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**A Message from the Chair**

Dear fellow SPE members,



The LASPE Section started its Petroleum Technology Forum for this year by a presentation on an interesting and innovative technology to enhance oil production using a modified waterflood and carbon dioxide injection process. The “Powerwave™” Injection Technology presentation by Mr. John Warren of Wavefront’s USA operations attracted more than 40 industry people to the Forum (for details please see October issue of the newsletter). The process discussed in this presentation was an example of how innovative ideas can lead to development of new technologies to improve oil production from some mature oilfields and reduce the residual and bypassed oil. These innovations and related technology developments as well as the technology of process innovations are critically important to our industry in finding and producing the “next trillion barrels of oil”.

Any innovation becomes important if it goes beyond new technology development and product capability and when implemented effectively and economically. This is only achieved through testing and information exchange addressing the ramifications of technological innovation. Developing and implementing any new oilfield technology demands a clear understanding of how the overall process should work to be effective, practical, and economical.

Dissemination of information on new and advanced technology and promotion of effective and practical techniques in economic exploration and production of petroleum resources are among the main objectives of SPE. The oil and gas industry thrives on creating new technology and sharing that knowledge with others. SPE is the main facilitator in exchanging this knowledge and connecting the members of the industry.

In addition to information exchange at local, regional, national and international meetings, conferences, forums and workshops, as well as its many publications, for many years SPE has provided its members *continued on next page . . .*

## A Message from the Chair continues

*Message from the Chair continues...*

with great opportunities with professional networking. Since the best people to answer questions regarding the petroleum industry are those who work in the field, professional networks are effective and interactive outlets in providing SPE members opportunities to communicate with each other through posting questions, discussing views, developing ideas, solving problems, etc.

Here are some examples of Professional Networks (PNs) that SPE provides its members:

- Technical Interest Groups (TIGs) which connect members who are interested in common technical (and non-technical) topics.
- Human Resource Network (HRN) which is an open podium for SPE members to discuss any issue related to the main asset of the industry, “its people”.
- Young Professionals Network (YPN) which is a knowledge center for young professional members transitioning from academia to industry.
- Student Chapters Network provides interaction and information exchange between various SPE student chapters worldwide.
- Petroleum Engineering Educator Network which focuses on developing better understanding of the industry’s training and educational needs by determining how academia in partnership with industry, the service sector, and government can help fill those needs.
- Women’s Network which encourages networking among women members who could benefit from sharing experiences and insights on gender-related issues.

Many new SPE initiatives promote and encourage utilization and collaboration of these networks for the benefit of the members. For example, close interaction of Student Chapters and Young Professionals networks, at global level, has proved to be very effective in technical information exchange, professional development, resource utilization, and membership continuity. The reports and news from the two SPE student chapters in our Section, USC and CSULB, as well as our Section young professionals’ activities presented in this issue of the newsletter are good testaments to this fact.

LASPE will continue to provide the venue and the environment for effective collaboration of the above professional networks. It is only through your participation that this goal can be achieved.

I hope to hear your ideas and see you at this month Petroleum Technology Forum.

Sincerely,

Jalal Torabzadeh

LASPE Chairperson 2008-2009

## LA SPE Petroleum Technology Forum - November 11, 2008

### “Industrial Energy Efficiency Program: California Oil and Gas Production”

The next Petroleum Technology Forum will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, 636 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807. Jason Ruhl and Russell Goold, of Global Energy Partners, will present “Industrial Energy Efficiency Program: California Oil and Gas Production”. Speaker bios follow.

<b>Location:</b> Long Beach Petroleum Club 3636 Linden Avenue Long Beach, CA 90807	<b>Time:</b> Registration: 11:30 AM Buffet Lunch: 12:00 noon Presentation: 12:20-1:00 PM	<b>Cost:</b> \$20.00 members, Free for students.
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#### **Speaker: Jason Ruhl**

A Senior Associate with Global, Mr. Ruhl is the Program Manager for the Industrial Energy Efficiency Program targeted toward oil and gas producers with Southern California Edison. Mr. Ruhl is responsible for all aspects of program design, marketing, implementation, and administration.

