



## From the Chairman

Welcome to another issue of the Petroleum Engineering Newsletter. We all are aware our industry is “booming” and the career opportunities are extremely brightening. Nevertheless, the pressure to our department’s “core business” is intensified: attracting more talented young people and educating them for future qualified professionals in our industry. We are facing three primary challenges: (1) competition among all engineering disciplines for limited engineering-interest pool in NM (and three main NM universities); (2) non-Petroleum-B.S. dominated graduate program; and (3) extremely diversified culture/countries of student body. These challenges are “business as usual” in that they are unavoidable. They are “no way out” situations because the trend will continue due to the nature of our industry. If you are a frequent visitor of the SPE Annual Conference, you probably already noticed items (2) and (3) above in recent years.

We do not have formal budgets to fund massive recruiting; we are short in teaching staff to teach everything; we are in Socorro .... The department remains a small (but interesting) half/half combination of undergraduate/graduate students (total about 40 students currently). Does this appear negative? No, these challenges point out that we need a more effective strategy in recruiting (by the way, we need your help), a better program design for teaching, and more sensitivity to the cultural differences. We are redesigning our brochure and web site to send a more attractive message out. Our goal is to seize any opportunity for recruiting, and we will be more aggressive than before (“we going after you” instead of “you coming after us”). We are restructuring our SPE Student Chapter activities to make student life in Socorro more enjoyable. We will be positive and we will maintain focus on our core responsibilities. Our jobs are tough and demanding (as is yours). Nevertheless, “no-pain/risk no-gain” is one major implicit element why we like our discipline and industry, isn’t it?

### Inside this issue:

From the Chairman- Dr. Her-Yuan Chen	1
Inside the Petro- leum Department	2
New Mexico Tech SPE	3
Student News- Awards	4
Banquet News	5
Spring 2007- Dr. Chen Classic	6
Tech News	7
Thanks to Our Alumni	Back Page

## A Fond Farewell

We said good-bye to **Dr. William Lyons** on December 31, 2006. He retired after teaching 29+ years in the department. His contributions to the department and willingness to help students will be dearly missed. Bill moved to Houston, Texas where he resides closer to his family. We wish him the best of luck.



## 25 Years and Counting

**Dr. Robert Bretz** was awarded for 25 years of service this past year. He is currently teaching Plant Design (Chemical Engineering), Thermodynamics (Engineering Science), and in Petroleum Engineering: Natural Gas Engineering and Simulation of Oil Field Processing of Petroleum Fluids.

Congratulations, Dr. Bretz!



25 Years of Service (left to right): Fred Phillips (Earth & Environmental), Robert Bretz (Petroleum & Chemical Engineering), Jim Schaffner (Director, Facilities Management), Arlene Valles (Director of Finance), Russ Moore (Director, Golf Shop), Ron Broadhead (Bureau of Geology), Jane Love (Bureau of Geology).

## Petroleum Students Play for a Team Sponsor in the President's Golf Tournament- Sept. 15, 2006

We can never thank our alumni enough. A huge thanks goes to William Marble (Hallwood Petroleum) for allowing the students in the department to play in the tournament. Vignesh Veer Proddaturi, Babjide Ayangade and Hafa Donarumma (pictured right) played for "Team Marble."

The students had taken a golf class and were able to apply their skills in the scramble-formatted tournament. It was a learning experience while having fun.



Welcome back for a new semester at Tech. I hope the winter break gave you an opportunity to relax and recharge for the challenges of a new year. Special welcome to those students who are new to the university; we wish you all success, and we hope you will enjoy your time at New Mexico Tech. You are joining one of the finest learning communities in America, and we are glad you're here.

**49ers Golf Tournament:** Last year was a year for a lot of achievements and activities for our SPE Chapter. Our Chapter was able to hold the traditional Annual 49'ers Golf Tournament resulting in a successful and profitable fundraiser. Students and members dedicated their time to organizing and preparing everything. A group effort from our officers, students and members led to donations of a lot of goodies. The donations consisted of trophies, putters (Ping G5-Donated by World Wide Drilling Consulting), a Titleist wedge & travel golf bags. Items in the goodie bags were donated by the Office of Advancement and Alumni (NMT) and Baker Atlas. We also held a silent auction. Two small competitions took place at the tournament. The closest to the pin contest and the putting contest gave participants a chance to show their skill at driving and putting.

