



▶ A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

A chair with a view:

On October 1, Raj Upadhyay will take up the position of Section Chairperson. He is a long-time SPE member and has been serving as Section Secretary and Board Member. Raj will have a good overall view of the petroleum industry in the Los Angeles Basin and will get a good sense of which companies are active and which are not. The LASPE Chair gets to know many industry people who would be missed by maintaining a career within a single organization.

In general, serving as a volunteer in any organization takes extra time, but it can be time well spent if it is done right. And done right, it can be a good career move.

I have very much enjoyed my one-year tenure and am pleased with the Section's accomplishments this past year. Volunteer members who gave their time and energy and enjoyed the effort are the people who made these accomplishments possible. Highlights of the year included a successful Forum Program, good elementary school outreach at Mabel Paine Elementary School in Yorba Linda and at the International School in Long Beach, an increase in scholarship awards, continued support of the COMET program, financial and volunteer judging support for LA area High School Science Fairs, and more continuous updating of our www.laspe.org website. Continuation and expansion of these programs requires funding which has been provided for in the upcoming year by a very successful golf tournament this past June.

A special highlight was the receipt of the Society's Regional Service Award by Vivian Bust and Scott Hara in recognition of their long and steady service to the Society in general and the Los Angeles Section in particular. This fine recognition was awarded at the Thermal Recovery Conference this past March in Bakersfield.

The last event of the 2003-2004 program year takes place on September 14, 2004 at the Long Beach Petroleum Club. This is our regular Monthly Forum featuring Jim Leslie's informative talk on advances in composite drill pipe technologies. Successful application of these technologies will reduce string weights and cut costs. Low cost innovations have been a major contributor to increased ultimate recovery in the LA Basin.

The September Forum will also feature scholarship awards to college students at USC and CSULB. LASPE is proud to make these awards and to support both schools' SPE Student Chapters. Our Scholarship Chair and next Vice-Chair, John Yu, plans to expand the scholarship program next year with better outreach to local high schools to increase their awareness of the availability of LASPE scholarships to students pursuing engineering and science careers.

The Section's 2004-2005 program year is shaping up. Most of the Forum dates have been filled and our new program chair, Maryam Davari, is working to fill the rest. We have three new board members; Pat Shuler, Scott McGurk and Allan Spivak who will be contributing time and energy to continue past successes.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this past year so enjoyable. If you are not active in the operations of LASPE, contact us and consider joining in as a community service opportunity and as a good career move.

Rick Finken
LASPE Chairperson 2003- 2004

Join us next Tuesday, September 14, 2004, for a Special Petroleum Technology Forum:

“COMPOSITE DRILL PIPE OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DRILLING OPERATIONS”

Presented by:

**Dr. James C. Leslie
CEO, ACPT Inc.**

DATE: 09/14/04
REGISTRATION: 11:30 am
LUNCH; 12:00 pm
COST: \$15.00
PLACE: Long Beach Petroleum Club
 3636 Linden Avenue,
 Long Beach, CA 90807

Summary

Extended Reach and Deep Water Drilling are constrained by the weight of the steel drill pipe. Transfer of data between the bottom hole assembly and the wellhead is currently cumbersome, slow, and less precise than desired. Recognizing these limitations, the US. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, has funded programs to develop and qualify a cost-effective composite drill pipe (Contract No. DE-FC26-99FT40262). This lightweight composite drill pipe (CDP) will provide enabling capability in all three of these areas. The program was started on September 30, 1999. To date, a six-inch diameter CDP meeting the essential criteria necessary for Extended Reach and Deep Water Drilling Operations has been demonstrated. This CDP, in 30-foot sections, is approximately 1/2 the weight of its steel counterpart. The program is currently proceeding with final proof testing of this CDP and is beginning a reduction to practice effort on an “in-the-wall” data transmission system. As a spin off of the above effort, development of two and one half inch CDP, qualified for short radius (horizontal well) drilling, is complete to the point that it has undergone substantial field trials and is now being used commercially. This paper presents the details and current status of these development efforts.

Biography

Dr. Leslie holds a BS from Penn State and MS and PhD from Ohio State, all in Chemical Engineering.

