

TU Petroleum Engineering Newsletter

October 2006

We are in the second month of the semester. The number of freshmen students has gone down a bit, but it is still hovering around eighty five. In total, with transfer students and new students, we have over 185 undergraduate students enrolled in Petroleum Engineering program. We are the largest program in the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. In addition, we also have about 50 graduate students. With the increased enrollment, our undergraduate computer lab is very crowded and I expect that our labs will also be crowded very soon. We need to develop a plan very quickly so that we will not compromise the quality of education in our program. We will be working actively towards that goal – with input from our Industrial Advisory Board as well as our alumni.

At the beginning of this month, we were visited by ABET Evaluation Team. Last time ABET visited was in 2000. We had received six year accreditation at that time. Because of the new way ABET is evaluating the programs, we were concerned how our process is going to be accepted by ABET. Fortunately, the ABET team liked our feed back process to improve the program. Although we have not received an official letter from ABET regarding the visit, we expect that we will get full six years accreditation this time as well. I want to thank Stefan Miska and Mauricio Prado – two of our faculty members – who took the leadership role in shaping our ABET report. I also would like to thank the entire faculty for taking ownership in ABET preparation and providing timely submissions of various reports. A special thanks to Ron Hinn – who spared an entire day for us a few years ago and explained the whole process to us which made it easier for us to go through the process and report it.

In memoriam: This month, we heard news about the passing of Jack Combes. Jack, who graduated from TU with a degree in Petroleum Engineering in 1951, worked for Chevron for over 39 years. Jack's devotion to the welfare of the PE program was unparalleled. He initiated the Jack Combes Scholarship for PE students many years ago, and religiously contributed to that scholarship every year. For the last two years, he requested that his children contribute to TU in lieu of birthday and Father's day gifts. We will sorely miss his love for The University of Tulsa. If you would like to donate money in his memory, you may designate your gift payable to the John Combes Scholarship Fund. You may mail the check to Reta and she will take it to the Institutional Advancement office for depositing.

Now to the alumnus of the month:

This month's alumnus is Dan Bradley. After receiving an honorable discharge from Army, Dan received a BS degree in Biochemistry and a PhD in Physical Chemistry from Michigan State University. He joined the faculty at Montana Tech in Butte, Montana in 1979 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. While teaching, he became interested in Petroleum Engineering and obtained a BS in 1982 from Montana Tech and went on to obtain an MS at the University of Tulsa in 1983. Returning to Montana Tech he held a

number of administrative and teaching positions (Interim Dean of Students, Director of International Programs, Department Head, Dean) culminating with his appointment as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research in 1998. His research interests center on flow in porous media and the thermodynamics of high temperature salt solutions, and have resulted in a number of publications in scientific and engineering journals. He also has devoted considerable time in developing better educational techniques.

Dan Bradley became President of Fairmont State University in February of 2001. Since that time he has focused on developing the campus infrastructure and its new graduate programs. He currently serves on the ABET Board of Directors and will be its Treasurer starting in November 2006. For more on Dan, please see:

http://www.pe.utulsa.edu/people/alum_mon_oct_06.html

Keep sending me your comments, suggestions and criticisms. – Mohan