**ATCE Conference:** In September, our Student Chapter headed to the Annual Conference in San Antonio Texas. Students were sponsored with chapter funds, which allowed a free hotel stay and breakfast. The students were responsible for transportation and meals. The trip was very entertaining for all. Rafael Donarumma, President of the NMT SPE Chapter, led officers and supporting students in the Global SPE Officers Meeting that took place at the Conference Pavilion. Our officers were able to discuss weaknesses and possibilities of improving different aspects of many SPE Chapters. One of the main problems discussed by many schools, including Texas Tech and Penn State, was "Student Participation in SPE Activities." Other subjects such as fund raising, leadership and award points were also discussed. The trip was also a means of business for some students. Many of our graduate students, as well as undergraduate students, were able to have a brief one-on-one interview with several leading petroleum companies such as: Anadarko, Pathfinder Energy, Chesapeake Oil and Encana Oil, among others. Officers and other members donated some of their time to making contacts, rubbing elbows and advertising for our Annual Golf Tournament, which was key to last year's tournament's success, along with the valuable support from our Alumni. San Antonio was a perfect destination for students country-wide to enjoy a break from school, while acquiring priceless insights into promising technologies within our industry.

**Other Events:** Although keeping up with a busy schedule was quite a task for our SPE Chapter, the Petroleum Engineering department in conjunction with the Chemical Engineering department had time to organize and throw a wonderful end of the year Christmas party, where students brought their favorite dishes and enjoyed an afternoon of socializing, and quality time with friends.

**2006-07 Graduates:** And last but not least, the Petroleum Department had a list of grad and undergrad students who achieved professional career goals and have left or will be leaving us at the end of this spring semester.

**December 2006**— John Moreno (M.S.), Vignesh Veer Proddaturi (M.S.), Ernesto Cortez de la Rocha (M.S.), Xiao Sun (M.S.), Nick Tvrdy (B.S.).

**May 2007**— Robin Andrews (M.S.), David McDaniel (B.S.), Rafael (Hafa) Donarumma (B.S.), Rashid Kassim (M.S.), Lee Murphy (B.S.), Michael Smith (B.S.), Guoqiang (Elvis) Yin (M.S.).

**Our students have been hired or received job offers from these companies:** Chevron, CoreLab, PathFinder, Shell, Welltec.

Congratulations to those that managed to achieve their career goals and for those sticking around; good luck with this tough road ahead. I wish you all the best and hope to see you all at the Langdon B. Taylor Banquet.

Sincerely, Rafael (Hafa) Donarumma – NMT SPE Student Chapter President, 2006-2007.

# STUDENT NEWS

## Robert Schwering Scholarship

One of our alumni, Robert Schwering ('81) donated \$500 towards a scholarship for an undergraduate with roughneck experience. The recipient of the scholarship was Nathan Bingham. Nate joined the department in August 2005 when he transferred from San Juan Community College. Nate's experience includes working as a pusher for a roustabout crew in Bloomfield, NM, a Flowback Technician, and assisting a rig crew, as part of his Drilling Engineer training, in Farmington, NM. This summer he will work as a Field Engineer for PathFinder in Farmington.



## Denver SPE Scholarship

This year 7 students were each awarded \$1,000 from the Denver SPE Scholarship. The recipients are (pictured left to right): Ibrahim Hassan, Julie Leverett, Maung Aung, Jakub Bednarz, Lee Murphy, Luis Casanova, and Rafael (Hafa) Donarumma.



## Roswell SPE Scholarship

The recipient of this year's scholarship was awarded to Corina Sedillo. Corina is a junior.

# Langdon Taylor Banquet



The 2007 Langdon Taylor Banquet is being held at Macey Center (NMT) for the second year.

This year's banquet is scheduled for Sunday, April 22, 2007, Upper Lobby.

2006 Graduates at last year's banquet.

## Time

- 4:30 Social Hour
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:30 Guest Speaker

Awards to follow. Raffle ticket drawing held.

## Awards

**F. David Martin:** Outstanding freshman student

**Langdon B. Taylor:** Outstanding undergraduate student who committed time and effort to the SPE student chapter

**Joe Taber:** Outstanding graduate student who committed time and effort to the SPE student chapter.

**Distinguished Faculty:** For their support of the SPE chapter

**NEW! Chevron Scholarship Awards**– presented by Abel Lobato ('85)

Invitations are enclosed in this newsletter.

RSVP by Monday, April 16, 2007.

# Dr. Chen Classic

Dr. Chen's Classic Golf Tournament is being held on April 21, 2007.

Spend the day before the banquet playing 18 holes and enjoy catching up with veteran and new Alumni, students and faculty. Last year we had an alumni team, a faculty team and a student team and there were a lot of laughs involved. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards are presented during the Langdon Taylor Banquet on April 22nd.

