

ATCE Encourages Networking and Knowledge

Erica Shillings, *JPT* Assistant Features Editor

The oil and gas industry thrives on creating new technology and sharing that knowledge with others. At the 2008 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE), which will be held 21–24 September in Denver, the focus will be on connecting members and exchanging knowledge as attendees will have the chance to view the latest technical innovations as well as attend sessions focused on the latest industry trends and significant topics. The conference will offer more than 450 technical presentations, posters, and sessions. ATCE will also feature more than 400 companies exhibiting the latest products and services, continuing education opportunities, student and young professional activities, and networking events. The technical program includes an opening general session, special sessions, and short courses.

Short courses will be taught the weekend before the conference on subjects ranging from coiled tubing, enhanced oil recovery, and horizontal well completions to asset management, hydraulic fracturing, and intelligent well technology. On Sunday, 21 September, the Student General Session will give students the chance to hear industry leaders give presentations on future professional career opportunities. Sunday's student activities also include a Student Welcome Breakfast, a Student Chapter Officers Workshop, and a Student Technical Session. The day will conclude with a Student Recruiting Fair where company recruiters will be present to offer information about their companies, accept resumes, and discuss careers.

Other student events include the International Student Paper Contest and PetroBowl on Monday. At the International Student Paper Contest, students can watch competitors from around the world compete in the undergraduate, master's, and PhD divisions. The PetroBowl, sponsored by the Gulf Coast Section Emerging Leaders Program, is a contest that will present 16 student chapter teams in a tournament-style contest that tests knowledge of the E&P industry and SPE. A reception, sponsored by EnCana, will take place after PetroBowl.

Opening General Session

On Monday, the Opening General Session "Unconventional Wisdom" will feature a panel of experts discussing the critical role that unconventional resources will play in the future of the E&P industry. Overlooked for decades because of technology limits and recovery costs, these resources are poised to play a dramatic role in shaping the future of the global energy mix. Unconventional resources such as oil shale, tight gas, oil sands, and alternative energy sources (wind, geothermal, nuclear) represent a substantial proportion of the global

reserves base. Topic experts will debate the pros and cons of profitability, challenges associated with different alternative resources, and the ability of unconventional resources to meet expanding demand. This moderated panel discussion will include time for audience questions.

The Annual Reception and Banquet takes place Monday night, recognizing SPE members who have made significant contributions to the oil and gas industry.

Special Programs

On Tuesday, a Young Professionals Session on "Risky Business: Decision Making with Uncertainty" will focus on uncertainty and risk analysis. The session will begin with presentations by industry experts. Then, young professionals will split into work groups and create a development plan based on a predetermined data set. The session will conclude with the work groups defending their plan in front of a board of directors. Later that evening, a Young Professionals Reception will be held.

On Tuesday afternoon, a panel session on "Improved Oil Recovery: Looking into the Past to Brighten the Future" will feature industry experts from various fields of improved oil recovery (IOR) presenting what the industry has learned from the past, what advances in technology promise to produce better results, how these processes can be applied currently, and what impact they have on the future. Topics discussed will include waterflood conformance, thermal recovery, chemical floods, miscible gas/CO₂ recovery, offshore IOR processes, and advanced techniques in IOR.

The session will be moderated by Alberto Sampaio de Almeida, Reserves and Reservoirs General Manager, Petrobras, and will include panelists Bill Cobb, 2008 SPE President and President, William M. Cobb & Associates; S.M. Farouq Ali, Consultant, HOR Tech; George Hirasaki, Professor, Rice University; Lanny Schoeling, Vice President of Engineering and Technical Development, Kinder Morgan CO₂ Company; Hafsteinn Agustsson, Senior Discipline Leader,



Almeida



Farouq Ali



Hirasaki

Reservoir Management, Petroleum Technology and IOR, StatoilHydro; and Gary Pope, Professor, University of Texas at Austin.

Another special session “Women in the Industry: Is There Still a Glass Ceiling?” will take place on Wednesday and will feature a diverse panel of women who will share their views and experiences on the topic. The panel will present an overview of some of the barriers—real, fictitious, or self-inflicted—that women face in the industry and discuss how to break through these barriers. The session includes a networking breakfast, 10-minute presentations by each panelist, and an open question-and-answer session with the audience. Session Chairpersons for this event will include Gail Ramdath, Special Projects Coordinator, Tucker Energy Services; and Terri M. Willis, Account Manager, Schlumberger.



Heinze



Howes

On Wednesday afternoon, a special session “Petroleum Engineering Education” offers a broad view of petroleum engineering education—at all stages of a student’s development. Panelists will provide statistics on petroleum engineering enrollment and curriculum requirements; results from the most recent SPE Colloquium on Petroleum Engineering Education; details on SPE’s education programs, including its new Energy4me initiative; continu-

ing education programs; and insights into developing students’ leadership traits. Panelists for the session will include Robert Chase, Professor and Chair of the Department of Petroleum Engineering and Geology, Marietta College; Lloyd Heinze, Professor and Chair of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, Texas Tech University; William Pike, Editor in Chief, Hart Energy Publishing; Susan Howes, Manager, Horizons Program, Chevron; Ford Brett, President, PetroSkills; and Lane Sloan, Director of Strategic Energy Alliance, University of Houston.



Cobb



Roodhart

On Wednesday, the President’s Luncheon and Annual Meeting of Members will feature 2008 SPE President Bill Cobb delivering the “State of the Society” address and the official passing of the presidential gavel to 2009 SPE President Leo Roodhart. This event also will recognize the newly appointed SPE board members, distinguished members, former presidents, and regional award recipients. For those fasting during Ramadan, a special Ramadan Iftar and Dinner will be held Tuesday night that will feature Cobb giving the “State of the Society” address. **JPT**

For more information about the conference and how to get tickets for certain events, please go to www.spe.org/atce/2008.

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