



## ▶ A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

**SCHOLARSHIP REPORT**

A key component of LASPE's community outreach is our program of scholarships awarded to high school graduates and university students. At the meeting on February 10, 2004, the Board of Directors increased our total scholarship budget to \$8,000. The purpose of LASPE's scholarship program is to encourage students who are pursuing science and engineering curriculums. These scholarships are:

**Mei Chang Memorial Scholarship:** \$500 awards are available to up to four high school graduates entering college in the fall. Mei Chang, a Sr. Research Scientist with Chevron is remembered for her steady contributions to LASPE. The awards are available to children, grandchildren and siblings of LASPE members. The application deadline is April 30, 2004.

**Bruce Davis Memorial Scholarship:** \$1,000 awards are available to up to two students pursuing graduate studies in petroleum related fields (Chemical Engineering included) at USC. Dr. Davis, a 26-year employee of Chevron, considered himself an experimental chemist and wished to encourage students with science backgrounds to pursue a future career in the petroleum industry. The application deadline is April 1, 2004.

**Undergraduate Scholarships:** \$500 scholarships are available to up to four undergraduate college students pursuing petroleum, geology, chemical, mechanical or environmental related engineering curriculums. The application deadline is April 1, 2004.

**Graduate Scholarships:** \$1,000 scholarships are available to up to two college graduate students pursuing their studies or conducting research in energy and petroleum related subjects. The application deadline is April 1, 2004.

Application guidelines and forms are available by logging on to [www.lapse.org](http://www.lapse.org) or by contacting our Scholarship Chairperson, John Yu ([yuj@slc.ca.gov](mailto:yuj@slc.ca.gov)).

It is currently planned to present these awards at our Forum luncheon in May with the exception of the Mei Cheng Memorial Scholarships, which will be awarded in June.

The main funding vehicle for LASPE's scholarship program is our annual Golf Tournament, but funds come from other sources as well. The Bruce Davis family directly funds one of the scholarships awarded in his name. In addition, SPE International reimburses our section for a portion of our awards.

In addition to the above program, the SPE Foundation annually awards the *Gus Archie Memorial Scholarship*, a four-year, \$5,000 annual grant to the outstanding college freshman pursuing an undergraduate degree in petroleum engineering. The application for this scholarship can be found on the SPE website.

LASPE is pleased to make these scholarship awards to encourage careers in our industry and as an added benefit of membership. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters to apply for these scholarships.

Rick Finken, 2003-04 Chairperson  
[richard\\_finken@longbeach.gov](mailto:richard_finken@longbeach.gov)

## ▶ SPE PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY LUNCHEON FORUM

You are all invited to join friends and colleagues on Tuesday, *March 09, 2004* for an Outstanding talk from the Distinguished Lecturer:

**David Norman**

**TOPIC:**

**The Frac-Pack Completion: " Why Has It Become the Standard Strategy for Sand Control?"  
Or "Why It Has Become the Mythical Panacea for Sand Control?"**

**TIME:** 11:30 am      **COST:** \$15.00  
**PLACE:** Long Beach Petroleum Club  
3636 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, CA

**Summary:**

Frac-Packing has gradually become the standard completion technique for cased hole sand control. Originally, the candidates selected for this application

were screened through various qualifying thresholds to help ensure success. With the increase in equipment availability and the broadcasting of successes, the popularity of this technique has increased. Unfortunately, there has been a shortage of individuals that understand the technology to the point of properly applying the technique. Do we have the correct models to mimic the formation properties? How does the wellbore hardware impact the placement and the measurements being made to evaluate the placement? Do the measurements tell us what we need to know, and do they make sense? This presentation will include contrasting thoughts regarding the application of the technique and the problems that can result when it is not properly applied.

### *Biography:*

David Norman is currently a staff research consultant on the Completion Engineering Team in the Production Evaluation and Optimization Unit for the ChevronTexaco E&P. Norman holds a BS degree in chemistry from Mississippi College. He has worked in domestic and international projects in the areas of well construction, completions, well intervention, and production enhancement. His major focus has been on sand control techniques and commercializing frac-pack completion technology.

Norman has co-authored almost 30 technical papers and is currently an editor for the *SPE Journal of Petroleum Technology* feature section "Frac-Packing". He has been a very active member of SPE and is currently a member of the Gulf Coast Section board.

For more details about this forum, check our website at: [www.laspe.org](http://www.laspe.org) or contact Anthony Taglieri at: [Anthony\\_Taglieri@oxy.com](mailto:Anthony_Taglieri@oxy.com)



## ▶ SECTION AWARD NOMINATION

REPORT

We are pleased to announce that Vivian Bust and Scott Hara have been awarded the SPE's Western Region Regional Service Award. This award recognizes exceptional contributions to SPE at the section or regional level. Both our recipients have devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to the programs and the development of our section and region in the past. They both continue to contribute to the success of our program and it's great that they have been recognized with this award.

The award will be conferred at the Western Regional Meeting's Keynote Luncheon on March 17, 2004 (Wednesday) in Bakersfield.

Please join us in congratulating our two awardees.



## ▶ ENGINEERING WEEK

PARTICIPATION by LASPE

On 21 February, LASPE was well represented at the Orange County Engineering Council Awards Banquet by Mr. and Mrs. Raj Upadhyay, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Finken, Dr. Jalal Torabzadeh, Mr. and Mrs. Rich Keller, Rod Kane and Vivian Bust. Dr. Sam Sarem was the Master of Ceremonies and announced the nominations of Rich Keller and Rod Kane as the new Fellows of the Institute for the advancement of Engineering. The venue was the Wynham Hotel in Costa Mesa and the event was sold out at 184. The ceremonies ended early at 9:00 PM and were followed by dancing. Awards presented will be detailed on [www.ocec.org](http://www.ocec.org). The Engineer of the Year Award was named after OCEC's beloved recently deceased Executive Director, James E. Ballinger. It went to Dr. Peter R. Kurzhals Director of Systems Engineering at Boeing NASA System.