

## *From the Department Chair—Dr. Her-Yuan Chen*



Welcome to another issue of the Petroleum Engineering Newsletter. As before, the first thing I want to talk about is the current enrollment status.

### **Enrollments**

***Undergraduate.*** Undergraduate enrollments increased from 45 this time last year to around 54 currently. “Market demand” during the past years is definitely one major factor contributing to the increase. It has been difficult to identify a single concrete “efficient strategy” for recruiting. We simply try to capture all opportunities of attracting talent and spreading the message (mainly to clear the often misleading and contradictory perception regarding to petroleum/energy business).

***Graduate.*** Graduate enrollments increased from 20 this time last year to 32 currently. Again, the increase is driven primarily by market demand. 32 is a large number for a small department. Fortunately, the PRRC (at NMT) continues to contribute research advising and assistantship support to our students.

The number of applications to our graduate program continues to be one of the tops in applicants at NMT (according to graduate-office statistics). With a weak global economy, the trend is expected to continue in the near future. The good news for us is that we can be more selective in applicants’ quality and backgrounds.

### **Challenges Ahead**

Cyclic nature exists in all technical fields and appears to be unavoidable. The year of 2008, is a “roller coaster ride.” We saw crude oil hit record highs then fall to a five-year low. The New Mexico Legislature faces a significant budget shortfall this session. NMT is cutting budgets to prevent a deficit. There is no doubt that the road ahead will bring many challenges.

The future? (i) Regardless of the current oil/gas prices and global economy, oil and gas will continue to be the predominant sources of energy for the foreseeable future. (ii) Our department’s “core business” will always be the 1-2-3 punch: recruiting, educating, and producing the top young people. It is crucial for us to maintain a reasonable size of enrollment. Therefore, we will continue to be active on the recruiting front.

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## This Issue

For a second year, we are offering an extended issue. Some of the big highlights includes: teaching in Kurdistan, more scholarships awarded, the department working with Socorro's school, and the new facelift PRRC is getting.

As news develops, we will utilize the website to post additional information.

*-Karen*

## Department Needs

Our student enrollment in the department is increasing. With the help of some alumni, we were able to upgrade the computer lab. We will be focusing on a campaign to bring in funding for discretionary use, ranging from faculty travel to conferences (i.e. ATCE), to software license fees, and continued recruiting efforts.

### 1) Discretionary funds

The department is facing budget cuts and will continue to see cuts in the foreseeable fiscal year. Having discretionary funding will allow us to travel for recruiting purposes, as well as networking between our alumni and the department.

### 2) Computer Lab

We still need three more desks, four more computers, a new server computer, new chairs, and an overhead projector for the lab, which also serves as a classroom.

### 3) Well Control School

We also anticipate another Wild Well Control School in Spring 2010 and we will need to secure \$6,500 for the weekend-long educational event for 15 students.

The Petroleum Engineering program is looking for alumni volunteers to assist in organizing an alumni event in the following locations:

- Midland, Texas
- Houston, Texas
- Farmington, New Mexico
- Denver, Colorado

The purpose is to inform the alumni of the activities the petroleum engineering program is involved in and pursuing, to network with alumni you may or may not have seen in a while, and to have a good time together.

If interested, please contact Thomas Engler at [engler@nmt.edu](mailto:engler@nmt.edu) or 575-835-5207.

**\*ALUMNI RECEPTION IN HOUSTON –anticipated date, May 20. Details coming soon.\***

An educational alliance between NMT's Petroleum Engineering Department and Socorro's Cottonwood Valley Charter School was formed this fall. For several months a group of New Mexico Tech students in Petroleum Engineering have been working with mid-school students from Cottonwood Valley Charter School in Socorro, New Mexico, to better understand energy. NMT students Breanne Dunaway, Robert Blakney and Scott Engler helped 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students learn more about energy through several hands-on activities, including building solar powered cars. They also helped construct internal combustion engines (models) as shown in the photos below, and helped teach the students the basics of movie making and editing.



Clockwise starting from top left: Scott poses with Leah Guengerich and Nancy Bohling to show off their completed model. This complex undertaking had moving pistons and rods to model the action of a real engine. In the next photo Breanne works with Bryan Melanson and Kelly Wang as they assemble their engine. Last, but not least, Robbie works with Mirjana Gacanich and Cassie Parker as they are putting the finishing touches on their piston assembly.

