In the 1930s, the rail industry began the transition from coal and steam to diesel fuel as the preferred energy to power locomotives. As World War II progressed through 1945, the rail industry was hard at work moving raw materials and products around the country, and the last of the steam-powered engines reached the end of their useful life. Coal-fired engines and boilers wasted a tremendous amount of energy and were only about 8% efficient. By contrast, diesel engines were about 40% efficient and they enabled a significant performance improvement. Since then, the rail industry has enjoyed a continuous period of fuel efficiency improvements. The latest preliminary consumption data compiled for the Class I Rail Freight Industry by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics is from 2012, when the industry traveled 1,486 million locomotive-unit miles and consumed 3,600 million gallons of diesel fuel. Based on its August 2017 publication “A Short History of U.S. Freight Railroads,” the Association of American Railroads states that the modern rail industry in 2016 could move one ton of freight about 468 miles with the energy from a single gallon of diesel fuel.

I recently spent several days at a railroad conference hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and met Michael Iden, the General Director of Car and Locomotive Engineering for Union Pacific Railroad. Mr. Iden delivered a fascinating, well-researched presentation titled “US Freight Rail Fuel Efficiencies: Past, Present & Future.” Mr. Iden’s analysis indicates that the rail industry has continuously improved its fuel efficiency by approximately 1% each year for the past 50 years. He indicates that “North American freight railroads have made significant progress in improving fuel efficiency since the industry was deregulated in 1980. This has been the result of technology improvements (particularly [the] introduction of AC locomotives and Distributed Power), improvements in train/locomotive operations and train dispatching, structural changes in railroad networks, and other factors.” In all, he points to about 15 technological innovations that have enabled this steady improvement, and he raised an interesting challenge to the members of the rail industry.

It would be easy for the rail industry to reflect on its progress and be satisfied with its significant achievements. Mr. Iden pointed out that the future of the industry’s performance trend may look very different when viewed through the lens of its main competitor – the trucking industry. In 2012, the rail industry had 24,707 locomotives and 1,246,676 freight cars in service. Locomotives are built to last 20-30 years, while freight cars are built to last 50-65 years. In contrast, some major trucking companies expect to replace their tractors at a significantly higher frequency. He estimated that trucking companies would realize about eight generations of technological advancement for their tractors during the period when the rail industry will recognize about one generation of advancement for its locomotives.

This is, of course, a generalization, but it does present an interesting perspective on innovation for an industry that enjoys a long asset lifecycle. Mr. Iden pointed out that the freight cars built today would be at their end of life when the industry holds its 84th rail conference in the year 2082. Considering today’s rapid advancement of technology, what industry could expect to maintain its competitive edge without ongoing investment in research and the development and adoption of new, innovative technologies at a rapid pace?

The upstream oil and gas industry faces its own challenges, and innovation will be required to move the industry forward. The SPE Research & Development Technical Section identified five grand challenges for the industry: higher resolution subsurface imaging, challenges in reusing produced water, in-situ molecular manipulation, increasing hydrocarbon recovery factors, and carbon capture and sequestration. Later, an additional focus on the environment, including minimizing the footprint of oil and gas activities, and oil spill prevention and response were added. Now these are referred to by SPE as the “5+1” challenges.

As one of the leading SPE sections in the world, the Gulf Coast Section is doing its part to focus on innovation with the Innovate Committee, under the leadership of Mikhail Alekseenko and a strong group of officers (https://www.spegs.org/committees/innovate/). The vision of the Innovate Committee is to “foster an environment that promotes innovation in the oil and gas industry by advancing knowledge and enabling collaboration between entrepreneurs, investors and organizations.”

The Innovate Committee is on track to host one meeting per month during the 2017-2018 year. It is also finalizing plans for its first two-day innovation and entrepreneurship event, which will bring together entrepreneurs, investors, oil field service companies, and exploration and production companies. Marathon Oil will host the event March 21-22, 2018. Innovate is ambitiously targeting 30 speakers, and the event will feature a half-day Shark Tank-style session. If you would like to get involved and sponsor this important event or any other event, please contact Andrew Weaver at aweaver@polsinelli.com or Armand Paradis at a.paradis@insidepetroleum.com. We would be grateful for your support!

Finally, if you have an innovative idea that you believe will benefit SPE or its members, reach out to me or another board member to start the discussion! We are always looking for great, innovative ideas that will benefit our members.
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The Enhanced, All-Digital Connect

Starting with the January 2018 edition, the Connect newsletter is switching to a digital format. A print edition will no longer be mailed. This shift — set in motion by the Board of Directors’ vote in September — will create new benefits for readers, advertisers, and the SPE-GCS section as a whole. Here is a list of frequently asked questions on what to expect during the transition.