Lunch is at 12 Noon. Shot gun start is 1:00 p.m.

The fee is \$25 and includes lunch, green fees, and a golf cart. RSVP by Monday, April 16.

You can send in your payment or bring it with you the day of the Tournament. Checks & credit cards accepted-please do not send cash.



1st Place 2006– Alumni team:  
**Lost but Not Forgotten**  
Dave and Peggy Hunter & J. Michael Kelly (pictured below)



3rd Place 2006– Student team (seniors):

### **The Rookies**

Left to Right: Jeremy Mardambek, Michelle Husky, Alvaro Nunez, Ashlee Ryan



2nd Place 2006– Professor team:  
**Flunk and Forget**

Left to Right: Dr. Steve Schaffer, Dr. Her-Yuan Chen, Dr. Robert Balch (foreground)

## PRRC Director Emeritus Joseph Taber Receives Theodore Award

by George Zamora

SOCORRO, N.M, Feb. 14, 2007 – Joseph J. Taber, director emeritus of New Mexico Tech’s Petroleum Recovery Research Center (PRRC), recently was honored by being named the recipient of the REP America New Mexico Chapter’s “Theodore Award.”

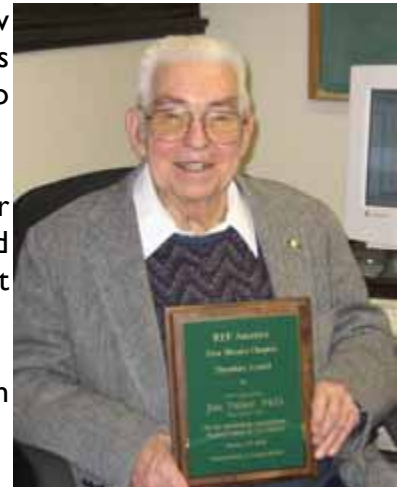
REP America is the national grassroots organization of the Republicans for Environmental Protection (REP) political group. Taber was officially presented with the Theodore Award at REP America’s annual meeting, which was held last month in Albuquerque.

The award, named after Theodore Roosevelt, was given to Taber in recognition “for his contribution to conservation in New Mexico,” the citation stated.

“Basically, I believe the Theodore Award was awarded to me primarily for a patented method I developed to convert brackish water to fresh water, which is something that fits right into REP America’s goals,” said Taber.

In 2005, Taber was granted a U.S. patent for a novel method he developed of converting oilfield “feed water” into fresh water.

The patented method, which utilizes existing reverse osmosis technology, has the capacity to economically convert water considered too salty for consumption into fresh water by using existing oilfield water pressures and high-flow rates typically found in oilfield operations, such as using injection of water for enhanced oil recovery.



# CONGRATULATIONS, Dr. Taber!

## With MUCH THANKS to our Alumni...

We thought it was time to start officially recognizing the people who have made big differences in quiet ways... our alumni.

### Donations

Brian & Cheryl Luginbill  
Robert Schwering (Scholarship)  
Calvin Kessler, Halliburton  
Abel Lobato, Chevron  
Veronica Stevenson  
Tim Bonzelet, Chevron  
James Ivie  
Bob & Susan (Taylor) Eveleth  
Lowell and Ann (Taylor) Eveleth  
J. Michael Kelly  
Jesse Lawson  
Wedge & Diane Louison  
William Marble



Alumni at the SPE 49ers Gold Rush Golf Scramble Reception. Pictured left to right: J. Michael Kelly, Nancy Engler, Tom Engler, Veronica Stevenson, Wedge Louison, Diane Louison

### Other Sponsors

#### NMT-

Dr. Daniel H. López, President: student team  
Office of Advancement & Alumni: student team, goodie bags, iron wedge  
Auxiliary Services: student team  
Dr. Her-Yuan Chen (Dept. Chair)  
Dr. Robert Lee (Director, PRRC)

#### Local Businesses:

Monette Ford  
Randy's ACE Hardware  
Sophia's Kitchen  
First State Bank  
Wells Fargo Bank  
The Capitol Bar on the Plaza  
Property Management & Consulting, Inc.  
Domino's Pizza  
Leseburg's Auto & Towing

### 49'ers Golf Tournament Sponsors

Chevron  
PathFinder (appetizers & deserts)  
Welltec (lunch)  
World Wide Drilling Consulting (Closest to the Pin, PingG5 prize)  
Baker Atlas/Baker Hughes (goodie bags)  
BJ Services Company  
Gulf Publishing (Elsevier) (book donations)  
Phillip Brewer (putter)

We would like to keep our records current. Please contact us with any information changes .