit a copyright release form to SPE or submit the copyright exemption form where applicable.

Manuscript Preparation: Authors of papers selected for 2010 WRM will be notified by December 14, 2009. Authors offering papers should fully understand that a manuscript will be required for each accepted paper. Manuscripts will be required by March 29, 2010 for inclusion in the Proceedings CD-ROM. SPE operates a "no paper, no podium" policy which means that if the manuscript is not received by the due date then it will be withdrawn from the program. The maximum desired length of any paper is 7,000 words, including figures and tables. Detailed instructions on the preparation of manuscripts and presentations will be sent to the corresponding author of each accepted paper.

Iraj Ershaghi
Program Committee Chairman

Program Committee

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Fred Aminzadeh | Zuwa Omoregie |
| Ahmed Badruzzaman | Gordon Pospisil |
| Serge Baghdikian | Mark Shemaria |
| Ed Behm | Allan Spivak |
| Steve Cheung | Mike Utt |
| Abhijit Dandekar | Rajendra Upadhyay |
| Steve Horner | Marina Voskianian |
| Anthony R. Kovscek | Charlie Webb |
| George Moridis | Chris Williamson |
| | Zhengming Yang |

LASPE SPONSORS FOUR STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE ATCE

LA SPE section sponsored four students from University Southern California (USC) and two students from California State University Long Beach, partially covering the cost of their attendance at the 2009 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE) held in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 4th-7th. Below is a letter from our students thanking SPE for our contribution and support:

Dear L.A. SPE Board of Directors;

On behalf of the California State Long Beach SPE Student Chapter, we would like to express our utmost gratitude for sponsoring us for our trip to the 2009 SPE ATCE in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was quite an experience. The conference created excitement among us to learn more about the energy industry and to get involved. We had the chance to go to several technical sessions and forums about the current state of the petroleum industry. We had the opportunity each day to walk the exhibition floor and talk with many company representatives about the latest and greatest technology in the industry. We also attended a student paper contest and the "Petrobowl 2009."

On Sunday we attended the student general session which had Mr. Rich Kruger, the president of ExxonMobil as the guest speaker. He gave some good advice about getting a first job and then some tips on how to excel once we land one. He said we should be able to bring value in a team setting because most everything we do in our career will be with a team of some sort. He also emphasized ethical, honest behavior and hard work as keys to being a success in whatever job we do. It was a motivating speech that got us excited about the future of petroleum and the opportunities for students.

After a short break, there was a student technical session with a presentation by Professor Tom Blasingame from Texas A&M University. He talked about the state of the industry and the future for students wanting to get into petroleum engineering. The future looks very bright for us! He pointed out several statistics about how the current workforce in petroleum is getting to retirement age and there are not enough people replacing them. He said this will create a large demand for engineers, which students like us will need to meet. He also had some advice about life and a career in engineering. One thing he said that stood out to me was that we should never stagnate, we should force change upon ourselves. He encouraged us to learn or try new things, and to volunteer for things on the job. He said this will open up doors for us that we never would have thought of otherwise.

On Monday we attended the international student paper contest and the Petrobowl. For the paper contest the first prize winners at the regional levels got to compete at the international level by presenting to a panel of industry professionals, then the panel picked the presentation they liked best as the winner of the contest. There were undergrad students from Iran, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, the US, and many other countries. It was a great experience meeting and talking with students from so many different places.

The Petrobowl was interesting because there was a lot of controversy during the matches. In the semi-finals Texas A&M lost their match to Missouri University, but then ten minutes later both teams had to go back up and compete again because the judges decided an answer given was incorrect. Texas A&M ended up losing again which was double disappointing for them since they had so many students in their SPE chapter cheering them on.

Our trip to the 2009 ATCE was a great learning experience. It gave us the opportunity to interact with many students and industry professionals on an international level. Thank you so much for providing the opportunity for us to attend and participate. We would be happy to help the L.A. section for future conferences (western regional meeting) in any capacity we can.

Sincerely,

Matthew Perry
Collin Wright
CSULB SPE Student Chapter

LASPE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 AM

Attending were:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brandy Fellers | Senior Past Chair |
| Rick Finken | Treasurer |
| AB Gorashi Abdulrahman | Board Member through 2011 |
| Scott Hara | Community Outreach |
| Vanessa Perez | 2009-2010 Chair |
| Jalal Torabzadeh | Junior Past Chair |
| Mike Utt | Secretary, Board Member through 2010 |
| Eric Withjack | Board Member through 2010 |

1. The Agenda proposed by Chairperson Perez was approved.

2. The Minutes of the October 13, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Announcements

3.1 Vanessa Perez reported on a successful Outreach project, in which 3 groups of Fresno Middle and High School students and their teachers, totaling about 50 people, were taken on a tour of THUMS, followed by dinner and question-and-answer sessions.

3.2 Jalal Torabzadeh has accepted the position of Continuing Education Coordinator for SPE's Western Region. This is in addition to his responsibilities as Chairman of SPE International's Continuing Education Committee.

4. Reports:

4.1 Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rick Finken reported on the first month of the new 2009-10 Program Year. For October 2009, expenses exceeded income by \$2,284. Expenses consisted of \$284 for newsletter, website and hosting and \$2,000 covering the 2010 Golf Tournament deposit. Other than a small amount of checking account interest, there were no income items. The total value of LASPE's assets was \$69,496 as of October 31, 2009.