How and when will I get the newsletter every month?  
All SPE-GCS members will receive an email with a link to the digital Connect newsletter on the 1st of every month. Remember to renew your SPE membership for 2018 to continue receiving our communications.

How can I read the digital newsletter?  
You can easily access Connect on your computer, or read it on the go on your mobile devices. If you prefer, you can also download the newsletter and print it.

How will the transition to a digital newsletter benefit the readers?  
The revamped Connect will feature a fresh new design with enhanced, magazine-like layouts. Plus, you can expect more content relevant to our SPE community. The new format means more space for event info, member features, and other articles.

As a reader, you can also take advantage of enhanced interactivity. You’ll be able to:
- Share content from the digital newsletter directly to your social media channels.
- Register for events directly from the newsletter.
- Email members directly from the directory.
- Click on ads to visit advertisers’ websites.
- Browse all the past and present newsletters in a new section on the SPE-GCS website.

How will the transition to a digital newsletter benefit the Gulf Coast Section members?  
Discontinuing the printed newsletter will result in significant financial savings for the section, resulting in more money for what matters. That means we can invest those funds toward industry events, conferences, community outreach, and scholarships. In addition, a faster production process will enable Connect to share more timely information and improve content. Built-in analytics will show which pages are most highly viewed.

What should advertisers know about the new digital Connect?  
The digital newsletter will provide a better advertisement platform:
- More space and greater interactivity with direct link to company websites.
- Ease of distribution and easy share to social media.
- Online archive of past issues will give advertising a longer lifespan.

We’re looking forward to the new year and the new and improved Connect!
Gulf, which withdrew from the Italian exploration picture in the early 1950s because of new Italian petroleum laws enacted at that time, reports plans to re-enter the country, specifically in the Adriatic Sea, as an exploration partner of Fiat Motor Co. (interesting bedfellows).

Esso Production Research in Houston begins field testing of a novel form of remote reservoir testing: A series of flow disturbances are introduced into the reservoir by alternately flowing and shutting in a well and monitoring the pressure transients in offsetting wells.

A report by the House of Representatives Oversight and Investigations Committee is expected to exonerate major oil companies of the charge that for many years they have deliberately underestimated gas reserves in order to get higher prices.

Good results from a recent test run on 16,000 tons of Texas lignite coal at South Africa’s huge Sasolburg coal-gasification complex could pave the way for a $2 billion to $3 billion lignite SNG facility near Troup, TX.

Occidental Petroleum Chairman Armand Hammer reports finalizing of a joint venture with Montedison SpA, Marubeni Corp., and especially the Soviet Union (their largest joint venture to date) to build a partly-for-export petrochemical complex at the giant Tengiz oil field.

As Texaco’s bankruptcy judge continues to help reach a settlement between Texaco and Pennzoil, corporate raider and Trans World Airlines Chairman Carl Icahn is reportedly planning to increase his holdings in Texaco to 25% of its outstanding common stock.

**OCTOBER’S WINNER**

Eddie Bowen
HAROLD: Cyber fraud and identity theft are hitting the news repeatedly. How concerned should people be?

PHILLIP: Plenty. It is America’s fastest-growing crime and Texas is one of the top 5 states in victims per 100,000 in population. Almost everyone at least knows someone personally who has been victimized. Our Wealth Management Committee – a group that includes attorneys, MBAs, CPAs, CFA® charterholders and CFP® practitioners – has devoted increased discussion to this topic every year for the last four years. We consider it a critical area of our risk management conversations with clients.

HAROLD: “Risk management” is usually a code word for insurance. Is this an insurance issue?

PHILLIP: Insurance is really only on the fringe of cyber fraud risk. It’s also fair to say that signing up for one of the credit fraud monitoring services, while possibly worthwhile, is certainly no panacea. You must take proactive steps to create an effective defense. That makes it a standout compared to many other risk-management strategies, and therefore unique compared to most of what we have experienced in our 46 years of advising clients.

HAROLD: What are some of those “proactive steps?”

PHILLIP: Locking down your credit bureau files, creating a “deterrence” protocol with your credit card usage, and putting penetration “armor” on your major asset accounts – these are a few, but more than time permits detailing. The key is to invest the time, preferably with the help of someone qualified to give counsel, to develop a set of strategies that work efficiently for you and are relatively hassle-free to maintain.

At Linscomb & Williams, our Wealth Advisors are prepared to invest that time with you as part of a client-centered wealth management conversation. We are ready to start that conversation on a no-cost, no-obligation, exploratory basis at our offices in the Houston Galleria or The Woodlands.

Phillip Hamman discusses cyber fraud and what proactive measures clients can take with J. Harold Williams. [Left to right: Phillip Hamman, CFA, CFP®; J. Harold Williams, CPA/PFS, CFP®]

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This month the SPE Gulf Coast Section is excited to feature GQ Guo and Tarek Ghazi as Volunteers of the Month.

