



**Ben Ebenhack**, SPE, received the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) 2011 Robert Earll McConnell Award. Established in 1968, the award recognizes “beneficial service to humankind by engineers through significant contributions which tend to advance a nation’s standard of living or replenish its natural resources.” Robert Earll McConnell was an AIME member and prominent mining engineer. Focusing on research and formation evaluation technologies, Ebenhack spent the first 11 years of his career at Union Oil Company of California, teaching at the University of Wyoming during a two-year leave of absence while earning his MS in petroleum engineering. He subsequently served at the University of Rochester as research associate in the Frederick Douglass Institute and senior lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering. He founded AHEAD Energy in 1989, currently serving as its chairman of the board. AHEAD is a nonprofit currently focusing on working with schools and hospitals in Africa to optimize energy solutions to meet their needs. Ebenhack is currently associate professor of petroleum engineering at Marietta College. He served as a 2009–10 SPE Distinguished Lecturer; has one patent and two additional disclosures; and authored approximately a dozen papers and conference presentations, and one published book, with two books currently under contract. In addition to his MS, Ebenhack earned a BS degree in petroleum engineering from Marietta College.



**Tako Koning**, SPE, was appointed Angola business development manager in Luanda, Angola, for Gaffney, Cline & Associates. With 40 years’ oil and gas exploration and management experience, he previously worked worldwide for Texaco, from which he retired at the time of the merger with Chevron. Subsequently, he served with Tullow Oil

Angola. Koning has been on the board of directors of the SPE Angola Section for the past 12 years and in 2007 received the SPE Regional Service Award for Africa. He earned a BS degree in geology from the University of Alberta and a BA in economics from the University of Calgary.



**John Lee**, SPE, will be the first tenured faculty member in the University of Houston’s growing petroleum engineering program. He will hold the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen distinguished university chair. Lee was a professor at Texas A&M University beginning in 1977, recently holding the L.F. Peterson chair in petroleum engineering. After receiving his bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Lee worked for the Exxon

Research Company from 1962 to 1968. He later joined and eventually headed Exxon Company USA’s major fields study group. He also joined S.A. Holditch & Associates in 1980, retiring as executive vice president in 1999. He served as an engineering fellow with the US Securities & Exchange Commission during 2007–08. The author of three SPE textbooks, Lee was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1993, Georgia Tech’s first class of its Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni in 1994, and the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences in 2006. He became an AIME/SPE Honorary Member in 2001. He received SPE’s Reservoir Engineering Award in 1986 and was named a Distinguished Member in 1987. Lee received the AIME Mineral Industry Education Award in 2002, the Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal in 2003, and the DeGolyer Distinguished Service Medal in 2004. He is a past member of the SPE Board of Directors, served as an SPE Distinguished Lecturer, and received the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award from Texas A&M in 1982.



**Steven P. Martin**, SPE, was appointed senior vice president of engineering at Max Petroleum. He has more than 33 years’ experience as a petroleum engineer, including 27 years at Anadarko in positions of increasing responsibility in areas such as international project management and portfolio planning, finally serving as Anadarko’s chief engineer.

Martin holds a BS in petroleum engineering and an MBA from the University of Denver.



Brinker Technology named **Kenny McAllister**, SPE, as its new chief executive officer (CEO). McAllister joined Brinker in late 2010 from Halliburton where he was a senior account manager. With more than 16 years’ experience bringing new technology to the oil and gas industry through a variety of roles in sales, operations, and general management, he has worked in Europe, Africa, the former Soviet Union, and the Middle East. McAllister earned a BS in applied physics from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, and an MS in information technology from York University, Toronto, Canada.