4.2 Golf Tournament: There will be a meeting of the tournament committee during the week of November 16. A deposit has been paid to the golf course for the 2010 tournament. After some discussion, it was decided not to change the date of the tournament to coordinate with the Western Region meeting.

4.3 Western Region Meeting – May 27-29, 2010

The first estimate from SPEI for the cost of supporting the 2010 Western Region meeting was \$20K to \$25K. After objections to that level of cost, SPEI Sections Manager Brian Wiggins was working on cost reductions, but no new estimate has been provided. To reduce costs, LASPE has agreed to take responsibility for Proceedings distribution, reducing the effort required of SPEI.

LASPE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY NOVEMBER 10, 2009 *CONTINUES...*

In a recent teleconference with other Sections of the Western Region, LASPE representatives requested that each Section subsidize the attendance of their members to the Western Region at the rate of \$50 for each full attendee (thus, \$25 per one-day attendee.)

Brandy Fellers moved that the Board approve the same \$50 subsidy for LASPE members attending the Western Region meeting, up to a limit of \$10,000. That motion was unanimously approved.

4.4 Student Chapter Report: Matthew Perry of CSULB was present at the Board meeting, and reported on CSULB student participation at the recent ATCE in New Orleans. The Board received a letter of thanks from Mr. Perry and Collin Wright of the CSULB SPE Student Chapter. The letter will be included in a future LASPE Newsletter.

5. Old Business

5.1 ATCE – Jalal Torabzadeh reported on the recent ATCE in New Orleans. The “Best Section” awards went to the San Joaquin and Alaska Sections of Western Region. In Jalal’s view, that result is more related to the Section’s Annual Report presentation of what the Sections did than to differences in Section Activities.

5.2 Continuing Education - In the interest of time, Jalal Torabzadeh deferred presentation of Continuing Education activities until a future meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Budget: Chairperson Perez proposed a 2009-2010 Budget totaling \$66,200 in estimated income and \$77,600 in estimated expenses, for a planned deficit of \$11,400. After some brief discussion of specific items, the Budget was unanimously approved.

6.2 Legion of Honor Members: The SPEI presents a Legion of Honor plaque to each SPE Member who completes 50 years of continuous membership. There are several in the LASPE’s area, and they will be invited to the December meeting to receive their plaques.

6.3 Orange County Engineering Council (OCEC), 2010 OCEC Awards Banquet: Nomination Call: (Engineers Week, February 14-20, 2010) There was some discussion of whether LASPE should nominate someone for OCEC Engineer of the Year. No conclusion was reached, and no candidates were named.

6.4 Young Professionals: No representative of the Young Professionals group was available, so discussion of YP activities was deferred to December.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM

LASPE Community Outreach - Results!

Every year, LASPE supports elementary, middle and high school students interested in math and science with financial grants to science fairs, visits to classrooms and targeted programs such as energy fairs at CSULB and USC. One area of support has been to Mike Phillipow who teaches geology at Long Beach Poly High School. Our involvement is financial and personal supporting and participating in the geology field trips here in the LA Basin.

The idea is to nurture and expand any interest Mike's students may have in continuing to study geology and science related curriculums in their college careers. It is working.

Rick Behl, geology professor at CSULB reports that Mike is starting to build a real legacy as several Poly geology students are enrolled in his courses and are all excellent students. It's nice to see that our support of the sciences is paying off.

Thanks to all LASPE members for supporting the Annual Charity Golf Tournament and other fund raising activities providing the funds needed to continue our community outreach activities.

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CURRENT BOARD, OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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|--|--------------------|------------------------|
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| Candra_Janova@oxy.com | Chandra Janova | Young Professionals |
| dremmw@yahoo.com | Eric Withjack | Board Member-2010 |
| emayer2@socal.rr.com | Ed Mayer | Awards and Recognition |
| SantiaE@slc.ca.gov | Ed Santiago | Elementary Outreach |
| goras9@aol.com | AB Gorashi | Board Member-2011 |
| Katherine_Wallgren@oxy.com | Katherine Wallgren | Forum Chair |
| Larry@4thForge.com | Larry Gilpin | Webmaster |
| Mark_Shemaria@oxy.com | Mark Shemaria | Golf Tournament Chair |
| mikeutt@roadrunner.com | Mike Utt | Board member-2010 |
| PerezV@slc.ca.gov | Vanessa Perez | 2009-2010 Chairperson |
| Rcvbelmar@aol.com | Robert Visser | Assistant Treasurer |
| Rick_Reeves@oxy.com | Rick Reeves | Board member-2011 |
| Sam4IPRC@aol.com | Sam Sarem | Nominating Committee |
| Scott_Hara@oxy.com | Scott Hara | Community Outreach |
| SmithjL@slc.ca.gov | Jack Smith | Scholarship Chair |
| torabzad@csulb.edu | Jalal Torabzadeh | Junior past chair |
| lovesm@ix.netcom.com | Scott McGurk, | 2006-2007-Past year |
| Richard.finken@longbeach.gov | Rick Finken | Treasurer |
| rweibel@semprautilities.com | Rudy Weible | |

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