**GQ GUO**

Q Guo started his SPE volunteering in 2010, but was not heavily involved until he met Jeanne Perdue in February 2015. With her mentorship, GQ volunteered as the Treasurer of the Continuing Education Committee in 2015, the Program Coordinator of the Oilfield Games Committee from 2015 to 2016, the Coordinator of the 2016 Young Professionals RoughNeck Camp, and the Program Coordinator of the GCS Community Service Committee from 2016 to present.

GQ is an Assistant Engineer at Haimo Oil & Gas LLC, an operator in West Texas. His manages each operations project, including drilling, fracturing, completion, production, and surface facilities, from quoting to field supervising.

GQ graduated with a master’s degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Houston in May 2017. While he was pursuing his degree, he took every opportunity to build his career path. He joined Haimo in March 2016 when he was in school, and he served as the president at the University of Houston SPE student chapter from 2016-2017. GQ always enjoys networking and meeting new friends. That’s one of the main reasons he loves volunteering for SPE.

The quote that inspires and encourages him is “Whose house? Coogs’ house!”

**TAREK GHAZI**

Tarek Ghazi has been a geologist since 1976. He became a member of SPE in 2003 when a friend asked him to help organize an SPE forum. He had great fun doing that, so he continued his involvement in the Forum Series through 2006, eventually serving on the Forum Series Implementation Committee – Western Hemisphere. In 2007, he became a member of the SPE Books Development Committee, and he chaired the committee in 2010. Tarek received an SPE Award of Appreciation in 2011, after which he committed his volunteer time mostly to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Houston Geological Society.

Tarek returned to SPE volunteer work when he attended an SPE-GCS Members in Transition meeting in April 2017, and he agreed to co-chair the organizing committee for the SPE Upstream Oil and Gas Professionals Hiring Event on October 3. He was impressed with the caliber of his fellow committee members, and he is very proud that the group enabled 400 job seekers to meet with 22 potential employers, despite the troubling times in our industry. He hopes that many open positions will eventually be filled through the contacts that people made at the Hiring Event, and he looks forward to continuing to help job seekers find meaningful and rewarding work.

**THANK YOU BOTH FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR SPE!**

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The View 2018

2017 has been a transition year as our industry begins to recover from the worst downturn since the 1980s. But the oil business has changed in the last 30 years because of more globalization, more competition, and the disruption of US unconventional production. Oil people are also changing, with a more global workforce and the massive retirements of the Big Crew Change. Oil technology is changing thanks to trends in big data analytics, greater efficiencies, and, of course, shale production. Join 2017 SPE President Janeen Judah as she shares her observations on what people are talking about in 2017 and looking forward to in 2018.

JANEEN JUDAH

Janeen Judah is the 2017 President of SPE. Previously, she chaired both the Gulf Coast and Permian Basin sections and served on the International Board as Gulf Coast North America Region Director and Vice President Finance. Judah joined Chevron in 1998. Her past positions include GM of SASBU Houston, President of the Environmental Management Company, and GM of Reservoir and Production Engineering for Chevron ETC. She spent her early career at ARCO Oil & Gas. Judah has BS and MS degrees in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M, an MBA from UT Permian Basin, and a JD from the University of Houston.

Oilfield Equipment and Service Markets in 2018

Richard B. Spears will present his firm’s 2018 outlook for key oilfield service and equipment markets, as growth is at risk given oil’s current $50 plateau price.

RICHARD B. SPEARS

With an engineering degree from Oklahoma State University and graduate work in industrial engineering, Richard B. Spears has worked for 38 years in the upstream oil and gas industry, starting as a field engineer for Halliburton. Today, he is one of the managing directors of Spears & Associates, an oilfield market research firm founded in 1965. The firm has over 350 clients worldwide, including all major oil companies, many national oil companies, all major service companies, and over 100 private and institutional investors. He has been with the firm since 1985 and leads its mergers and acquisitions support practice. Spears is a 33-year member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the Association of Energy Service Companies. He is on the board of directors of Allied Horizontal Wireline, Abrado Wellbore Services, and W-Technology Link.
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Role of Research & Development in a Down Market

Research and development plays an integral role in advancing our industry. Innovation comes from many places both within our industry and outside. When prices are low, research and development of new technologies can help push marginal opportunities over the profit line. Knowing what to focus attention on is important, as the desire to “get more with less” drives efficiency yet opens up new R&D opportunities.

ERIKA A.O. BIEDIGER

Erika A.O. Biediger is the Drilling & Subsurface Function Manager at ExxonMobil’s Upstream Research Company. She has stewardship of the upstream R&D portfolio. Her organization partners with ExxonMobil business lines, academic institutions, and vendors to develop and commercialize technology. Biediger started her career with ExxonMobil in 2005 in Houston as a Research Engineer for the Upstream Research Company. She holds a BS in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University and received MS and PhD degrees in mechanical engineering, with a minor in robotics and automation, from Georgia Institute of Technology.

