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www.LASPE.org

A Message from the Chair

Dear fellow SPE members,

Happy New Year

I hope you had a happy and healthy holiday season and started a wonderful new year.

I also hope 2009 to be a better year for all the people around the world.



The U.S. and global economies have suffered an unprecedented blow in the last few months of 2008. The economic crisis has significantly affected the energy industry worldwide. With continued downturn in economy, decline in energy demand, and the unsustainable growth and development in many countries, the oil and gas price volatility is more likely to continue for quite sometime. The sharp drop in prices in the past several months has lead many companies in our industry to revisit their aggressive expansion plans developed based on record high prices in the middle of 2008. Many companies are taking a second look and a more conservative approach in finalizing and implementing some of their development plans.

As we have experienced over the past 4 decades, the oil and gas prices are not only subject to the basic economic principle of supply and demand but also to many unpredictable factors and uncertainties including the world's unstable and volatile political situation, globalization, technology and many more. However, there are several factors that cannot be ignored which make us believe in predicting higher petroleum prices over a long term. They include: limited and scarce hydrocarbon resources, higher cost of finding and producing these remaining limited resources, and the continued increase in global demand for petroleum. There are many indications to support the notion that fossil fuel will remain the main energy source (unless there are drastic government policy changes worldwide) at least for the next several decades despite many political talks and rhetoric regarding alternative energy sources.

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A Message from the Chair continues

Message from the Chair continues . . .

In the US, we have witnessed the fact that dependency on oil and gas in general and their imports in particular have increased significantly over the past 35 years since the oil embargo. We have heard a lot of talks, discussions, and observed many political campaigns regarding making U.S. independent of foreign oil since early 1970's. All the recent past seven presidents (from Richard M. Nixon to George W. Bush) have promised, announced and developed plans and policies, and some executed programs to reduce US energy dependency on foreign oil. Unfortunately, reality has proved otherwise (40% import in early 1970's versus 60% now). Most current projections predict the share of oil and gas in the total energy consumption to be at the same percentage as today (or even higher) by 2025.

Considering the current US economic situation, energy independence is very unlikely to happen any time soon. With the world in a recession and approaching depression, it is not realistic to spend massive amounts of money to speed up development of alternative energy sources.

Recent events, once again, have confirmed the cyclic nature of the oil and gas industry. The cycle may delay or cause a temporary pause in some capital intensive exploration, drilling, and development projects as a result of financial crisis. But, it can also create many opportunities for the industry to apply new technologies in mature fields to boost production and recover the residual hydrocarbons as technology is the common thread in up and down cycles. Tough times create challenges but also opportunities. We should face challenges while taking advantage of the opportunities.

Sincerely,
Jalal Torabzadeh
2008-2009 Chairperson

Upcoming Highlights for the Technology Forum 2009 Season

Greetings to all!

Just as 2008 was, 2009 is shaping up to be an interesting and exciting year for the LASPE Monthly Forum. There will be captivating speakers, pertinent topics and the return of the “Oil Price Challenge”. We hope to continue to educate our members and provide a little fun and networking along the way.

We will start the year off with our own Robert C. Visser. Most of you will recognize him from his many years of involvement with the LASPE and work in the LA area as a private consultant and with Shell Oil Company. He will join us in this January’s Forum to give his presentation “Deepwater Oil Development – Are there limits?”. The talk will cover the tools and techniques that have been developed to overcome the incredible technical barriers of deepwater oil development in recent years.

Our monthly forums will continue through June with talks such as “Cost Saving Benefits of California Digital Oilfield” by Dr. Mason Medizade, and “Integrity Management of Thums Cement Lined Pipelines” by Kathye Griffis, as well as others. Our March SPE Distinguished Lecturer will be George Stosur, presenting his talk “The Growing Demand for Oil and Natural Gas and the Related Global Warming Issues”.

The “Oil Price Challenge” will be back again this year. Coming off one of the most tumultuous years in oil price history it will be quite interesting to see where the price will end up this spring. Starting in March we will begin collecting your predictions for what the WTI price will be in May. So everyone get out there and consult your resources, or be prepared to make a completely random guess and put in your prediction to win some wonderful prizes.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2009, and look forward to seeing you all at our monthly forums.

If you have any questions or suggestions pertaining to the forums please contact Kate Wallgren, Forum Chairperson, at e-mail address Katherine_Wallgren@oxy.com

LA SPE Petroleum Technology Forum - January 13, 2009

“Deepwater Oil Development – Are there limits?” Robert C. Visser, Belmar Engineering

The next Petroleum Technology Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, 636 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807. The speaker will be Robert Visser of Belmar Engineering. Abstract and speaker bio follow.