This work was partially funded by the BP's A+ for Energy Grant Program, a BP Energy Education Program. The objective of this program is to provide K-12 teachers with resources for teaching students about energy and energy conservation, promote connections between schools and the community, and provide opportunities for students to take a leadership role in their own education.

# Across the World with Dr. Bretz

## Teaching Petroleum Engineering In Kurdistan

Last summer, a Tech graduate, Dr. Khosrow Bazrafshan, approached the petroleum engineering faculty about providing courses in petroleum engineering for a Petroleum Technology masters program at the University of Kurdistan – Hawler (UKH). Our (the NM Tech petroleum engineering faculty) schedules were full and to address Khosrow's needs I offered a distance course in petroleum reservoir fluid properties (Petr 245). To introduce the course and calm nerves of the students who have not participated in distance learning in the past, last November I traveled to Erbil, Iraq, the capital of the Kurdish Autonomous Region of Iraq.

It seems that even though petroleum seeps to the surface throughout the Kurdish region, very little effort has been directed toward exploiting the resource. Further, the potential reserves are considerable and will probably double Iraq's present considerable resources. As part of the Kurdish Regional Government efforts to exploit this resource, the petroleum technology program was established at UKH. The problem is that for various reasons, faculty members are difficult to recruit. And so Khosrow approached NM Tech for help.

The course is contained as computer files or may be available from the NM Tech Distance Ed server 24/7. Because students were slow to participate, I found it necessary to offer a help session twice a week. Because of the time differences, it was necessary to offer the session at 7:30 AM which corresponded to 5:30 PM in Erbil. During my spring break I again traveled to Erbil and conducted a final exam and introduced two additional courses. One of these course is "canned," that is was previously recorded, and the other will be offered live. The courses are scheduled to last through June after which Dr. Engler and I plan to travel to Erbil to conduct final exams and introduce the next round of course work.

The future for UKH is promising. Dr. Khosrow has requested funding to continue their program. The goal is to certify, in petroleum technology, some of the approximately 2500 under-employed engineers and geoscientists residing in the Kurdish region. There are additional plans to initiate a petroleum institute in Kurdistan to enhance the exploitation of their considerable resource.

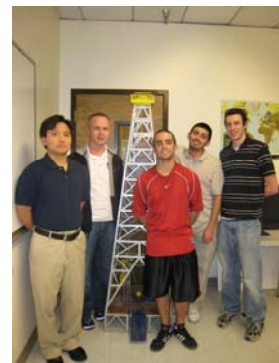


Dr. Khosrow Bazrafshan and Dr. Robert Bretz

## Chevron Scholarship \$5,000

We would like to thank Chevron and Abel Lobato ('83) for providing scholarships to these students for the 2008-09 academic year, from left to right: Tom Shimura, Spencer Stuart, Devin Meluso, Jesus Barraza, Loron Ashcroft

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## Denver SPE Scholarship \$14,000

This year 14 students, undergraduate and graduate, were each awarded the Denver SPE Scholarship. The recipients are: Ali Ziani, Sara Corman, Sachin Ghorpade; (back) Assiya Bekniyazova, Jakub Bednarz, Derin DeNio; Jesus Barraza, Paul Schweizer, Ronald Adegoke, Kwame Oppong, Olatokunbo Akanni; (forefront) Maung Aung, Bart Hegarty



## SPE Four Corners Section \$1,000

Loron Ashcroft, a senior, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Loron transferred to NMT from San Juan Community College in 2006.

## Dallas SPE Scholarship \$2,000

The recipient of this year's scholarship was awarded to Breanne Dunaway.

## John M. Kelly Scholarship \$4,000

Every year incoming freshmen have the opportunity to receive a \$1000 scholarship that they use in the fall they arrive, and the spring semester. For freshmen this scholarship is renewable the following year if a certain GPA is maintained. This year's recipients are (left to right): Laura Rivera, Erin Williams, William (Barton) Murphy, and Christopher Hatcher.



## Robert Schwering Roughneck Scholarship \$750

Robert Schwering ('81) donated \$750 for a third year towards a scholarship for an undergraduate with roughneck experience prior to beginning his/her education. The recipient of the scholarship is Joseph Tyson, a sophomore in the department.



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## Roswell Geological Society \$1,000

The Desk & Derrick Club of Roswell awarded William (Barton) Murphy and Laura Rivera \$500 each, as they continue to pursue their education in Petroleum Engineering. Both students are freshmen.