NORTHSIDE

Applications of Viscosity-Building Friction Reducers as Fracturing Fluids

Fracturing strategies often include developing as much fracture complexity and surface area contact as possible, followed by increasing the conductivity of the fracture network in the near wellbore and intermediate fractured region to sustain high production rates. To achieve these objectives, fluids used include slickwater for the small proppant followed by a higher viscosity fluid for the larger proppant.

Viscosity-building friction reducers (VFR) develop elevated viscosity over traditional slickwater fluids and provide higher regain fracture conductivity over guar-based linear and crosslinked gels. VFR systems are used as direct replacements for conventional fluid systems and allow for the entire pumping schedule to be executed with a single fluid type, with viscosity increases simply controlled by the addition of the liquid polymer.

Using case histories from recent projects in the Eagle Ford, Permian Basin, and STACK play, this presentation will describe some of the advantages VFR fluids have provided operators.

MARK VAN DOMELEN

Mark Van Domelen is the Vice President of Technology for Downhole Chemical Solutions, where his primary areas of expertise are hydraulic fracturing and well completion methods. His responsibilities include identifying and applying new technologies to increase the value of oil and gas assets. Before joining DCS, Van Domelen worked for a major service company for 31 years in roles including engineering, technology, operations management, supply chain, and training positions. He has a degree in mining engineering from the University of Wisconsin, has authored many industry papers, and has served on several SPE committees.
**WESTSIDE**

**Integrating DAS, Pressure and Video Camera Measurements to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Plug-and-Perf Limited Entry Treatments**

The presentation is based on a case study of plug-and-perf horizontal well treatments in the Niobrara formation of the DJ Basin. Stress shadowing and perforation erosion were determined to have a significant impact on fluid and proppant allocation among the multiple perforation intervals that were simultaneously treated in each fracturing stage. Adjustments in perforation design were identified that improve treatment effectiveness.

**DAVE CRAMER**

Dave Cramer is a Senior Engineering Fellow with the ConocoPhillips Global Wells Completions Engineering staff in Houston. He has over 39 years of experience in designing, executing and evaluating well stimulation treatments. Cramer has authored 44 papers and delivered over 175 technical-society presentations on well completion and performance topics. He is a co-inventor of two US patents. Industry recognitions include the Henry Mattson Technical Achievement Award by the Denver SPE chapter in 1993 and the SPE International Completions Optimization and Technologies Award in 2011. He was an SPE Distinguished Lecturer in 2003-2004 and SPE Region Director for the US and Canada Rocky Mountain region in 2004-2007. Cramer is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado.

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Joint Meeting: SPE-GCS General Meeting Study Group and Houston Chapter of API**

**What Does the Future of the Shipbuilding Industry Look Like?**

What effect does the oil and gas industry have on the US shipbuilding industry? Where will shipbuilding be 10 years from now? The Damen Shipyards Group, founded in the Netherlands in 1969, is a family-owned shipbuilding business with 10,000 members who design, build, sell, deliver, and support ships ranging from small pilot boats to large offshore cable layers and construction vessels, including large military vessels and super-yachts. Damen builds these ships at its 36 shipyards worldwide and at 50-plus global partnership yards. Damen has built and delivered over 6,000 ships to customers in more than 100 countries. Damen also owns and operates some of the largest ship repair and conversion shipyards for oil and gas vessels. Damen does not own a shipyard in the US, but is building approximately 70 ships in the US today in a very depressed shipbuilding market.

**JAN WILLEM VAN HOGERWOU**

Jan Willem Van Hogerwou has more than 25 years of onsite international experience. He has negotiated complex, multi-million-dollar contracts and transactions and built corporate relationships in many countries. Van Hogerwou joined the Damen Shipyards group in April 2011 and is responsible for all commercial activities of the Damen Group in North America. He has established a very noticeable presence of the Damen Group in both the US and Canada with new vessel deliveries to new Damen customers worth hundreds of millions of dollars. He graduated from the University of Amsterdam in 1988 with a law degree.
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

2018 SPE-GCS Mergers, Acquisitions & Divestments Symposium

The Business Development Study Group invites you to the 2018 SPE-GCS Mergers, Acquisitions & Divestments Symposium. The one-day workshop will introduce early and mid-career professionals to the commercial and transactional side of the oil and gas industry. The symposium will be held in the Chevron Auditorium in downtown Houston on Tuesday, January 9, with a networking reception to follow at the Whitehall Hotel. Keynote speakers include Bill Marko (Jefferies) and Carlos A. De Ayala (Linn Energy). There will also be four topical sessions led by industry experts with case studies, discussions, and Q&As.

