

## **TU Petroleum Engineering Newsletter**

### **July 2004**

Summer is a slow time at the University with most of the undergraduate students gone, and the faculty taking time to travel to attend meetings and to develop research contacts. Over the last two weeks, I had an opportunity to visit Calgary, Canada and three countries in the Middle East – U.A.E, Qatar, and Oman. Although we did not have time to organize alumni functions in these places, I still took the opportunity to meet as many alumni as I could. I am always fascinated by the affinity the alumni show to the University, and by extension to me, after so many years after graduation. It is always fun to reminisce with them, and get their perspective on what can be done to improve our current program.

Speaking of improving our program, I am happy to announce the research grant received by Dr. Gaoming Li, our latest faculty hire. Dr. Li joined us last fall, and was successful in receiving a two year research grant from American Chemical Society (ACS). The research deals with recovery of attic oil using huff-n-puff gas injection. It is expected that this work will enhance our fundamental understanding of the Huff and Puff recovery mechanisms and the counter-current flow in other petroleum reservoir processes, such as gas storage in aquifers, steam-assisted-gravity drainage, and primary and secondary migration of hydrocarbons.

Our Department has always prided itself in being very active in many areas of research in Petroleum Engineering. Dr. Li has added a new area of research in our already diverse program. I hope that you will join me in congratulating in his success.

Now on to the alumnus of the month...

### **Alumni of the Month**

This month's alumnus of the month is Somporn Vongvuthipornchai. Somporn obtained his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Tulsa. After graduating from TU in 1985, he went back to Thailand and joined the Department of Mineral Resources of Thailand as a Petroleum Engineer. He then joined Thailand's National Oil Company, PTT Exploration and Production plc., in 1991, serving in various areas including Corporate Planning, New Ventures, Economics and Commercial, and Human Resources Development. After spending 6 years in charge of Business Development of new opportunities for the Company, both domestically and in the region, in 2001 he was promoted to VP, Strategy and Capability Development. His current position is VP, Geosciences, where he looks after groups of geoscientists and reservoir engineers. For more on Somporn, please visit:

[http://www.pe.utulsa.edu/people/alum\\_mon\\_july\\_04.html](http://www.pe.utulsa.edu/people/alum_mon_july_04.html)

Keep sending me your comments, suggestions and criticisms.

Mohan