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## SPE Hobbs Section \$2,000

Assiya Bekniyazova received this scholarship for the 2008-09 year. Assiya recieved her Bachelor's in Petroleum Engineering December, 2008, and is currently pursuing an M.S.



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## SPE Roswell Section \$1,000

Spring 2008-The scholarship recipient was Joseph Tyson. Pictured, left, is Paul Ragsdale, Yates Petroleum, presenting Joe with his scholarship check.



**Spring 2009**-Laura Rivera was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. JJ McGlasson ('00) presented the check to Laura during a visit with the 2008 SPE President, William Cobb (pictured), in Artesia.



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## AADE Scholarship \$2,000

Two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to junior, Breanne Dunaway, and the AADE chapter (California) was given to Tom Shimura. Breanne was exposed to the department when she attended the summer Mini Course program during the summer, 2005. Tom transferred to NMT this past fall.



## I. Grace Gorham Memorial Scholarship \$2,000

This endowed scholarship is designed to fund a Merit Scholarship for an undergraduate student in Petroleum Engineering, have a 3.0 GPA, and be a full-time regular student. Financial Aid and the Petroleum Engineering Department work together to select the student(s). This year's recipient was Sara Corman. Sara was also named as a **Tech Scholar**.




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## \*NEW!\* 2009-10 SPE Star Scholarship \$2,000 and SPE Fellowship \$5,000

The SPE office in Richardson, TX, announced a scholarship for undergrads and a fellowship for graduate students late fall. This is the first time something of this magnitude has been offered and SPE plans to continue awarding scholarships and fellowships on a yearly basis. New Mexico Tech was very fortunate to have two undergrads, William (Barton) Murphy and Jesus Barraza, awarded the Star Scholarship and one graduate student, Paul Schweizer, awarded the Fellowship. Our students will receive their awards for the 2009-10 semester.




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## Earl Debrine/Capitol Bar Scholarship \$500

To be eligible for this scholarship, a student has to be a resident of New Mexico or New York. The Capitol Bar/Earl DeBrine Scholarship is made possible by the generous support of Joanne and Earl DeBrine, Jr. in memory of their father Earl DeBrine, Sr.; Tech Alumnus (Petroleum Engineering, 1963) and former owner of the Capitol Bar. The scholarship is given to support a student who exhibits exemplary scholarship and character. Robert Blakney, a sophomore from New Mexico, was the recipient of this year's scholarship.



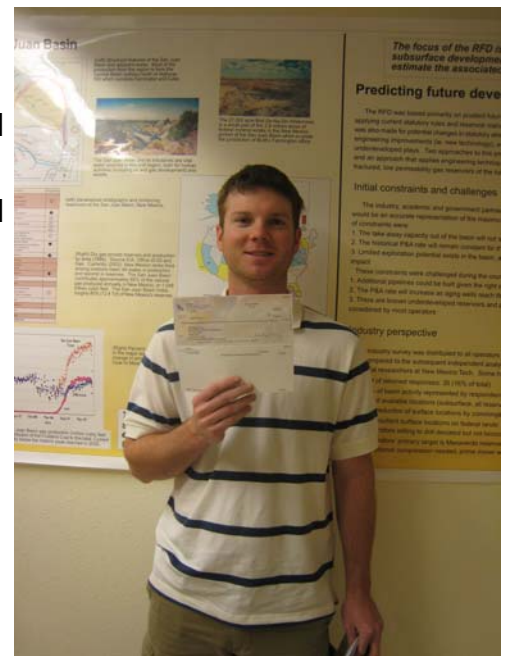
### Murphy/Strata Establishes NM Tech Scholarship



During the spring, 2008, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (“NMT”) announced that Mark B. Murphy of Roswell, NM established a multi year \$10,000.00 annual scholarship in honor of his father Bertram H. Murphy. Mark Murphy is President of Strata Production Company and earned a Bachelors degree from NMT. Bert Murphy is a registered professional Petroleum Engineer in New Mexico and Texas and earned a degree in Petroleum Engi-

neering from Stanford University. He has been a highly respected engineer and successful independent oil and gas producer for over fifty (50) years. Both of the Murphy’s serve as petroleum industry advisors to NMT’s Petroleum Recovery Research Center.