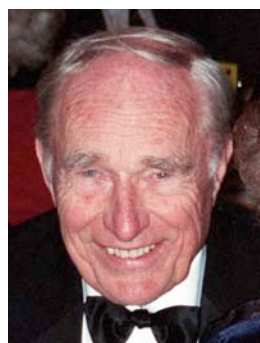
Location: Long Beach Petroleum Club 3636 Linden Avenue Long Beach, CA 90807	Time: Registration: 11:30 AM Buffet Lunch: 12:00 noon Presentation: 12:20-1:00 PM	Cost: \$20.00 members, Free for students.
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Abstract

Offshore oil and gas are now being produced in waters that are almost two miles deep and there appears to be no technical barriers to go even deeper. The technology to do so rivals what has been done in the space program.

Bob Visser will discuss the tools and methods that have been devised to accomplish this incredible development.

Biography



Robert C. Visser is a private consultant in Redondo Beach, California with over forty years experience in offshore oil and gas field development. Most of his current activities involve development projects offshore Alaska, both in Cook Inlet and in the Beaufort Sea. Prior to forming Belmar Engineering he was with Shell Oil Company where he was involved in offshore development projects in the Gulf of Mexico, Cook Inlet, Alaska, the Gulf of Alaska, offshore California, offshore Canada, and in the Far East. He holds an MS degree in civil engineering from Delft Technological University in the Netherlands. He is the author of several published papers dealing with offshore technology and operations and holds a number of patents. He is a former director of the LASPE.

Katherine Wallgren, Forum Chairperson, Katherine_Wallgren@oxy.com

“Opportunities in the Oil Field for Young Engineers”

John Roby, Production Engineer
THUMS Long Beach Co., Occidental Petroleum

This December I had the privilege to speak at to Cal State Long Beach’s SPE chapter meeting. My presentation was titled “Opportunities in the Oil Field for Young Engineers”. The past year has shown dramatic changes in the oil price and companies have had to react accordingly to the market climate. My goal was to increase Cal State engineering students’ interest in careers in the oil patch, despite the current economic challenges.

Our industry is currently in one of those challenging swings. Being a young engineer, I am experiencing my first downward swing in the industry. Nevertheless, as in the past, we will pull out of this low price environment. The industry as a whole will learn and become stronger. Engineering students should not shy away from the oil industry. The future is very bright and our industry needs young talent. Currently, over half of the workforce will be eligible to retire in the next 10 years, positioning young professionals and current students very well in the years to come. Additionally, demand will continue to increase. To meet this increasing demand, engineers will need to address tougher challenges, think more creatively and explore new horizons.

Concluding my presentation, I gave five pieces of advice when looking for a job as well as during a young professional’s early career and I would like to share them here.

- Five pieces of advice while looking for a job.
 1. Gain experience through internships, externships and class projects during school. All experience is good experience.
 2. Keep an update resume. You never know when you will need to hand it out.
 3. Know the industry. Stay up to date by reading news articles and talking with industry professionals.
 4. Be open; do not limit yourself to one area of the business. Getting a foot in the door is your first priority.
 5. Take advantage of SPE. This is a great networking organization; use it to your advantage.
- Five pieces of advice during ones early career development.
 1. Ask questions and do not be afraid to learn, not just in your discipline but also in all areas of the business.
 2. Obtain field exposure.
 3. Build a technical base; do not get in a hurry for your next promotion.
 4. Always work well with others, this is a small industry.
 5. Becoming a manager is not the only measure of success.

I thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to share my thoughts with the students of Cal State Long Beach and look forward to watching their student chapter grow. Please feel free to contact with any questions regarding this article.

-You can **download** John Roby’s presentation at www.laspe.org, click link on middle of main page-

SPE Awards

Nominate Colleagues for Their Contributions

SPE has a distinguished tradition of recognizing individuals who make significant technical and professional contributions to the worldwide oil and gas industry. We rely on your nominations to help us celebrate those who have made these contributions. Please take a few minutes to nominate colleagues who have made outstanding and significant contributions to the industry and SPE.

2009 Regional Awards

1. Regional Service (3 Awards)
2. Health, Safety and Environment
3. Management and Information
4. Drilling & Completion
5. Outstanding Young Member
6. Production & Operations
7. Projects, Facilities & Construction
8. Reservoir Description and Dynamics
9. Distinguished Corporate Support
10. Formation Evaluation
11. Completion Optimization and Technology

You can find information on all of the Society's regional awards, including forms (click on "nominate" link) award recognition criteria, selection processes, and recent recipients on the SPE website at [http://www.spe.org/spe-app/spe/about/honors/regional awards.htm](http://www.spe.org/spe-app/spe/about/honors/regional_awards.htm)

Nomination Deadline: 15 February 2009

For the Western North America Region, the deadline to submit nomination to the Regional Director is January 15 since the Regional Meeting takes place in March.

