

**Hege Kverneland**, SPE, was named senior vice president and chief technology officer of National Oilwell Varco. She has 10 years of engineering and product management background, contributing to quality assurance and research product development. Kverneland earned an MSc degree in mechanical engineering from Norwegian University of Science and graduated from the General Management Program from Harvard Business School.



**Richard E. Muncrief**, SPE, was named senior vice president of operations for Continental Resources. Before this appointment, he was senior executive for Quest Midstream Partners. Muncrief earned a BS degree in petroleum engineering technology from Oklahoma State University.



**Jonathan Thiele**, SPE, was named vice president and general manager of Dyna-Drill Technologies, a business unit of Smith Technologies. Before this appointment, he was vice president—manufacturing for Smith Bits. Thiele earned a degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University.

MEMBER DEATHS

**Raymond J. Gasper**, Houston

**Thomas F. Jordan Jr.**, Shreveport, Louisiana

**Fred M. Kalenborn**, Bakersfield, California

**Ion G. Pantazi**, Campina, Romania

**Edward R. Swift**, Tulsa



**Robert D. Sydansk**, a recipient of the SPE Production and Operations Award in 1999 and a Distinguished Member of the Society, died 9 June 2009.

Sydansk worked for 33 years as a chemist for Marathon Oil until he retired in 2000. He conducted R&D in improved oil and gas recovery. At

Marathon, he developed and helped commercialize the chromium-carboxylate/acrylamide-polymer gel conformance-control and fluid-shutoff technology.

Sydansk headed up his own consulting company, Sydansk Consulting Services, that specialized in enhanced oil recovery, improved oil recovery, and conformance improvement, with emphasis on polymer-gel use for water shutoff and sweep improvement. He also completed a 1-year program as a visiting and senior scientist at the Petroleum Recovery Research Center of New Mexico Technology.

In 1999, Sydansk was awarded the SPE Production and Operations Award and was recognized as an SPE Distinguished Member in 2000. He was also recognized

as a 25-Year Club Member in 2004. During 1995–2009, he was a technical editor for *SPE Productions & Operations*, and during 2006–09 was a member of the Technical Interest Groups Coordinating Committee. During 1992–93, Sydansk chaired the SPE International Forum on Advances in Conformance Control. During 1997–98, Sydansk was an SPE Distinguished Lecturer and lectured internationally on oilfield polymer-gel technologies. In 2001, he taught an SPE short course on the use of polymer gels for water-shutoff purposes.

Sydansk authored or coauthored 38 technical papers within the area of improved oil and gas recovery. He held 60 US patents and more than 137 foreign patents.

A fund has been organized in honor of Sydansk's professional career, with money contributed to be directed to one or more academic institutions and used for the advancement of science as it relates to conformance-improvement technology. A small board of his peers will decide on the final placement of the funds. Please make checks payable to Schwab Charitable Fund with the Robert D. Sydansk Fund noted on the check's memo line and mail to Robert D. Sydansk Fund, P.O. Box 101973, Denver, Colorado 80250, USA.