The symposium will provide an overview from deal conception to deal closing. It will feature keynote and session talks and discussions by A&D experts, as well as generous opportunities for networking with about 200 industry peers. As the current state of the industry applies stress to operators, strategic portfolio management becomes an important driver in shareholder value and even survival. The symposium will provide detailed insights into the role, process, workflow, participants, and practices of deal making to give participants the knowledge and network they need to consider opportunities as an A&D professional.

For pricing info and to register, visit https://www.spegcs.org/events/3769/.
If you cannot attend the symposium, you can still register for networking reception at 5 PM: https://www.spegcs.org/events/3770/.

PETRO-TECH

How a Petroleum Geologist Generates Prospects

Petroleum geologists consider an array of scientific, engineering, legal, business, and economic factors. They are the detectives who ask what, where, how, and why to successfully find oil. In addition, a geologist must orchestrate the collection, coordination, and analysis of information from highly skilled, supporting disciplines.

The talk will address the paradigm shift to digital data and the costs to manage it. It will also cover the impact of these costs on independents and their ability to sell plays “on the street” due the industry’s focus on backing for unconventional resources and the continued use of economic analyses based on multi-year price and cost assumptions.

JAMES H. DODGE, PG

James H. Dodge is a Professional Geoscientist with 38 years of experience with oil companies, in private practice, and as an operator in Texas. He founded two oil and gas companies and co-founded a laboratory solar instruments company. Dodge’s geoscience experience has been in the US with an emphasis on regional conventional and unconventional trends and local field studies throughout the Gulf Coast region from Florida to South Texas.
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Where Are They Now?

PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Scholarship Committee conducted a survey of past recipients of the SPE-GCS scholarship. If you’re considering donating to the SPE-GCS scholarship fund or hiring an SPE-GCS scholarship winner, you’ll be glad to know that the program has enjoyed considerable success over the past six decades. Here is Katrina Schilling’s story:

Receiving the SPE-GCS scholarship was a major help financially and gave me added confidence as I went into my freshman year at Texas A&M University. I knew that a committee had chosen to support me financially and believed that I could succeed. It was a great honor to have received this scholarship, and it gave me increased motivation to do well in my classes.

One of the highlights of my time in petroleum engineering at Texas A&M was my senior design project. The class was a culmination of four years of petroleum engineering study, and it walked us through the development of a natural gas play in Canada — from acquiring land to constructing a rig schedule to building production profiles.

Throughout college, I had three summer internships. The summer after my freshman year, I rotated 7 on/7 off as a Production Engineer in a field in the coastal waters of Louisiana. The following summers I interned with Chevron as a Reservoir Engineer in Houston and then as a Production Engineer in Midland. Summer internships were a great way for me to apply what I had learned in school to the workplace.

Upon graduation in May 2016, I began working for Chevron as a Decision Analyst in the Gulf of Mexico Business Unit. I have really enjoyed learning the science behind making complex, strategic decisions and the economic analysis and modeling necessary when exploring new areas in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico.

My advice to current students is to take advantage of the educational resources available at your fingertips. Sincerely try to learn as much as you can and form meaningful networks and connections. Also, don’t be afraid to venture out and try new things; join a new club or take up a new hobby.
Members in Transition Initiative

23rd SEMINAR SERIES

The SPE Members in Transition Seminar Series features topics of interest to SPE members who are transitioning between jobs during the current industry downturn or who are looking for new opportunities. The agenda for the 23rd seminar will include “Ethics of Brinkmanship,” “How Can We Promote Inventors in the Innovation Life Cycle?,” “Conducting an Effective Job Search - How Did I Get Here?,” and a discussion of resources for SPE members.

PROGRAM 1: Ethics of Brinkmanship

Ethical people are the most common doers of unethical deeds, and they often do it because they don’t realize they have gone over the edge. Dwayne Purvis will examine how people get into situations that place them at professional, moral and legal risk, then how to recognize, evaluate and resolve them. Using a combination of videos, examples, and condescending pontification, Purvis help to raise your sensitivity to and skill to resolve ethical challenges. This talk is designed to meet ethics requirement for continuing education for licensure.

DWAYNE PURVIS, P.E.

Dwayne Purvis has spent over two decades in reservoir engineering and executive leadership as a consultant and operator. Purvis has published on issues of reserves, risk analysis, and shale reservoirs. A registered Professional Engineer in Texas, he is a member of SPEE, AAPG and SEG and a 25-year member of SPE.

PROGRAM 2: How Can We Promote Inventors in the Innovation Life Cycle?

There is a perception outside of the industry that innovation doesn’t happen in oil and gas, or at least not as much as it should. We will assess the velocity and diversity of innovation across key technology domains, and highlight the inventors behind them. For discussion, bring your insights on how we can promote inventors in the innovation life cycle.