Visit www.spe.org/awards for information on how to submit a nomination.

Email your questions to awards@spe.org

Become an SPE Mentor

Do your part to sustain the profession and the industry by mentoring a young SPE member. While many young people get excellent technical training from their academic programs, most still need practical career advice from someone with experience. Through electronic communication, [SPE's eMentoring program](#) gives you an effective and convenient way to mentor young people anywhere in the world. As an experienced professional and member of SPE, you are in a unique position to guide young professionals and students in their careers and give the insight from your professional experiences. Young professionals are also encouraged to mentor university students in curriculum planning, career choices, and first assignments on the job. Join the SPE eMentoring program today and help develop the industry's future leaders.

Nominate a Potential SPE Distinguished Lecturer for the 2010-2011

Do you know an expert in exploration and production, or a related field such as health, safety and environment with great presentation skills? Nominate that person to be an lecture season. The season extends from September 2010 through May 2011.

Nominations are due by February 2009. Candidates will be reviewed in May 2009 and the final selection will be made in September 2009.

The Distinguished Lecturer Committee selects lecturers based on expertise in their specific field, their public speaking experience, and their willingness to commit personal time to share their knowledge. Each lecturer presents, on average, 20 times per year. Lecturers are asked to make a significant time commitment. Each tour can vary from a few days to 2 weeks and travel schedules can be quite rigorous. Please take this into consideration when submitting your nomination.

The DL program, one of the most popular SPE activities, began in 1961 and is available to all SPE sections throughout the world. The purpose of the program is to assist sections in obtaining recognized, outstanding speakers while recognizing the professional contributions of the persons selected as Distinguished Lecturers.

Help us indentify the best lecturers for your discipline and your region. In order to present a nominee to the Distinguished Lecturer Committee, please submit all the following items:

1. [Nomination form](#)
2. [Abstract/bio form](#); Click to view a [sample of the abstract/bio form](#)
3. Name, phone and e-mail address of two references for the nominee. At least one reference must be from someone outside the nominee's company.
4. 7 core slides of nominee's presentation

Thank you for considering and supporting the SPE Distinguished Lecturer Program

For more information, contact:

James Crafton, 2008-09 Distinguished Lecturer Committee Chairperson

LASPE Board Meeting Minutes December 2008

- 1) Board meeting held on December 9, 2008. Meeting called to order at 10:20 am. Present were: Mike Utt, Sam Sarem, Rudy Weibel, Scott Hara, Vanessa Perez, Jalal Torabzadeh, Rick Finken, AB Gorashi, Robert Visser, Eric Whitjack, Rick Reeves, and Brandy Fellers (by phone).
- 2) Sam Sarem of LASPE has been nominated as a candidate for SPE Western North American Region Director. This position serves on the board of SPE. Other regional chapters submitting nominations were Golden Gate, San Joaquin Valley, and Alaska.
- 3) SPE is reviewing changes to its Continuing Education Program for 2009. Items for review include type of courses offered, member needs, etc. The idea is to improve the program by making it more accessible and relevant to the target audience. For example, different courses for non-petroleum engineers and skills update courses for petroleum engineers.
- 4) Candra Janova was nominated to fill the remaining term on the vacant 2009 Director position with the LASPE Board. Candra has been involved in LASPE for several years and is the LASPE Young Professionals Liaison. Candra was nominated by Vanessa Perez and seconded by Eric Whitjack, followed by Board approval. Congratulations, Candra! Welcome to the Board, young grasshopper.
- 5) Treasurer's Business
 - Rick Finken sought approval of a resolution to provide the authority to designate Board members to conduct LASPE business on the Fidelity account. A motion was made to approve the resolution and the Board accepted.
 - Rick is also developing a draft budget for the coming year so that expenditures do not exceed expected income. Rick is obviously not looking at the government as a model.
 - Rick submitted the current Treasurer's Report. For the past two months, income exceeded expenses by \$1400 (Now that's the government spirit!). Mike moved to approve the report, and the Board approved.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

LASPE Minutes October 08

LASPE Board Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2008

Unofficial mtg.-Quorum wasn't meet

Call to Order: We did not have enough board members to meet quorum. In attendance for the meeting was: Jalal Torabzadeh., Vanessa Perez -2009, AB Gorashi-2011, Sam Sarem, Bob Visser, Candra Janova, Scott Hara, Kate Wallgren. Notes: *Jalal is currently updating our list of board members so I don't have everyone serving date.

Approval of Agenda: September 2008 meeting minutes were not approved. Need a Quorum.
Approval of minutes was not approved. Need a Quorum.

Announcements: Jalal announced that we need to continue to bring in volunteers to assist for the membership duty and outreach committees.