Mr. Ruhl has over twelve years of experience in the industrial and energy sectors, including energy efficiency program design, air quality, combustion, industrial steam generation, and market research which includes extensive experience in the industrial combustion and steam generation market.

Prior to joining Global Mr. Ruhl spent ten years with Coen Company, Inc. where he served as both an Engineering Project Manager and a Field Service Project Manager. As an Engineering Project Manager, Mr. Ruhl was responsible for budgets, scheduling, and project documentation as well as the sizing, selection, and specification of gas fired and auxiliary equipment. As a Field Services Project Manager, Mr. Ruhl was provided supervision and technical assistance to Field Service Engineers for the installation and commissioning of gas fired equipment. Mr. Ruhl also has direct experience air emissions monitoring and with combustion setting.

Mr. Ruhl has worked on projects for industrial end users such as Exxon/Mobil, Chevron, Aera Energy, Dow Chemicals, 3M, DuPont, Proctor & Gamble, BASF, General Electric, Calpine Energy, and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Ruhl has also worked as a Senior Field Engineer for Marelich Mechanical on the construction of the Pico Power Plant for Silicon Valley Power, where he supervised site construction activities, monitored daily construction activities, and managed the project close out process to ensure final customer acceptance.

Mr. Ruhl holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from San Francisco State University, and is a registered Professional Engineer with the state of California.

#### **Speaker: Russell Goold**

As a Senior Analyst with Global, Mr. Goold provides program support for energy efficiency programs for government agencies and investor-owned utilities. Responsible for day-to-day customer relations, Mr. Goold coordinates the efforts of participants in utility energy efficiency programs, including educating participants about programs, resolving qualification issues, investigating participant operations and equipment, and managing participant progress.

In the past six years working with oil and gas producers in southern California, Mr. Goold has worked successfully with both small and large producers to take full advantage of financial and technical assistance under the energy efficiency programs.

Prior to joining Global, Mr. Goold was an analyst with the State of California’s solid waste agency and responsible for bringing local jurisdictions into compliance with waste diversion mandates. Previously, Mr. Goold was an environmental representative with Western States Petroleum Association and managed committee efforts between trade association and its members.

Mr. Goold holds a B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from the University of California, Davis.

Katherine Wallgren, Forum Chairperson, [Katherine\\_Wallgren@oxy.com](mailto:Katherine_Wallgren@oxy.com)

## LA SPE Young Professionals

### Go Karting for LASPE Young Professionals



An exciting event is coming to town for LASPE's Young Professionals Group. This time around, we will be heading to Irvine, CA to test our adrenaline at the K1 indoor Go Karting track. They have the fastest public indoor Go Karts in Southern California. There will be medals for the winners. All YP LASPE members are invited to come.

When: Saturday, November 15, 2008 from 11.00 am – 2.00 pm  
Where: K1-Speed Indoor Go Karting  
17221 Von Karman Ave, Irvine, CA 92614  
(949) 250-0242

Good news: No special driving license is required to race at this indoor track.  
Better news: LASPE will cover the cost of Go Karting.  
Best news: It will be lots of fun!!

If you have not received an e-vite and are interested in this activity, please contact me.

Hope to see you there,  
Candra Janova  
LASPE Young Professional Liaison  
candra\_janova@oxy.com

Location:



## USC SPE 2008 ATCE Conference Report

### USC SPE 2008 ATCE Conference Report

The 2008 ATCE conference was held in Denver, Colorado from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2008. This event was marked as a huge success, drawing a record number of professionals and students alike. In total, there were 9,886 attendees, including a record 1,400 students from all over the world.

The University of Southern California and its SPE student chapter were represented at this conference, boasting a good number of both students and professors. Dr. Iraj Ershaghi, Director of the Petroleum Engineering Department at USC, gave a talk about 3D GIS as an Integrated Framework for Drilling Site Location Optimization. The Dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering, Dr. Yannis C. Yortsos, also participated in two technical presentations about Heavy Oil and Thermal Recovery.

The University of Southern California was also honored in the form of an award; PhD student, Karam Al Yateem (left, with Dr. Iraj Ershaghi standing right), was awarded the 2008 SPE Young Member Outstanding Service Award. This honor recognizes an SPE member, under the age of 36, who has made significant contributions in service and has exemplified great leadership abilities within public and community matters, the Society, the petroleum engineering profession and or the petroleum industry in general.

