



Los Angeles Basin Section Society of Petroleum Engineers

A recipient of SPE President's Award for Section Excellence

A Message from the Chair

LASPE's Crew Change



This is my last "From the Chair" column. Appropriately, my subject this time is the crew change of the officers and Board of Directors of the LASPE.

Replacing me in the Chair is Dr. Eric Withjack. I have known Eric for a long time, going back to when he joined Unocal Research. Eric is continuing a long and successful career in the oil and gas industry. He is currently Vice President of Technology for PTS Laboratories, Inc. He is based in Santa Fe Springs, but travels worldwide in support of his clients. He provides corporate-wide technical leadership in core analysis methods based on over 30 years of experience in the upstream oil and gas industry.

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PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY FORUM PROGRAM, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

The next Petroleum Technology Forum will be joint meeting with the CCCOGP, held on Wednesday, September 21st, 2011 at the Grand Long Beach. The speaker will be Scott Mitchell from Kern Oil and Refining Company. Abstract and speaker bio follow on page 5.

<p><u>Location:</u> The Grand Long Beach 4101 E. Willow Long Beach, CA</p>	<p><u>Time:</u> Registration: Reservation Required Buffet Lunch: 11:30 AM Presentation: 12:00-1:00 PM</p>	<p><u>Cost:</u> \$20.00 members, \$25.00 non-members,</p>
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www.LASPE.org

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Eric's experiences include Cities Service Oil and Gas, ARCO Oil and Gas, and Unocal Corporation, performing reservoir engineering and simulation, core analysis, and laboratory studies to optimize oil recovery. At ARCO, Eric was a pioneer in the application of x-ray computed Tomography (CT) for the oil industry, making a significant new step forward in understanding rock fabric and how to improve oil extraction in reservoir rock. Eric worked for Baker Atlas/Geoscience (Houston) developing new technologies and integrating cross-well seismic data with reservoir characterization. Upon returning to SoCal and prior to joining PTS, he performed consulting for Plains Resources, and reservoir engineering for Breitburn Energy.

Eric holds a B.S. from Norwich Univ., an M.S. from Syracuse Univ., and a Ph.D. from Rutgers (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering). Besides his work for SPE, he also serves as a California Regional Director for the Society of Core Analysts.

Normally, LASPE elects two new Directors each year. This year, due to resignations and other issues, we found ourselves with four vacancies on the Board. Past Chair Vanessa Perez headed a Nominations Committee to identify candidates for those four positions. She invited all the members of LASPE to express their interest and submit their qualifications. The results were a happy surprise: eleven people were interested and enthusiastic enough about LASPE activities to submit resumes.

From those eleven interested people, the Nominations Committee selected four new candidates for the Board of Directors. They are, in alphabetical order:

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Message from the Chair...*continued from page 2*

- Serge Baghdikian, Senior Petroleum Engineer at the City of Long Beach, Gas & Oil Department.
- Dr. Steve Cheung, an independent consultant working in the areas of waterflood management, well stimulation and chemical enhanced oil recovery.
- Baldev Gill, Petroleum Engineer with the City of Long Beach.
- Adi Varma, Reservoir Engineer with Occidental, working in Ranger West at THUMS

At a Board meeting on August 25th, the current Board approved the recommendation of the Nominations Committee to propose these four people as new Board members starting in September. Left unresolved was the matter of which person takes which seat; one of the vacant positions runs through 2012, one through 2013, and two through 2014. That, and the position of Vice Chairman, will be resolved at a later Board meeting.

The other seven people who expressed interest in the Board positions will be encouraged to participate in LASPE activities, including joining some of the committees. We don't want any of the interest and enthusiasm to go to waste.

So, we expect the membership of the Board of Directors for the coming year to be:

Name	Position
Vanessa Perez	Senior Past Chair
Mike Utt	Junior Past Chair
Dr. Eric Withjack	Chair 2011-2012
Leila Rashedi Vlasko	Board Member
Craig Webster	Board Member
Serge Baghdikian	Board Member
Dr. Steve Cheung	Board Member
Baldev Gill	Board Member
Adi Varma	Board Member
Rick Finken	Treasurer
Rachel Spitz	Secretary

Completing their terms as Members of the Board are AB Goras and Bob Visser. I know that both of them will continue to be active in their support of LASPE. AB continues to work on SPE Training Courses for LASPE, and Bob will continue in his role as Assistant Treasurer.

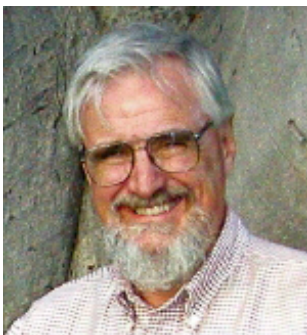
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Message from the Chair...*continued from page 3*

I welcome the new Board members, I thank all of our volunteers for their efforts in support of LASPE's activities, and I look forward to another successful year for all of us.



Hang on!



Mike Utt
LASPE Chairperson 2010-2011
mikeutt@roadrunner.com

FORUM FROM PAGE 1 . . .

**PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY FORUM PROGRAM, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011
- A JOINT MEETING WITH THE CCCOGP -**

The Long Beach Grand will be the Venue
4101 E. Willow
Long Beach, CA

California Oil Market - The Benchmarks Have Changed

Scott Mitchell, Kern Oil and Refining Company

Abstract:

The title of Scott's presentation is "California Oil Market – The Benchmarks Have Changed". West Texas Intermediate crude oil has a higher gravity, and a lower sulfur and lower nitrogen content that make it easier to turn into gasoline, diesel and jet fuel than California crudes. As a result, WTI carried a premium price when compared to California crudes. Not anymore. What changed? And how long will it last?

Bio – Scott Mitchell:

Scott Mitchell is the crude oil supply manager for Kern Oil and Refining Company an independent oil refining and marketing company with headquarters and refinery facility located in Bakersfield. Scott has worked in the refining business for 24 years and another 9 years in clean product supply and marketing. Scott is a graduate of LSU in Economics.

RESERVATIONS:

This meeting requires reservations because of the joint nature and venue. Please e-mail Leila Vlasko (lvlasko@betaoffshore.com) to make your reservation.

Leila Rashedi Vlasko
Forum Chairperson
lvlasko@betaoffshore.com

**PHOTOS FROM JUNE
THE AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS
AND
CRUDE PRICE CHALLENGE WINNERS**



College Scholarships presented to the lucky recipients. A total of 16 scholarships were awarded in 2011.



Chairperson Mike Utt awarding 2nd place in the Crude Price Challenge to Kim Holtz



Chairperson Mike Utt awarding 1st place in the Crude Price Challenge to Jalal Torabzadeh

LASPE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The LA Basin SPE Board Appreciation Luncheon was held on August 25, 2011, at Boston's Gourmet Pizza. After each term, the LA Basin SPE section invites all board/committee members, and the golf tournament committee, to a luncheon to show appreciation for everyone's commitment and hard work on organizing all the events and assisting the organization to run smoothly.

During the luncheon, Mike Utt, our 2010-2011 Chairperson, recognized and thanked all the committee members and the Golf Tournament Committee members that were present for his very successful term. The Tournament each year raises a substantial portion of the operating funds for LA Basin SPE and allows the organization to give back to our community by using the funds for Student Scholarships, Science fair awards, and many other activities. At the end of the luncheon, Mike introduced Eric Withjack who will be our upcoming new Chairperson for the 2011-2012 term.

Thanks again to all the Board and Committee members who take time from their busy schedule each year to participate on the board and various committees. The luncheon was enjoyed by all and the LA Basin SPE is now ready to begin the 2011-2012 term.





Call for Papers

Professionals from the industry are encouraged to submit their paper proposals to the 2012 SPE Western Regional Meeting.

Link to Submit, <http://www.spe.org/events/wrm/2012/>

Submission deadline is **19 September!**

Submission Topics

Smart Fields and Artificial Intelligence (AIPA)

- 1 Smart field/Integrated fields/integrated operations
- 2 Smart wells, SCADA, etc
- 3 AI technologies and optimization
- 4 AI modeling TDM SRM

Shale and Diatomite Development

- 1 Shale reservoir characterization
- 2 Shale drilling, completion and Frac'ing
- 3 Modeling and reservoir engineering
- 4 Tight plays: Monterey (diatomite, fractured siliceous rocks), Bakken

Thermal Recovery and Operations

- 1 Steamflooding and cyclic steam technology and operations
- 2 SAGD
- 3 Combustion

California and Alaska's Fields—Case History

- 1 Mature waterflood management
- 2 Locating by-passed oil
- 3 Waste disposal
- 4 CO₂ capture and storage
- 5 Social responsibility, health, air, and water quality, and GHG emissions

LASPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NO. 19, JUNE 14, 2011

Attending:

Mike Utt, Section Chairperson	Leila Rashedi Vlasko, Forum Chair
Dr. Eric Withjack, Vice Chairperson	Craig Webster, Scholarships
Dr. Sam Sarem, WNAR Director	AB Gorashi Abdulrahman, Board Member
Robert Visser, Assistant Treasurer	Rachel Spitz, Secretary
Vanessa Perez, Jr. Past Chairperson	Jack Smith, Scholarship Chair
Dr. Jalal Torabzadeh, Sr. Past Chairperson	Ed Santiago, Scholarships, Science Fair
Chad Horton, Young Professionals	Devon Shay, Student Chapters Liaison

Proceedings:

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM.
2. The meeting agenda was approved.
3. The minutes of the meeting of May 10, 2011, as published in the LASPE Newsletter, were approved.
4. Announcements:
 - 4.1. Discussion in Med Kamal's committee on Regional meetings brought up the idea of having multi-Region (e.g. Western Region & Rocky Mountain Region) meetings in years when the SPE's ATCE is held outside North America. The first opportunity for a multi-Region meeting will be in 2014, when the ATCE will be in Amsterdam
 - 4.2. Three professors received travel assistance to SPE events this year; the money was a donation from the SPE Foundation.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1. Treasurer's Report – Bob Visser: Budget: income exceeded expenses by about \$2,000. \$15,000 in scholarship money was dispersed to the winners at the June 14, 2011 forum.
 - 5.2. Golf Tournament Report – Bob Visser: The tournament was very successful, the net income totaled \$21,441. Rich Manual is commended on planning a victorious tournament!
6. Old Business:
 - 6.1. Request for funds from Santa Maria Section – Mike Utt: Non-profit organizations raising funds must be registered. If Santa Maria is registered, we are also by default (CA Sections). Vanessa Perez made a motion to give the Santa Maria section \$500 to aid in the registration costs. AB Gorashi seconded the motion and all were in favor, none opposed. Dr. Sarem compliments the board on this decision.

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...LASPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUES

7. New Business:

- 7.1. Nominations of Officers and Board Members for 2011-12 – Vanessa Perez: Discussed qualifications of current nominees. Multiple nominees are needed to determine the best suited individual for the position. Some of the most important factors in selecting officers and board members are the dedication, diversity, willingness, time commitment, etc. that each individual can commit to. Dr. Sarem suggests having multiple nominees, including but not limited to, transfers from other sections, etc.
- 7.2. There are currently 3 board member openings and the Vice Chair position.
- 7.3. Vanessa Perez will select a date for the 2011 LASPE Appreciation Luncheon (she will e-mail everyone with dates available).
- 7.4. Donation to SPE Foundation – Sam Sarem: Sustainability is important in case of economic downfalls. The Los Angeles Basin Section is complimented for its donations. Dr. Withjack moved to approve an unbudgeted \$1,000 to the SPE Foundation. AB Gorashi seconded the motion and all were in favor, none opposed. Dr. Sarem compliments the board on this decision. Members are urged to donate where they can, small affordable donations do help.
- 7.5. Los Angeles Basin Section of SPE intends to participate in the annual joint LASPE / CCCOGP luncheon, scheduled for September 21, 2011 at the Grand in Long Beach.

8. Section Activities:

- 8.1. Young Professionals – Chad Horton, Chair of YP announced they had a successful happy hour event where 30 people showed! An end of the month Surf & Turf event will be held June 13, 2011. The YP committee meets once a month to plan events.
- 8.2. Continuing Education – Jalal Torabzadeh: Encouraged the Los Angeles Basin Section to nominate a distinguished lecturer.
- 8.3. Student Chapter Activities – Devon Shay, USC Alumni announced as liaison between SPE and student chapters. No announcements at this time. Fall semester will offer more information.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

LASPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AUGUST 25, 2011

Attending:

Mike Utt, Section Chairperson
Leila Rashedi Vlasko, Forum Chair
Dr. Sam Sarem, WNAR Director
Robert Visser, Assistant Treasurer
Vanessa Perez, Jr. Past Chairperson
Craig Webster, Scholarships

Other voting members , by proxy to
Mike Utt:
AB Gorashi Abdulrahman, Board Member
Dr. Jalal Torabzadeh, Sr. Past Chairperson
Dr. Eric Withjack, Vice Chairperson

Proceedings:

1. A brief Board meeting was held at 11:45 AM, before the LASPE Board Appreciation Luncheon. The only agenda item was the recommendation of the Nominations Committee of four people to fill the four vacant seats on the Board.
2. Past Chair Vanessa Perez headed a Nominations Committee to identify candidates for those four positions. She invited all the members of LASPE to express their interest and submit their qualifications. The results were a happy surprise: eleven people were interested and enthusiastic enough about LASPE activities to submit resumes.

From those eleven interested people, the Nominations Committee selected four new candidates for the Board of Directors. They are, in alphabetical order:

- 2.1. Serge Baghdikian, Senior Petroleum Engineer at the City of Long Beach, Gas & Oil Department.
 - 2.2. Dr. Steve Cheung, an independent consultant working in the areas of waterflood management, well stimulation and chemical enhanced oil recovery.
 - 2.3. Baldev Gill, Petroleum Engineer with the City of Long Beach.
 - 2.4. Adi Varma, Reservoir Engineer with Occidental, working in Ranger West at THUMS
 - 2.5. The Board approved the recommendation of the Nominations Committee to propose these four people as new Board members starting in October. Left unresolved was the matter of which person takes which seat; one of the vacant positions runs through 2012, one through 2013, and two through 2014. That, and the position of Vice Chair, will be resolved at a later Board meeting.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM.

POSITION OFFERED



MasterWord Services, Inc. is seeking English<>Spanish technical translators in the engineering field. The subject matter is mainly related to the refinery and chemical area of engineering. It is for an **on-site** translator project in Irvine, California. If you or someone you know is interested, then we would like to request the candidate's resume and have them complete a translation test to pre-qualify them for this area of technical translations. Please contact Stela Moreno at vendor-relations@masterword.com, or call 281-589-0810 with any questions.

***Experience in technical translation required. *Degree in Engineering or Linguistics is required.**

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