

# Industry/Academia Dialogue

John Donnelly, JPT Editor • [jdonnelly@spe.org](mailto:jdonnelly@spe.org)



SPE's 2008 Colloquium on Petroleum Engineering Education brought together educators and industry professionals from various sectors to look at the state of industry/university relations and to examine how well each is doing in developing professionals. The event, held near Houston, attracted 93 attendees, two-thirds of those from industry. Speakers from both industry and academia focused on several important issues, including the skills that today's graduates need to succeed, petroleum engineering faculty shortages, and how industry and universities can better help each other. Susan Howes of

Chevron and Lloyd Heinze of Texas Tech University were cochairs of the event.

With the shortfall of technical talent already confronting the industry, such dialogue is more important than ever. Among the colloquium's objectives were to

- Develop a common understanding of the industry's needs and how universities, operators, the service sector, and government, can fill those needs.
- Develop a common understanding of petroleum department challenges in meeting industry's needs and identify possible solutions.
- Review the qualifications required of today's graduate engineers so universities can develop the proper curriculum.
- Discuss the evolving roles of academia, industry, the service sector, government, and SPE in undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate continuing education.
- Strengthen industry/education/government partnerships.

One subject that attracted quite a bit of discussion was the value of a petroleum engineering degree vs. a broader energy degree. Another issue concerned how much universities should squeeze into the available curriculum hours vs. looking to industry to teach selected skills in the first few years of employment. Petroleum engineering faculty shortages also attracted attention. Facing a shortage of people, the industry is hiring faculty away at a time when universities are experiencing more enrollment demand. "Universities are facing their own big crew change," says Ron Hinn of Oxy, who was on the planning committee for the event.

One of the major results from the colloquium was a request to industry from academia for more support. Among the suggestions were for industry to provide more funding for endowed chairs and research, create "externships" for professors so they could work in industry for a summer, underwrite the costs of select faculty to attend SPE conferences, allow employees to take sabbaticals from work so they could teach for a semester or two at universities, and establish programs for retirees to teach at universities. Members of industry called for universities to graduate students with higher competency levels in business acumen and economic insight in addition to having the core science and engineering skills.

The mutual dialogue will continue at this year's SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition, with a session planned to further discuss some of the issues that arose at the colloquium. All presentations from the colloquium and the list of corporate supporters have been posted on the Petroleum Engineering Educators' Network on SPE's website.

JPT

**Ed May**, Senior Reservoir Engineer, Schlumberger, Chairperson

**Syed Ali**, Consultant, Schlumberger

**Baojun Bai**, Assistant Professor of Petroleum Engineering, University of Missouri-Rolla

**David Baker**, Senior Research Engineer, ExxonMobil

**David Barnett**, Vice President Engineering, Wild Well Control

**Russell Borgman**, Operations Excellence Coordinator, ConocoPhillips

**Simon Chipperfield**, Team Leader Central and Amadeus Gas Exploitation Development, Santos Ltd.

**Torsten Clemens**, Senior Reservoir Engineering Adviser, OMV Exploration and Production

**Greg Conran**, Drilling Advisor, Schlumberger

**Martin V. Crick**, Senior Reservoir Engineer, Schlumberger

**Jose C. Cunha**, Senior Technical Consultant, Petrobras America

**Ivor R. Ellul**, Chief Executive Officer, Knowledge Reservoir, LLC

**Sam Gomersall**, Managing Director, Digital Energy Exchange

**Harvey Goodman**, Research Consultant, Chevron

**Manuel Gonzalez**, Senior Engineering Advisor, Chevron

**Charles Hager**, President/Independent Consultant, NSI Technologies

**Damir Horvat**, Drilling Engineering Manager, Arrow Energy

**Jean-Louis Jousseume**, Head of Geographical Areas—Americas, Europe, and CIS, Total

**Martin C. Kennedy**, Chief Petrophysicist, Woodside Energy Ltd.

**Anthony R. Kovscek**, Associate Professor, Stanford University

**Gregory Kubala**, Project Manager, Schlumberger

**Robert MacAndrew**, Chief Executive Officer, Aberdeen Drilling Management Ltd.

**Colin J. Mason**, Senior Drilling Engineer, BP plc

**Stephane Menand**, Research Engineer, Paris School of Mines

**Graham Mensa-Wilmot**, Vice President – Engineering and Research, Chevron

**John Misselbrook**, Director Global Coiled Tubing, BJ Services Company

**Stephen O. Norris**, Senior Staff Reservoir Engineer, J-W Operating Company

**Karen Olson**, Completion Team Leader, BP plc

**Bobby Poe Jr.**, Engineering Advisor, Schlumberger

**Dean C. Rietz**, Managing Senior Vice President, Ryder Scott Company

**Jacques Salies**, Well Engineering Manager, Petrobras America Inc.

**Paul D. Scott**, Principal Engineer – Fluids, ConocoPhillips

**Stuart L. Scott**, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University

**Brian Skeels**, Emerging Technologies Manager, FMC Technologies

**Jay Stratton**, Vice President Operations, Golden Energy LLC

**Claude P. Valenchon**, Vice President – Technology Development, Saipem SA

**John Veil**, Manager – Water Policy Program, Argonne National Laboratory

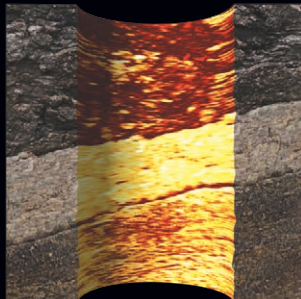
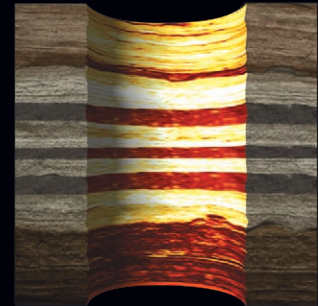
**John M. Vitucci**, Director of Operations, FMC Technologies

**Scott Wilson**, Vice President, Ryder Scott Company

JPT is always eager to hear from its readers. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at [jdonnelly@spe.org](mailto:jdonnelly@spe.org) or by phone at +1.713.779.9595 ext. 616.

# >> Wireline-quality imaging while drilling.

The latest member of the InSite<sup>™</sup> generation of logging-while-drilling systems, the InSite AFR<sup>™</sup> azimuthal focused resistivity sensor, reveals your borehole in explicit detail—delivering high-resolution images of thin beds, dipping planes and fracture orientation.

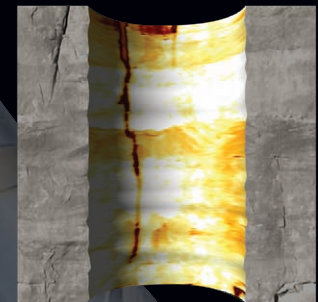


The InSite AFR sensor also provides at-bit resistivity for geosteering, as well as excellent resistivity measurements where a laterolog-type sensor is required. It all adds up to more accurate reserve estimates,

better understanding of reservoir structure and improved production.

Get more InSite into your reservoir.<sup>™</sup>

Visit us at [www.halliburton.com/afr](http://www.halliburton.com/afr)



*Unleash the energy.*<sup>™</sup>

**HALLIBURTON**

*InSite generation:*

- Deeper reading*
- Higher resolution*
- Faster telemetry*
- Greater reliability*