The two (2) \$5,000.00 annual scholarships are awarded to advanced undergraduate or graduate students in NMT’s Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering Departments. The selections are made by NMT’s faculty on the basis of merit and need. The 2009 recipients are graduate students, Benjamin Dickinson (above), from Wisconsin, and Garrett Wilson (right) from Corpus Christi, Texas. Benjamin received his Bachelor’s degree in Geophysics/Geology at the Univer-



sity of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Garrett’s degree is in Finance/Business Administration at Texas A&M. They joined the department this spring to study in the Petroleum Engineering Master’s program.

# Alumni News

We feel it's extremely important to recognize our alumni and extend this recognition by expanding the alumni section of this newsletter. We want to keep you up-to-date with donations made to the department and what we are doing with them.

JJ McGlasson ('00) continues to be invaluable to us. For a third year, he is sponsoring the dinners for the undergraduates at the Langdon B. Taylor banquet. JJ recently became the Chair for SPE's Roswell section and helps the student chapter as a mentor and regular sponsor for the SPE Gold Rush Golf Scramble.

With a big thanks to the Petroleum Alumni Guys\*, and Ken Fagan, we were able to upgrade some more computers in our computer lab. \*Note: the Petroleum Alumni Guys requested anonymity.



**Alumni of the Month.** Every month, during the fall and spring semesters, we will continue to recognize the generosity of our alumni, whether it's monetary contributions or overall service and/or time contributions. For the 2008-09 academic year, visit our website to read about:

October 2008: Jeff Corey

November 2008: Tom Engler

February 2009: Ken Fagan

March 2009: Joshua Kamas

April 2009: Doug Pecore



Petroleum Alumni David and Peggy Hunter joined Mike Kelly ('72) and Bruce Stubbs on the golf course for the 2008 SPE Gold Rush Golf Scramble.



Dr. Chen and Bill Stevenson were joined by Craig and Jeff Corey ('83) for the 2008 SPE Gold Rush Golf Scramble.

# This Year In Pictures



JJ McGlasson teaches a drilling lab



2008 Halloween Costume Contest



Graduate Seminar



Fall 2008 field trip to RL Bayless Producers, LLC, Farmington, NM



Students in the reservoir lab



Spring 2008 field trip to ConocoPhillips, Farmington, NM



We had numerous guest speakers for seminars. Jim Linville gives a talk just before 49'ers weekend begins.



Students and Dr. Chen enjoy the sun and breakfast during registration.



The 6th Annual SPE 49'ers Gold Rush Golf Scramble was another success! We had more players on the golf course, more alumni in attendance, and most of the petroleum engineering students around the golf course all day.

We want to thank...

### Yearly Contributions (Department)

- Brian & Cheryl Luginbill
- Robert Schwering (Scholarship)
- Abel Lobato, Chevron
- Veronica Stevenson
- Petroleum Alumni Guys
- Doug Pecore
- Jim Linville, Devon
- JJ McGlasson
- Julie and Josh Cruse
- Jeff Corey
- Calvin Kessler
- Tom and Nancy Engler
- Steve Trujillo

### 49'ers Golf Tournament Sponsors

- Yates Petroleum (lunch)
- Chevron
- ConocoPhillips and Jeff Corey
- BJ Services (breakfast)
- Three Forks Resources (student team)
- NonDarcy Oil & Gas (goodie bags)
- Devon and Jim Linville
- BOPCO, LP (student team)
- Synergy Operating, LLC
- Robert Dolezal
- Calvin Kessler, Halliburton
- Shannon Shaw
- Marbob Energy Corporation
- Armstrong Energy Corporation
- Mar Oil & Gas
- Bill Barrett
- Nadel & Gussman, HEYCO, LLC
- Harvard Petroleum Company, LLC
- Jerzy and Barbara Rajtar
- Sange de Cristo Communications, LLC

### Local Businesses:

- The Capitol Bar on the Plaza
- Heart Healthy Sandwiches
- K Bob's Steakhouse



**Mark your calendars!**

***The 7th Annual SPE 49'ers Gold Rush Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, October 23, 2009.***

\$49 per person - includes green fees, lunch & golf cart Registration Time: 8:30am Shotgun Tee Time:10:00am. 4-man scramble Call 575.835.5412 or email [kmbalch@nmt.edu](mailto:kmbalch@nmt.edu) by Oct. 19th to register. Sponsor deadline Fundraising will be to cover travel costs to ATCE in New Orleans and prepare for ATCE Florence, Italy 2010. Information, including sponsors, will be continuously posted on the website.