The USC Petroleum Engineering department was also represented on the exhibition floor with an information booth about the Department's degrees and DEN (Distance Education Network) program. The goal of this exhibit was to promote the department and provide insight into the DEN program, a highly respected program which enables students to enroll in Graduate coursework online.

USC's student body was also represented; the Executive Board members from USC attended the Student Chapter Officers workshop to discuss the development and advancement of their student chapter with other student leaders. This activity allowed the EBoard to interact with, and gain insight from, other chapters from across the country; the USC SPE members are currently implementing some of the ideas gained in the hopes of not only bettering their chapter overall but also being recognized as an active and important student chapter. In addition, USC students

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## USC SPE 2008 ATCE Conference Report - continued

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attended the student's general session, the student's technical session, and several different technical talks of interest. . After participating in the daily events of the conference, students also found time to gather for social activities; a late-night diner, a pizza restaurant, and a night out on 16<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Denver provided an atmosphere in which the bonds between USC Petroleum students, who ranged from bachelors to PhD candidates, were formed and then strengthened. All students returned with valuable technical information, important presentation skills, distinguished industry contacts, and new friendships. Moreover, the event provided an opportunity for USC alumni to meet and interact with current and former students and professors.



USC students and Professors benefited tremendously from attending SPE's 2008 ATCE Conference in Denver. The event was a huge success, guaranteeing USC's future participation and hopefully the continued success of the USC Petroleum Department and its Society of Petroleum Engineers student chapter.

LASPE is proud to have sponsored USC student's attendance by helping with travel expenses for eight students.

## CSULB SPE 2008 ATCE Conference Report

### News from CSULB SPE Student Chapter:

Our student chapter had the pleasure to send two SPE officers to the 2008 ATCE in Denver, Colorado courtesy of LASPE. SPE Vice Chair Daniel Aleman and SPE Treasurer Tigran Akopian, had the opportunity to network and brainstorm with other officers and chairpersons from SPE chapters all around the globe to help develop ideas and techniques useful in strengthening our home chapter. The ATCE displayed an abundance of new technologies and great opportunities in the diverse field of energy in general and oil and gas in particular which proved to be a very memorable experience.



Student Dinner and Speaker at Hyatt Hotel



CSULB SPE Officers at ATCE Expo

## Western Regional Meeting

The SPE Golden Gate Section will be hosting the 2009 SPE Western Regional Meeting at the Double Tree Hotel in San Jose, California, on March 24-26. The theme for the meeting is "New Solution for Maximizing Recovery and Value". If you have any questions regarding our meeting, you can contact: General Chair Jerry Hale [jerryhale@chevron.com](mailto:jerryhale@chevron.com), Laurent Pianelo Vice-Chair [lpnl@chevron.com](mailto:lpnl@chevron.com), Khalid Aziz Program Chair [aziz@stanford.edu](mailto:aziz@stanford.edu), Karlene Kelly, the SPE Staff primary contact [kkelley@spe.org](mailto:kkelley@spe.org)

## MESA Students from Central Valley Tour LBU's Island White

Twenty-five middle school students and chaperones from the central valley towns of Mendota and Los Banos in California drove to Long Beach on Election Day to visit the Long Beach Unit before heading on to Catalina Island the next day for a three-day Marine Institute science camp. The City of Long Beach Gas and Oil Department and LBU Contractor, THUMS Long Beach Company, a subsidiary of Oxy Long Beach, Inc, hosted the group, which was organized by the California Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program at CSU Fresno.

After a short boat ride to Island White, tour guides Tim Brix and Rick Finken (LBGO) and Candra Janova (THUMS) walked the group around showing them well cellars, drilling and production rigs and the Island's production and injection equipment.

At one point, the students had the opportunity to learn first hand just how heavy a 3 1/2 " drill bit is. The answer – very heavy! The group also saw the Island's waterfall up close. Afterwards, Tidelands Oil Production Company treated the students and teachers to dinner at The Pizza Place Restaurant in Long Beach. The students told Scott Hara, their host that evening, how thrilled they were to take the boat ride, and see the oil operation. They were impressed and surprised how clean and nice the facilities looked. Scott later took them to see the Island Grissom waterfall from the shore – working and lit with floodlights.