Since 1964 he has been involved with the development and manufacturing of advanced composite structures. Between 1964 and 1978, while working with Hercules, Inc., he participated in the directed fabrication of first structural graphite composites to fly on an aircraft and to be utilized on a satellite. He was instrumental in the application of graphite in sporting goods. He is the founder and CEO of ACPT, Inc. ACPT is internationally recognized for its excellence in developing and manufacturing advanced composite structures and hardware. ACPT has pioneered in the transfer of aerospace design and manufacturing technology to commercial applications and is currently developing composite drill pipe for the oil and gas industry.

Dr. Leslie has published 30 papers and has spoken extensively on the subject of Advanced Composites. He is internationally recognized for his knowledge and experience in this area. He has been a very active member in both SAMPE and The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and is now serving a term on the Board of Directors of SME. He has also served two terms as an advisor to the Composites Manufacturing Association of SME. and has been honored by SME through the awarding of the level of Fellow Member and the Jud Hall Award.

For more information please contact:

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**▶ NEW OFFICERS
AND DIRECTORS**

**MEET
THEM** 

As of October 1, 2004, your LASPE will be led by a new Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and three new directors will be welcomed to the board. Here are short biographies of our new leadership:

Raj Upadhyay, Chairperson (2004-05)

Raj is a consultant in international energy development, retiring from UNOCAL in 2000 after 32 years. He is past Chairman, SPE Reservoir Engineering Committee, and was a member of the SPE Editorial Review Committee. He helped organize the first major SPE conference in India in 1998. Raj has served as a director and secretary of LASPE and has been a member of SPE since 1965.

John Yu, Vice-Chairperson (2004-05)

Dr. Yu is a Petroleum Reservoir Engineer with the California State Lands Commission in Long Beach, a position he has held since 1998. He has held positions with Bechtel at Elk Hills and at the University of West Virginia as an assistant Professor and with the training and consulting firm, IHRDC in Boston. He has been a member of SPE since 1976 and is served on LASPE's Board of Directors and is Scholarship Chairperson.

Pat Shuler, Director (2004-05)

Dr. Shuler is a member of the research staff at Cal Tech's Power, Environmental and Energy Research (PEER) Center in Covina where he coordinates and directs research projects related to oil and gas production. He has been a member of SPE since 1978 and has co-authored about a dozen technical papers/presentations for SPE meetings over the years.

Scott McGurk, Director (2004-07)

Scott is Engineering Technical Advisor for Plains Exploration and Production in Los Angeles, leading and working on projects for the Inglewood, East Beverly Hills, San Vicente, South Salt Lake, and Montebello fields. He is also responsible for managing in-house engineering databases and engineering staff training and is the SPE and PTTC coordinator for PXP in Los Angeles. Scott's industry experience also includes independent consulting and 16 years in reservoir engineering for Unocal and Exxon. Scott has been an active SPE member since 1977. He reviewed ranked abstracts, and co-chaired Reservoir sessions at the last two Western Regional Meetings in Long Beach.

Allan Spivak: Director (2004-07)

Dr. Spivak is a reservoir engineer at Plains Exploration and Production in Los Angeles. His industry experience includes employment with Shell, BP-Amoco, Chevron Oilfield Research, Scientific Software-Intercomp, and as an independent consultant in California. He has been a member of SPE for over 30 years and has served as a session chairman at various local and national SPE meetings. He has authored and co-authored technical papers published in JPT and other SPE publications. Dr. Spivak teaches classes in reservoir engineering and reservoir simulation in the Petroleum Engineering department at USC.

**▶ WEST COAST
PTTC WORKSHOP**

INVITATION

Don't miss the opportunity to attend the interesting workshop that West Coast PTTC has prepared for this month:

**“Revitalizing California Mature Oil Fields:
Incentives, Opportunities and Challenges”**

Thursday, September 23, 2004
Hyatt Valencia Conference Center,
24500 Town Center Drive, Valencia CA

Registration starts at 8:30 am

In this workshop a new assessment done for the U.S. Department of Energy about the remaining reserves in California Oilfields will be presented. This will be followed by a unique presentation about the significant opportunities that UBD can offer to extend the life of mature fields in California. Other presentations will include case studies of micro-hole drilling and evaluation methods for locating by-passed hydrocarbons.

For more information go to: www.westcoastpttc.org

Please notify SPE Headquarters directly with change of address: P.O. Box 833836, Richardson, TX 75083 or spe.org Tel: (800) 456-6863 Fax: (972) 952-9435

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