Officers/ Directors/Standing Open Positions: Jalal welcomed AB Gorashi, LASPE 's new Director. AB will review the "Section Operations Manual" to review SPE mission and duty statements to familiarize himself with his new position and role as a Board of Director.

Filling Positions: Jalal passed around the *position sheet. Members signed their names, emails, and member #. If you didn't know your member # at the meeting, please email Jalal, ASAP. We continued to fill positions for committees and Jalal will send out the list of open positions, via email, that we need to occupy.

Sam suggested that we keep a list of unexcused absences. Pursuant to Article V., if that person has three (3) consecutive **unexcused** absences from the scheduled board meetings, the office will automatically be deemed vacant.

"Conflict of Interest Statement". Jalal asked that the board please review and sign. The document includes "Guidelines for Section Websites".

Student Chapter: there are currently ~15-18 members. Chevron is currently paying for the student's membership.

Jalal handed out "**SPE Membership Demographic**" sheet that details SPE membership percentage. For the 2007-Year End, there are currently 51% US members, 49% Non-US SPE members and 43% US student members with 57% Non-US student members.

Treasurer's Report: We will approve this Report next meeting when we have a quorum.

Sam passed out his Final Report as the SPE's Treasure. Total assets are \$82,230 to \$84,230. The balance varies because Sam wasn't sure of the interest rate that accumulated the Fidelity fund which are still mailed to Vivian only. In his report, Sam mentions that he closed the Washington Mutual account ####999-9 and transferred the balance to the new checking account, xxx2074.

Continued on next page....

LASPE Minutes October 08 continued

Minutes continued...

SPE Foundation: Sam shared with the board the letter the section received from Mr. T. Scott Hickman, the 2008-2009 SPE Foundation President. LASPE was recognized for donating \$1,000 to the SPE Foundation in support of the SPE's Distinguished Lecturer program. LASPE has inspired many other sections to donate to the SPE Foundation.

Western Regional Council: SPE- Los Angeles Basin was awarded \$5450.67 from the Western Regional Board. The amount was determined by how much the SPE scholarship committee awarded to student scholarships and will be mailed to the Section shortly.

Section Activities

Board Meeting Time: We discussed day and time for our monthly meetings. The group decided that before the forum was the best time. We agreed that we would continue to start at 10:30 a.m. and if we had many topics to discuss we would start at 10 a.m. Jalal would like to start the next meeting at 10 a.m.

Petroleum Technology Forum: Kate Wallgren is the new Chairperson, replacing Rick Finken. The board Welcomes Ms. Wallgren.

Outreach-Scott Hara: Scott announced that he will continue to coordinate with Ms. Linda Tiggs-Taylor at CSULB for the High School Energy Day. After coordinating with Ms. Tiggs-Taylor, Scott also announced that it is more feasible to have the Energy Day on a Saturday instead of a Thursday.

Scott is asking everyone to please send an email to Barry Russell, CEO of the IPAA, at brussell@ipaa.org. Mr. Russell is going to work on convincing the College Board to add AP Geology classes to the roster. The courses will allow High School students to earn college credits in Geology. Scott discusses more in detail in October's newsletter.

Bob Visser DVD: Scott recognized Bob Visser on his excellent job on his DVD "Offshore Production Operation". Bob made a couple of copies for Scott who let the board borrow them for our viewing.

LASPE Young Professionals (YP): Candra Janova briefed the Board that there were about 80 students who came down from Colorado School of Mines. The students toured Southern California oilfields as part of their curriculum. The group got together at Yankee Doodle for games of pool and networking. YP group is going to hold one more event before the end of the year.

Chandra would like any ideas from the board in expanding the Young Professional Program. We discussed sending emails of the YP events to all members who qualify; age limit is 35 years or younger. Although the activities target the younger crowd, all ages are welcome to attend the events. The purpose for the program is to continue young membership and increase involvement.

Meeting adjourned.

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Scott W. McGurk
Petroleum Engineering Consultant
LA Basin SPE Jr. Past Chairman
714-403-9839
LOVESM @ IX.NETCOM.COM

DAVID B. DEL MAR
Consulting Petroleum Geologist
California Registered Geologist #634

Development - Thermal EOR - Property Reviews

2027 Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90026

C (323) 219-3804
H (323) 664-3358
dbdelmar@earthlink.net

Please notify SPE Headquarters directly with change of address: P.O. Box 833836, Richardson, TX 75083 Tel: (800) 456-6863 Fax: (972) 952-9435 or go to <http://www.spe.org/mbrservices/index.cfm> We appreciate your feedback. Send your comments/suggestions/contributions to Larry Gilpin, Editor: larry@4thforge.com If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to larry@4thforge.com

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