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## A Message from the Chair

Dear Los Angeles Basin SPE Members,

I am honored to be the Chairperson of the Los Angeles Basin SPE for the next year. As many of you know, I accepted the Vice-Chair position this year, but the unexpected departure of in-coming Chairperson Rod Kane forced me to ascend to the Chair position a year early. I want to thank Rod for his SPE efforts over the last year and wish Rod the very best in his new job in Bakersfield. I would also like to thank Pat Shuler, last years Chairperson, for all the dedicated, hard work he did in promoting the LA SPE, leading our many activities, and keeping the section strong. Congratulations to Brandy Fellers, a recently added Director, on being appointed Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.

I expect most of the LA SPE activities to continue as before. Our monthly Forum program has been successful in providing cutting-edge technical information, updates about our industry, and a focus on where we are heading. We will continue to provide education opportunities to members through LA SPE sponsored workshops. I am pleased that Rudy Weibel has agreed to chair our section's efforts in this area. We will continue our various out-reach programs, working with school-aged children to promote an interest in engineering and the sciences. And we will grant many scholarship awards to deserving high school seniors and college students.

LA SPE Basin activities are only possible because 1) people volunteer to get involved and 2) we raise the necessary funds to finance our activities. One of my main goals as this year's Chairperson will be to get more people involved. In particular, I plan to focus on getting many of the newly-hired, young engineers to take active roles in our section. The future of the SPE and our industry lies with these young people. Our main fund-raising event is our annual golf tournament and we are again fortunate to have Mark Shemaria lead this event.

Finally, this upcoming year is expected to be an incredible opportunity for promoting our industry. The national American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the SPE International Annual Technical Conference and Exhibit are both in Southern California in 2007. This will make 2007 a very busy year for us. I ask everyone to think about how you can participate and contribute.

Scott McGurk  
Chairperson, SPE Los Angeles Basin Section

## LA SPE Petroleum Technology Forum - October 10, 2006

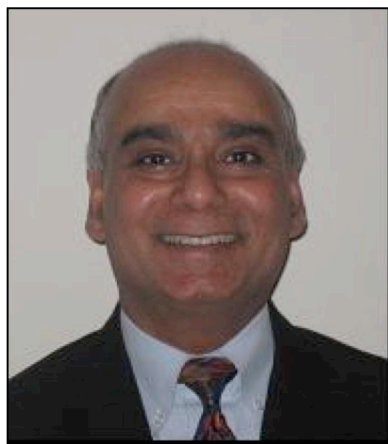
### “Heavy Oil Recovery – Recent Developments and Challenges”

The LASPE Monthly Petroleum Technology Forum next meets Tuesday October 10, 2006 at the Long Beach Petroleum Club. Dr. Mridul Kumar, Distinguished Lecturer of Chevron Energy Technology Co. will present “Heavy Oil Recovery – Recent Developments and Challenges.” A complete abstract and bio is provided below.

<u>Location:</u> Long Beach Petroleum Club 3636 Linden Avenue Long Beach, CA 90807	<u>Time:</u> Registration: 11:30 AM Buffet Lunch: 12:00 noon Presentation: 12:15-1:00 PM	<u>Cost:</u> \$20.00, students are our guests.
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#### Abstract:

Heavy oil and extra heavy oil production, currently about 2.8 MMBPD, has been increasing in recent years and is expected to grow even further in the future because of expected supply shortfall in conventional oil and an abundance of relatively large and known deposits of heavy oil. Heavy oil is commercially produced by primary recovery, water injection, and thermal Enhanced Oil Recovery methods. A majority of the recent primary production is in Venezuela’s Orinoco belt. Long horizontal wells (IPs over 1,000 BOPD) and upgrading have made these projects possible. Waterflood has been conducted successfully in a few high viscosity reservoirs in the past, and several projects are currently ongoing and planned around the world. Incremental recovery of ~2% to 20% OOIP have been reported. Steam injection is the most widely applied EOR method. A majority of the steam injection projects are in California, Canada, Indonesia and Venezuela. Recovery can approach 20% for cyclic steaming and over 50% for continuous steam injection. Novel methods such as solvent injection and hybrid methods are being tested for heavy oil recovery, where steam may not be the best option. These are in the experimental stage with commerciality to be demonstrated. This presentation highlights recent developments and advances and challenges in each of the heavy oil recovery methods.



Dr. Mridul Kumar,  
Distinguished Lecturer  
Chevron Energy Technology  
Co.