CANDICE LANDRY

Intent to connect innovation contributors, Candice Landry aims to strategically position and protect intellectual property while advocating cross-discipline invention. Landry has been recognized for leadership in the innovation life cycle, change implementation, and mentoring. When she’s not evaluating tech trends, she is likely behind a macro lens or supporting STEM initiatives.

PROGRAM 3: Conducting an Effective Job Search - How Did I Get Here?

Kewa Forde will discuss why she started Full Circle Recruiting, the experiences and challenges that led her to design this company the way it is, and how she uses her company to help people.

KEWA FORDE

A native of London, Kewa Forde has long been an entrepreneur and has experience as a director of client/employee relations, as well as in recruiting and HR. Forde is the founder and CEO of Full Circle Recruiting, which specializes in implementation of corporate structure, compliance, and placement of technical and management professionals.
Advanced Tutorial: How to Quantify the Performance and the Cost of Solids Control

This course provides drilling management team members with analytical tools to quantify the performance and the cost of solids control operations. More importantly, the course explains the linkage between solids control, drilling fluids, and fluid-related drilling waste. Attendees will learn a comprehensive approach so that they will understand how changing solids control practices will affect drilling fluids cost and waste disposal costs. The course aims to cut through the clutter of metrics used to report solids control performance, enabling solids control best practices to be identified so that drilling costs are lowered without compromising drilling performance. Attendees will be awarded a certificate for eight Professional Development Hours.

Mike Morgenthaler has worked in the drilling fluids industry for more than 30 years. He worked for both Halliburton and Baker Hughes prior to forming a consulting firm to provide operators with engineering expertise focused on optimizing solids control operations and lowering overall drilling costs. His experience includes work as a mud engineer, process design for centrifuge applications, extensive work on waste management in remote drilling locations, and managing solids control operations on multi-rig fleets in the shale plays. He owns Cutpoint Inc. and has a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas.

MEMBERS/NON-MEMBERS
$350/$375

STUDENTS/MIT/RETIRED SPE
$150

Ethics Seminar: Engineering Ethics

The seminar will discuss codes of ethics as well as case studies that help us, as petroleum engineers, navigate our day-to-day careers. The seminar is appropriate for new graduates as well as seasoned professionals and will qualify for the annual Professional Development Hours required by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers. Attendees will receive a certificate for engineering ethics.

Dr. Ivor Ellul began his career in oil and gas in 1980, in West Germany, as a design engineer on pipeline and storage tank systems. Recent experience includes various executive positions in upstream oil and gas. He has been involved in starting a number of ventures, including Knowledge Reservoir, which he successfully exited in 2013. Ellul is Visiting Professor to the Petroleum Engineering Department of Imperial College London. He is also a past member of the advisory board of the Faculty of Petroleum Engineering of the University of Houston. He is a past Chair of SPE-GCS. Ellul holds a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Malta and MS and PhD degrees in petroleum engineering from Imperial College. Ellul is a registered Chartered Engineer in the United Kingdom and a registered Professional Engineer in Texas.

MEMBERS/NON-MEMBERS
$40/$45

STUDENTS/MIT/RETIRED SPE
$20
Fireside Chat with Allen Gilmer: A Journey to Entrepreneurship

At this event, we will hear a revealing tale of innovation and entrepreneurship from one of the most innovative leaders in the oil and gas industry.

ALLEN GILMER

Allen Gilmer is Chairman of TIPRO (Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners) and Chairman and former CEO of Drillinginfo Inc. He has earned several patents in multicomponent seismology that were used to found Vecta Oil and Gas, Ltd. in 2000. Vecta and its spinoff investments have discovered over 100 million barrels of oil equivalent in proven reserves. Gilmer serves on the Board of Directors of Vecta. 

In 1999, frustrated by the lack of availability of oilfield information and tools to analyze the information, he founded Drillinginfo Inc. with Mark Nibbelink. Released in August 2000, the Drillinginfo suite of web apps and integrated data became the most quickly and widely adopted software platform in the history of the US oilpatch. Today, nearly 3,500 companies comprising nearly 90% of US capex in upstream oil and gas subscribe to Drillinginfo’s SaaS offerings. Drillinginfo and its wholly owned subsidiaries have over 700 employees globally.

Beyond TIPRO, Gilmer is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Royalty Owners-Texas and has served on the Board of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. He is past Texas Chairman and National Board Member of the Department of Energy’s Petroleum Technology Transfer Council. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the UT-El Paso College of Science. He is a member of Business Executives for National Security.

He was selected as Large Company CEO of the Year for Central Texas in 2014, one of the Top 7 NAPE Influencers in 2014, Texas’ Outstanding Geoscientist in 2012 in Texas Monthly magazine, Ernst & Young Young Entrepreneur of the Year in Central Texas in 2012, and Top 100 Energy Influencers in 2011.

