

TU Petroleum Engineering Newsletter

March 2007

On February 28th, we organized a career fair for our undergraduate and graduate students. Based on past experience, I realized that many oil companies visit campus during the fall semester, but rarely, if anyone, visits us during the spring semester. Many of our freshmen students are just getting their feet wet during the first fall semester, so without any GPA or significant addition to their high school resume, it is difficult for them to find a summer job. We also have some students who are upper classmen who have not landed a job as yet. To give these students an opportunity to talk to industry people, we organized the job fair in the evening. Since this was our first year, we invited about twenty companies to participate. To our surprise, ten companies accepted our invitation (Cimarex Energy, Apache Corporation, Helmerich & Payne, Kaiser-Francis Oil Company, Mid-Con Energy Corporation, Marathon Oil Corporation, Nadel and Gussman, Newfield Exploration Company, Petrobras, and Williams Energy). The event lasted from 7:00 p.m. to about 9:30 p.m. Approximately fifty students – appropriately dressed – came to the event. The career fair was limited to petroleum engineering students, providing a great opportunity for students to talk to various companies and learn about their operations. It was also a perfect opportunity for people in the industry, even those who are not currently hiring, to meet the students who will be moving up through our program. I believe it was a great success. Although I do not have the exact numbers, several students have told me that they landed a summer job based on their conversations at the career fair. I want to thank all of the companies who participated in the career fair. I realize that the biggest hiring push occurs in the fall semester, so we really appreciate the extra effort you made to spend the evening with us. The students greatly appreciated the interaction (and the small gifts!). Based on your experience this year, we definitely want to expand the career fair next year. If you have any ideas as to how we can improve the quality of the fair, we would love to hear from you. In addition, if you or your company is interested in hiring an intern for the coming summer and still have not found the right people, please let me know and I would be happy to send you the resumes of students who are still seeking a summer internship.

In other news, Chevron Energy Technology Company (CETC) awarded a \$190,000 grant to Dr. Al Reynolds for studying the utility of ensemble Kalman filter (EnKF) in matching production and seismic data using simulation models and forecasting the future performance for reservoir optimization. EnKF have been widely used in atmospheric science, and have recently found application in Petroleum Engineering. The overriding goal of this project is to develop algorithms which retain the computational efficiency of EnKF yet overcome limitations of current reservoir characterization implementations of EnKF which sometimes encounter difficulties for matching highly nonlinear data (*e.g.*, water breakthrough times and water cut data) and for highly non-Gaussian underlying geological models such as fluvial systems defined by multi-point statistics. The project will start this month.

We do not have an Alumnus of the Month for March, but will return with that feature in April. Keep sending your comments.

Mohan