First, I would like to welcome everyone back to another semester and wish you all a Happy New Year. To our new students, on behalf of the SPE NMT student chapter, I bid you all a warm welcome. We are glad you have joined our finest community and hope you grow with us. The new year promises even greater achievements and fun events ahead for SPE. Our previous year proved challenging with myriads of activities but all in all was a success.

The previous year started with election of new SPE officers, who made the year a success; dutifully attending to their responsibilities and carrying everyone along.

With gratitude to our sponsors and donors, we were able to carry out our activities without glitches; from field trips to hosting golf tournaments; from orientation for new students to the annual SPE ATCE conference; from community volunteer services to improving career gratification of our students. Once again without the support of companies like Chevron, Devon, ConocoPhillips, NonDarcy Oil & Gas, Synergy Operating, BJ Services, Yates Petroleum, Three Forks Resources, Armstrong Energy; other companies previously listed, key alumni, and our fundraising events, this would not have been fully realized.

Financially, the previous year was something to be proud about; as there was no deficit in our account. We look forward to building a strong financial base, so at the end of the year, SPE NMT student chapter has a cushion for future events.

Academically, we also have cause to be happy for our students who achieve their career goals, either by securing gainful employment or receiving merit-based scholarships.

The new year promises to be even more exciting than last year. We intend to enlist the participation of more students in our activities, embark on educational field trips, host social events to encourage networking, involvement in community services, fundraisings, organizing career events, and hosting our annual Langdon Taylor Banquet. With all of these events lined up, we look forward to the unalloyed support of our donors!!!



# New! Weekend-long Events

We're doing something a little different this year.

## Friday May 1, 2009

**Lunch Social! Around MSEC 384 (Conference Room).** Join the students, faculty, and staff during the lunch hour. Lunch sponsored by the NMT SPE student chapter.

**Senior Design Presentation 1:30pm, MSEC 101**

**Petroleum Engineering Industrial Advisory Board Meeting 3:00pm, MSEC 384**

**Langdon Taylor Banquet** Sponsored by NMT SPE Student Chapter Macey Center, Auditorium/STAGE

5:00pm Social Hour

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Guest Speaker: JJ McGlasson ('00)

Awards following Dinner

\$20/person \$25 at the door

## Saturday, May 2, 2009

**Alumni Breakfast.** 8:30am. Engler residence, 1209 Calle De Lago

**Dr. Chen Classic:** 11:30am. Lunch and registration. 1:00pm Shotgun Tee-off.

\$25 per person - includes green fees, lunch & golf cart. 2-man or 4-man scramble depending on number in attendance

**SPE BBQ:** Awards for the Dr. Chen Classic will be given at the barbecue immediately following the Dr. Chen Classic.

**ALL RESERVATIONS DUE BY MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009**

Call 575.835.5412 to register or email: [kmbalch@nmt.edu](mailto:kmbalch@nmt.edu)



2008-09  
Senior Design  
Teams



# Dr. Chen Classic

## **Dr. Chen's Classic Golf Tournament-May 2, 2009.**

Spend the night after the banquet and join us for breakfast before heading to the golf course to play 18 holes in the Dr. Chen Classic. 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 will be presented during the SPE student chapter sponsored BBQ and Awards, immediately following the Dr. Chen Classic.

Registration and lunch is at 11:30am. 1:00pm shot gun start

The fee is \$25 and includes lunch, green fees, and a golf cart.

RSVP by Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

**Awards to be given immediately following the Dr. Chen Classic at the SPE BBQ.**

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### **2008 Dr. Chen Classic Teams**

#### **Lost but not Forgotten (our Alumni team)**

JJ McGlasson, Krista McGlasson, Bob Balch, Jim Linville

#### **Show Me the Money (Scholarship and Sponsorship Team)**

Bruce Stubbs, Mike Kelly, Jeff Corey, Craig Corey

#### **Pseudo Petro (Petroleum student team)**

Nate Bingham, Matt Higgins, Dr. Chen, Dr. Bretz

#### **The Rookies (Petro Senior Team)**

Depesh Patel, Luis Casanova, Kuba Bednarz, Chris Charron



The sidewalk became boards and the parking lot was torn up. Construction at the PRRC began in the fall, 2008. It became noticeable when a huge pit was dug, big enough for a swimming pool. By October, the hole was filled in (pictured left) and the work continued.

PRRC Construction, October 2008

The addition to the Center will include three large labs, additional office space, server facilities, and a seminar room.

In February, during a walk through, Dr. Balch provided some photos.



The projected date for the completion of the addition is July 31, 2009.

