

TU Petroleum Engineering Newsletter

December 2003

In this newsletter, I would like to discuss TUCoRE (TU Center of Research Excellence), which is funded by ChevronTexaco. TU has a long history of industry sponsored research since the inception of TUDRP (TU Drilling Research Projects) starting in 1967. These research consortia are supported by many member companies, and the selection of the projects depends on the priorities indicated by member companies. TUCoRE is unique, because within the nucleus of TUCoRE, potential research projects are evaluated based on ChevronTexaco's current research needs. The research projects are proposed by ChevronTexaco champion and supported by TU faculty member with appropriate expertise. If approved, the project moves out of nucleus, and if appropriate, other industry partners may join in the effort. The resulting technology is then transferred to business units within ChevronTexaco for integration into industry operations. In addition to research, the nucleus of TUCoRE will also provide summer internships and support of honors program for undergraduate students, and graduate scholarships.

So far, ChevronTexaco has committed \$ 2 million to the TUCoRE effort. The research projects currently funded are largely driven by deep water production challenges. They include Multiphase Flow in High Viscosity Systems and Multiphase Dispersion Characterization. The facilities for both the research projects have been operational over a year, and the results have already started to flow in. Without a question, TUCoRE is a fresh approach to Petroleum research, where companies fund directed research projects, which provide medium term, tangible benefits to the companies. Just like TU did it in 1967 with the establishment of first Petroleum Consortium in drilling, we hope that TUCoRE will pave a new way of building a bridge between the Universities and the oil companies.

Other News

Since our last newsletter, we have had two alumni functions. We held one in Houston on November 5th at University Club near Galleria. More than thirty alumni attended the function. We like to thank both Mike Wiley of Baker Hughes and Lisa Stewart of Apache Corporation for sponsoring the event. For pictures of the function, please visit: http://www.pe.utulsa.edu/news/images_Alumni_func_houston/index.html. We also held another alumni function in Calgary on November 25th at Marriott Hotel, Downtown Calgary. Although the group was small, the conversation was lively, and the function extended well beyond the deadline of 7:00 p.m. We would like to thank Guy Turcotte of Western Oil Sands for supporting the event.

Now for the alumni of the month

Alumni of the Month

This month's alumni of the month is Mike Wiley of Baker Hughes, Inc. After graduating from TU in 1972, Mr. Wiley joined Atlantic Richfield Company as a petroleum engineer. When ARCO formed a new, publicly traded, company, Vastar Resources, Inc., Mr. Wiley served as Chairman, President and CEO of Vastar Resources, Inc till 1998. From 1998 through May 2000, Mr. Wiley served as President and Chief Operating Officer of ARCO. After the merger of ARCO with BP, since August 2000, Mr. Wiley has been serving as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Baker Hughes. Mr. Wiley is also director of Spinnaker Exploration and the American Petroleum Institute, and serves on the Advisory Board of Riverstone Holdings LLC.

Since leaving TU, Mr. Wiley has been an ardent supporter of TU. He has served on Petroleum Engineering Advisory Board for several years, including as a chairman of the Board. Currently, he is serving on the Board of Trustees at the University of Tulsa. For more on Mr. Wiley, visit: http://www.pe.utulsa.edu/people/alum_mon_dec_03.html.

Thanks for your comments and suggestions, and as the end of year nears, I wish to all of you a very prosperous and happy new year.

Mohan