## LASPE Energy Day

Mark Saturday morning March 28, 2009 on your calendars for our Los Angeles Basin Section Energy Day at CSU Long Beach. We will be collaborating with the CSULB College of Engineering and the California Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program on campus to encourage 350-500 high school students into math, engineering and science majors in college and to make them and their 25-30 teachers more aware of energy and our environment.

The students are scheduled to be on campus for their Preliminary High School MESA Day, which involves taking practice SAT tests and then competing in hands-on science projects that they make, such as packaged egg drops off the top of the engineering building, speech contests, results of crystal building lab work, creating models of the heart, and building mousetrap-powered cars, balsawood gliders, and trebuchets. The top three students in each event move on to MESA Regional contests the next month.

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## LASPE Energy Day continues

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Our goal is to enhance their program and we will need 20-30 volunteers for a variety of tasks:

- 1) Judges for the contests and test proctors. Judges will need to schedule a training session on campus beforehand
- 2) Technical presentations or poster sessions on our oil and gas operations, energy basics, environment and safety issues, and alternative energies
- 3) Hands-on science demonstrations related to energy, environment and safety
- 4) Young engineers and current engineering students to discuss life at college, suggested high school courses to prepare for engineering and science majors in college, what engineers do, and benefits of working for energy companies.

This event should be a lot of fun and you'll get to be acquainted with local teachers and students from our surrounding communities. If you are interested in participating, please contact Scott Hara from Tidelands Oil Production Company at [scott\\_hara@oxy.com](mailto:scott_hara@oxy.com) or call him at 562-495-9351 (Work) or 626-482-6757 (Cell). Jalal Torabzadeh, our LASPE Chair and professor of Mechanical Engineering at CSULB, is the College of Engineering – LASPE liaison for this event.

MESA is a program that is run out of the UC Office of the President. MESA helps prepare over 23,000 educationally disadvantaged students from grades K-16 to qualify for and graduate from four-year universities with degrees in the math and sciences. MESA is one of the most cost-effective and successful programs in the nation. Scott Hara is a statewide board of director of MESA. You can learn more about MESA or review the competition rules at <http://mesa.ucop.edu>.

## Positions Available



Chevron Corporation is one of the world's leading energy companies. Headquartered in San Ramon, California, and conducting business in approximately 180 countries, the company is engaged in every aspect of the oil and natural gas industry, including exploration and production; refining, marketing and transportation; chemicals manufacturing and sales; and power generation. Chevron Corporation is one of the world's leading energy companies. Headquartered in San Ramon, California, and conducting business in approximately 180 countries, the company is engaged in every aspect of the oil and natural gas industry, including exploration and production; refining, marketing and transportation; chemicals manufacturing and sales; and power generation.

Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company is accepting online applications for a Research Scientist – Reservoir Geomechanics, reference number: 032211880.

The Research Scientist – Reservoir Geomechanics will be a member of Chevron Energy Technology Company's Rock Mechanics Team, which conducts strategic research and technology development, as well as provides technical services to worldwide business units in all areas of petroleum geomechanics. The technical focus of this specific position encompasses both reservoir geomechanics and laboratory testing. Reservoir geomechanics issues include compaction/subsidence on a large scale and formation compressibility and permeability behavior on a local scale. Laboratory testing involves planning and oversight of in-house and external rock mechanics testing programs and development of new testing techniques.

### **Required Qualifications:**

- A minimum of a Master's Degree in Petroleum / Geological Engineering, Rock/Soil Mechanics, or related discipline.
- A minimum of 3 years of directly related experience.
- Broad rock/soil mechanics knowledge.
- Familiarity with rock/soil compaction and creep behavior.
- Laboratory rock/soil testing experience.

### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- A Ph.D. Degree in Petroleum / Geological Engineering, Rock/Soil Mechanics, or related discipline.

Relocation may be considered within Chevron parameters.

Interested candidates apply on-line to Job URL: <https://www.chevron.apply2jobs.com>, Requisition #032211880.

Company URL: [www.chevron.com](http://www.chevron.com)

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