#### Biography:

Mridul Kumar is a Team Leader of the Heavy Oil and Unconventional Reservoirs team at Chevron Energy Technology Co. in Houston, Texas. He also leads Chevron’s Heavy Oil Network. Dr. Kumar has contributed to Chevron’s heavy oil projects worldwide and has led development and deployment of technologies for heavy oil recovery and IOR processes. He has co-authored 44 papers and holds four patents. Dr. Kumar holds a B.Tech. (with distinction) from the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur, and M.S. and Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University, all in mechanical engineering. He is a member of the SPE Editorial Review Committee and ATC Reservoir Engineering subcommittee. He served on the program committees of SPE 2005 ATW on Heavy Oil Development and 2006 IOR Symposium. He was the Chairperson of the SPE Golden Gate Section (2001-02) and General Co-chairman of 1997 SPE International Thermal Operations and Heavy Oil Symposium. Kumar is a recipient of 2002 SPE Western Region Technical Achievement Award.

## SPE 2006 Annual Technical Conference and Exhibit

Several members of the Los Angeles SPE section attended the **2006 SPE ATCE** held in San Antonio from September 23 to 27. The exhibit hall (see photo) shows that the industry has definitely completed a turn-around. Many ATCE events were sponsored by large corporations willing to spend generously to promote SPE activities, as well as their companies. 2006 President Eve Sprunt held the President's Reception on Monday afternoon. A group of the LA SPE members were fortunate to have Eve join us for a group photo. Eve did a great job throughout the last year in guiding the SPE during one of its most amazing growth periods. Worldwide SPE membership has now exceeded 70,000. According to Jalal Torabzadeh of CSULB, our donation of funds allowed three Long Beach students to attend the ATCE.

The technical sessions covered a wide variety of exploitation, operations, and facilities issues. SPE student chapters from all over the world were involved in poster sessions and were highlighted in the student technical papers. I estimate that 300-500 students attended. In talks with the universities, it was not uncommon to hear of freshman class sizes of 100 to 200, and BS graduating classes of 30 to 50. One professor told me his best BS student was offered a \$90,000 base with a \$25,000 signing bonus. Another professor said it was difficult to keep the seniors focused on their last classes, because so many already had lucrative job packages. The pendulum has swung back.



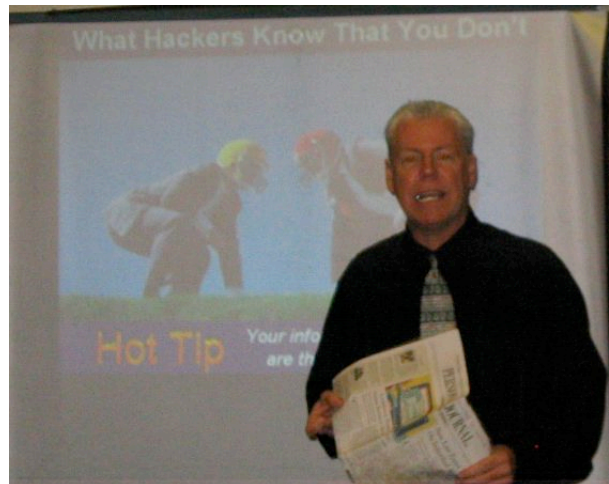
## Board and Forum Report for September 2006

### Board and Forum Report

The Board of Directors regular monthly meeting convened at 10:20 AM at the Petroleum Club on September 19, 2006. Highlights follow:

- Treasurer's Report: LASPE's 2006 – 2007 draft budget will be available for review soon.
- It was reported that nominations for open Board Positions (Brandy Fellers and Jack Smith) and for the position of Chairperson (Scott McGurk) are approved in accordance with the by-laws. Terms will begin on October 1, 2006. The Board also approved Brandy Fellers for the open position of Vice-Chairperson.
- Rudy Weibel agreed to take on the position of Continuing Education Chairperson. Scott McGurk will pass on his work in setting up a one-day course on turbidite reservoirs in the LA Basin.
- Scott Hara reported on the recent conference call with SPE National concerning LASPE support of the 2007 ATCE in Anaheim. SPE is seeking volunteer assistance at the meeting. It was suggested that students would best provide this. Plans for a concurrent LASPE golf tournament are progressing well. The community outreach and education opportunities the meeting provides were also discussed briefly.
- Eight LASPE Members have received Legion of Honor Awards. It is planned to invite these members to the October or November meetings to receive their awards. It is also planned to schedule scholarship awards for the October or November meetings.

The Board meeting was followed by the Monthly Petroleum Technology Forum featuring Jim Kelton, president of Altius Information Technologies who presented "What Hackers Know That You Don't," a very interesting talk on the current state of computer security. Jim discussed some of the new ways companies secure vital information. One interesting item was learning that hackers are usually very active the Wednesday morning following the regular Microsoft patch distribution. The point being that if you don't have the automatic updates, you are at greater risk.



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

This year's  
**Annual Classic LA SPE Charity Golf Tournament**  
is on May 18

To participate or help by volunteering

Contact Mark Shemaria  
Tidelands Oil Production Company  
(562) 495-9392 direct (562) 495-1950 fax  
(562) 244-3532 cell

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