Tracerco appointed **Gary Phillips**, SPE, as the new head of its operations in Aberdeen. He takes up his new post having worked for Tracerco for 13 years, latterly as reservoir technical manager. Phillips has more than 20 years’ experience in the industry, primarily in reservoir operations and characterisation. He earned a Higher National Diploma in electrical/electronic engineering from Aberdeen Technical



**Douglas Brant Bennion, SPE**, died on 6 September 2011 after a brief illness. He was 51. Bennion was Weatherford Laboratories' (formerly Hycal Energy Research Laboratory) director of flow-in-porous-media research and worldwide technology adviser. He also taught undergraduate and graduate

level courses as an adjunct professor at the University of Calgary. With more than 30 years' international expertise in the areas of formation damage and fluid flow in porous media, he also taught courses in the petroleum industry on six continents in more than 60 countries. Bennion was author or coauthor of more than 250 technical papers on a variety of subjects, including underbalanced drilling, fluid-phase behavior, multiphase flow in porous media, formation damage, carbon sequestration, heavy oil operations, and enhanced oil recovery.

Bennion served the Petroleum Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum in a number of capacities over the last two decades, including director on both the Calgary Section and National boards, and other positions, such as continuing education director, student affairs director, secretary, Canadian International Petroleum Conference (CIPC) Technical Program chairman, CIPC general co-chairman and chairman, chairman-elect, and 2002 chairman of the society. He served as chairman of the *Journal of Canadian Petroleum Technology* Editorial Review Board.

Bennion was an SPE Distinguished Lecturer during 2001–02 as well as 2003. He was the recipient of the 2007 SPE Rocky Mountain North America Regional Drilling Engineering Award. A registered professional engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta, Bennion held BSc and PhD degrees in chemical and petroleum engineering from the University of Calgary.

Bennion leaves behind his wife Marilyn, four children, two grandchildren, both parents, and two sisters.

College and an undergraduate degree in physical science from the Open University.



Cobalt promoted **Van P. Whitfield, SPE**, to the new position of chief operating officer. He previously was executive vice president, operations and development. Whitfield joined Cobalt in May 2006. He has 37 years' experience leading oil and gas production operations and marketing activities in North America, the UK and Europe, Africa, the

Middle East, and Asia. Before joining Cobalt, Whitfield served in executive positions at CDX Gas and BP Exploration (Angola), and was seconded to ExxonMobil Saudi Arabia (Southern Ghawar) in the position of vice president, power and water. He has also served as senior vice president of BP Global Power, president and general manager of Amoco Netherlands, and production manager of Amoco (UK) Exploration. Whitfield earned a BS in petroleum engineering from Louisiana State University and is a graduate of the executive program at Stanford University.

#### MEMBER DEATHS

**R.D. Blaicher**, Houston, Texas  
**J.W. Crutchfield**, Austin, Texas  
**Jerry P. Cunningham**, Dallas, Texas  
**Atanu Ghosh**, Mumbai, India  
**John W. Hampton Jr.**, Austin, Texas  
**Warren O. Johnson**, Ellinwood, Kansas  
**Sunil Kumar**, Mumbai, India  
**B.L. Moore Jr.**, Kingwood, Texas  
**Bob L. Paulsell**, Mandeville, Louisiana  
**Nolan O. Pierson**, Missouri City, Texas  
**R.G. Tribble**, Houston, Texas  
**Ashok Varma**, Mumbai, India  
**Alva G. Walsh**, Marshall, Texas  
**W.O. Winsauer**, Beeville, Texas

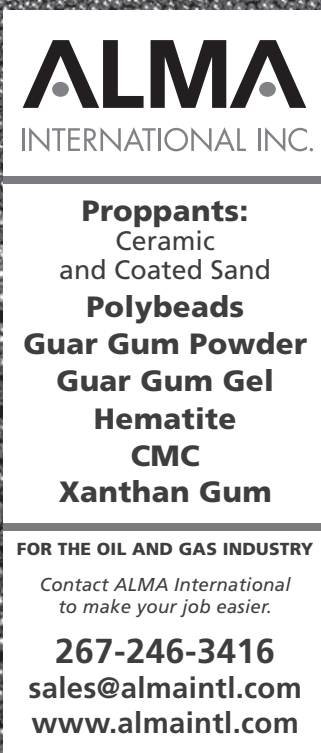
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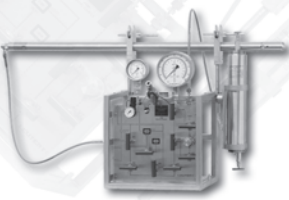
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