ONLINE REGISTRATION
spegcs.org/events/3801/

Young Professionals Annual Christmas Party

Join SPE-GCS Young Professionals for networking and socializing at the last party of the year. Invite friends and co-workers to catch up with fellow YPs, network, and have drinks. Ugly Christmas sweaters are optional but strongly encouraged!

LOCATION
TBD

EVENT CONTACT
Madeline Bull
mbull@sprioilgas.com
918-852-4643
2017-18 SPE-GCS Scholarships

SPE-GCS scholarships are available to students who maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher and are majoring in petroleum engineering, geology, or a related discipline. Students not majoring in petroleum engineering or geology but who complete an internship with a company in the oil and gas industry are also eligible.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

- Currently reside in Houston or the 29-county Gulf Coast area (Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Chambers, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Jefferson, Lee, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller, Washington, and Wharton)
- Currently be a high school senior
- Be a US citizen
- Enroll in an engineering or science program at a university in the fall
- Completely fill out the scholarship form and submit by February 12, 2018
- Submit high school transcripts
- List activities, awards and honors
- Submit SAT and/or ACT scores (minimum SAT score of 1650)
- Include professional reference letters
- Submit short essay (about 500 words)
- Demonstrate financial need (if applicable; not required)

THE PROCESS

- The Scholarship Committee will review each application.
- Selected applicants will be interviewed (April 2018).
- After the interviews, the Scholarship Committee will meet and decide the scholarship recipients (May 2018).

Volunteering at The Beacon

Please join SPE-GCS Young Professionals in their support of The Beacon, a nonprofit organization helping the poor and homeless populations of the Houston area.

Since opening in 2007, the Beacon has grown from serving 80 clients per day to serving 600-800 clients daily in four core programs: The Beacon Day Center, Cathedral Clinic at The Beacon, Brigid's Hope at The Beacon, and Cathedral Justice Project at The Beacon. These four programs come together under one roof to provide meals, showers, laundry service, case management, medical and psychiatric care, pro bono legal services, and pastoral care. More than 85% of the services of The Beacon are operated by volunteers. Please have a good breakfast to stay energized throughout the event, which extends beyond the regular lunchtime and involves some physical activity. Donations of gently used or new items are appreciated.

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Volunteering at the Houston Marathon

Please join the Young Professionals group as we volunteer at the Houston Marathon. Volunteers will set up and distribute post-race meals and snacks for runners at the H-E-B Food Court, located in the George R. Brown Convention Center, from 7:00 to 11:00 AM. Volunteers will also direct runners to recycling and composting stations as they finish their meals.

Wear weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable shoes. Please arrive at 7:00 AM at the Volunteer Check-in in the Convention Center. Be ready to have fun in a great atmosphere! The Houston Marathon consistently sells out its 27,000 runner spots well before race day, and people from around the world come to Houston to participate.

**Please note:** You must register on the Houston Marathon volunteer website with our group, Society of Petroleum Engineers, so that the marathon committee has an accurate headcount. A link to the site can be found on the calendar under this event listing.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION**
specgs.org/events/3768/

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Get an Edge

Are you job hunting or interviewing? Are you unable to get constructive criticism or any calls back? Join us for a midday seminar that will cover distinguishing your resume, enhancing your interview skills, understanding the hiring process, and the importance of soft skills. Get an edge during your next interview and set yourself apart from other applicants!

Lunch and light refreshments will be available. This event is open to all Young Professionals and current or former students.

**EVENT INFO**

**FRIDAY**

**1.12.18**

11:00 AM – 2:30 PM

**SPEAKERS**

Mark Fleming
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey Inc.

Susan Howes
Subsurface Consultants & Associates, LLC

**LOCATION**

Rice University (Room TBD)
6100 Main St
Houston, TX 77005

**EVENT CONTACTS**

Shahrazed Metouri
Shahrazed.Metouri@aramcoservices.com

Kim Salinas
Kimberly.Salinas@ing.com

Yan Song
sawyersongy@gmail.com

**MEMBERS**

$10

**NON-MEMBERS**

$15

**STUDENTS/MIT**

Free

Registration capped at 40
The Reservoir Technology Symposium is an annual event hosted by the SPE Gulf Coast Section Reservoir Study Group since 2010. Our main objective is to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn and discuss, with highly recognized speakers, the latest and trending reservoir management topics as well as sharing top technology development. Having started just in 2010, the Reservoir Technology Symposium has been year after year growing in popularity and quickly adapting to better serve our technical community needs. During past 2 years, symposium has had an average of **160 attendees**.

**SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS**

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**INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIP?**

If you would like to sponsor, please contact Eric Laine (SPE@ericlaine.com) and Alejandro Lerza (alerza@chevron.com). We are a non-profit organization 501c3 (tax exempt). For more information about the Reservoir Study Group and our upcoming events, please visit our website, http://www.spegcs.org/study-groups/reservoir
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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition
October brought the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition. UHSPE’s mostly first-time attendees were impressed with the scope of the conference and encouraged by the opportunities to connect with other student chapters. Team-based workshops set a tone of comradery and sharing knowledge. ATCE is a firm reminder that the community of engineers is closer than we think. With that, UHSPE wishes happy holidays to all.

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HCC Witnesses SPE’s 100-Year Celebration at ATCE
On October 10, new Faculty Advisor Collins Nwaneri joined President Aileen Lu and Vice President Jacob Malual at ATCE in San Antonio. We visited oil and gas companies from around the world to establish collaborations. We also attended technical sessions and Young Officer Trainings. ATCE was an opportunity to enrich our technical and management knowledge while witnessing SPE’s 100-Year Celebration.

RICE UNIVERSITY

2017 ATCE in San Antonio
We invited our members to attend ATCE 2017 in San Antonio from October 9-11. ATCE is SPE’s annual meeting and features groundbreaking papers and special technical events to accelerate innovation in every technical discipline.

Community Service - Project Pumpkin
On October 21, we hosted an activity booth for the Project Pumpkin event at Rice. We provided a vivid hands-on illustration of a hydraulic fracturing process using jelly. Our booth attracted lots of children from all over Houston.

A Special Invitation: Advisory Board
The committee is working on launching an advisory board to invite both Rice alumni and industry representatives to give student members advice and help them build personal connections. If you are interested and willing to support us, please contact Eric Vavra, edv1@rice.edu.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

October was an eventful month for Texas A&M SPE!
Janeen Judah visited with our students and discussed the outlook for the oil industry. We also hosted the annual Freshman Rig Trip, where our students had a great time exploring the Ocean Star Rig & Museum in Galveston. We thank BHP Billiton for their generous contribution for the event. Lastly, Texas A&M SPE had a great turnout at ATCE this year. Several members made it to the amazing and inspiring event in San Antonio and represented our student chapter well. To close out our trip, our student chapter accepted the Outstanding Student Chapter award for the third year in a row!
The Data Analytics Study Group organized a successful panel session on well digitalization at Downtown Chevron on September 28. Panel members included David Blacklaw, Global Wells Automation Lead at Shell International Exploration and Production Inc.; Trond Unneland, Senior Upstream Advisor, Chevron Upstream; and Sidd Gupta, Product Manager – Production Analytics at Schlumberger. Neil Kunal Panchal, wells engineer at Shell, was the moderator. Issues discussed included changes in talent being recruited, new business strategies, opportunities for collaboration, and a paradigm shift in the petroleum industry. The event was sold out, with a good mix from all demographics and a major turnout from large consulting companies.
International Study Group: Domestic & Global LNG Trade & Development Event

On October 3, LNG experts Elias Cortina and Dr. Sarah Marie Jordaan discussed domestic and global LNG trade and developments, including markets, projects, technologies, and environmental life cycle research. Cortina is Chevron Gas Market Advisor, and Jordaan is Assistant Professor of Energy, Resources & the Environment at Johns Hopkins University.

We learned through Cortina that the LNG industry continues to grow and innovate in meeting the energy requirements of our constituents in driving economic activity, cleaner air, and a better global environment.

“As the global voice of gas, IGU seeks to improve the quality of life by advancing gas as a key contributor to a sustainable energy future. IGU works to improve the competitiveness of gas in the world energy markets by promoting transparency, public acceptance efforts, and the removal of supply and market access barriers,” Cortina said.

Jordaan shared that undertaking the life cycle assessment (LCA) of LNG export for use in electricity generation in an increasingly globalized natural gas market is not straightforward. Her research shows that comprehensive datasets by region would support the development of consistent LCAs across importing and exporting nations, enabling an overall understanding of greenhouse gas emissions implications.

Finally, it is critical to note that global natural gas and power markets are evolving - life cycle assessments should keep pace with these dynamics with data and methodology updates over time.

To learn more about Jordaan’s work, please read the article “Understanding the Life Cycle Surface Land Requirements of Natural Gas-Fired Electricity,” recently published in Nature Energy, at http://rdcu.be/wnOu. This work utilized several SPE papers in improving research. You can also review Jordaan’s slide deck from the event at https://www.spegcs.org/study-groups/international/.
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**December 2017 Calendar**

**Monday, December 4th**  
- Cont. Education

**Tuesday, December 5th**  
- Reservoir Cont. Education

**Wednesday, December 6th**  
- Drilling Research & Development

**Thursday, December 7th**  
- SPE-GCS Office Closed

**Friday, December 8th**  
- SPE-GCS Office Closed

**Saturday, December 9th**  
- SPE-GCS Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 27th**  
- Board of Directors Meeting
- General Meeting
- Innovate Young Professionals

**Saturday, December 30th**  
- SPE-GCS Office Closed