

## SPE Sections Win President's Award for Excellence

Several SPE sections were recognized during this year's Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE) for outstanding achievements. The 2008 SPE President's Award for Section Excellence winners are the Ohio Petroleum, Alaska Petroleum, Java Indonesia, Denver Petroleum, Permian Basin, Saudi Arabia, and San Joaquin Valley sections. In addition, the Shekou Section won Most Improved Section while the Moscow Section won Most Innovative New Program. These sections were recognized during the President's Luncheon at ATCE.

This is the first time the Ohio Section has received the SPE President's Award for Section Excellence. The section is extremely active, holding regular activities and meetings. It sponsored an American Refining Refinery Tour and SPE/Ohio Oil and Gas Association Fall Technical Meeting. Despite not having a formal affiliation with an SPE student chapter, it raises money for scholarship programs. Last year the section awarded more than USD 22,000 in petroleum-related scholarships and awards.

The Alaska Petroleum Section, also a first-time honoree, had a successful year by hosting three well-attended young professional networking socials, an SPE community-related event, established a formal Young Professionals Committee, and provided an Ambassador Lecturer to University of Alaska Fairbanks. Its scholarship fundraising barbecue collected USD 18,523, with all proceeds supporting local high school graduates and college students pursuing degrees in engineering and Earth science. The section awarded USD 20,500 in scholarships to 15 individuals. The section sponsored the student paper contest held in Bakersfield, California, in conjunction with the SPE Western Regional Meeting.

With 82 members, the Shekou Section, a first-time Most Improved Section winner, developed many activities throughout the year. The section received visits from 2008 SPE President Bill Cobb and 2009 SPE President Leo Roodhart. It also sponsored a workshop titled "FPSO: A Challenging Issue in Offshore China." The Moscow Section, first-time Most Innovative New Program winner, was awarded for its video recording of monthly lectures and distribution of these in English and Russian to all student chapters in the Russian Federation.

## University of Oklahoma Wins 2008 PetroBowl

For the second year in a row, the University of Oklahoma student team won the PetroBowl Championship, beating the University of Texas at Austin in the final round during the seventh annual competition at the 2008 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE). The students on the University of Oklahoma student team were Phillip Brauer, Sarah Kassis, Chaz Meyer, and Chinonye Excel Ogugbue.

The 2008 PetroBowl, which is held annually at ATCE, consisted of 16 student chapter teams from all over the world. Each team had four members. Students spent a grueling day testing their knowledge in competition with other student teams. The teams answered technical questions about the oil and gas industry as well as about the history of SPE. Questions also included formulas and visual slides that students had to identify.

During the award ceremony, the University of Oklahoma student team was presented with the silver trophy and a check for USD 2,500 from EnCana. The team receives USD 500 and each student receives USD 500. This event was hosted by the Young Professionals of the SPE Gulf Coast Section and was sponsored by PetroSkills. An awards reception following the event was sponsored by EnCana.

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## Energy4me Develops New Materials

Energy4me, the energy-education program for students, teachers, and the public, has a new kit full of presentation and learning-activity resources for speakers and educators.

Sponsored by SPE and the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project—the United States' leading provider of energy-education programs and materials to schools—Energy4me is a program that helps students, teachers, and the public become more educated energy consumers. The new Energy4me speaker-resources kit includes sample presentations, videos, and experiments that can be performed easily in classrooms or other presentation venues. It also includes information on petroleum engineering

careers. The kit is designed to get students excited about energy and will benefit both teachers and SPE members who volunteer as guest speakers.

Energy4me also offers the educational book *Oil and Natural Gas*, which discusses oil and gas as natural resources and provides a basic overview of all phases of the petroleum industry. Informative to readers of all age levels, the 72-page book includes many photos and illustrations and is well-suited to school libraries, as well as individual bookshelves. For more information on these materials, please go to [www.energy4me.org](http://www.energy4me.org).

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## Students Take Honors in International Paper Contest

Students from around the world competed in the annual International Student Paper Contest, vying for top spots in undergraduate, master's, and PhD divisions at the 2008 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition.

The top winners were

- Undergraduate division—Fia Adhi Utama, Bandung Institute of Technology, “An Analytical Model to Predict Segregated Flow in the Downhole Water Sink Completion and Anisotropic Reservoir.”
- Master's division—Waleed Fazelipour, University of Texas at Austin, “Development of a Fully Implicit, Parallel, EOS Compositional Simulator to Model Asphaltene Precipitation in Petroleum Reservoirs.”
- PhD division—Sebastien Matringe, Stanford University, “Accurate Streamline Tracing on Three-Dimensional Tetrahedral and Hexahedral Grids.”

### Undergraduate Division Finalists

- Ana Carolina Caldas Aguiar, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, “Strength Analysis of Expandable Tubular for Well Applications.”
- Eric M. Looney, University of Texas at Austin, “Redeveloping a Permian Basin Waterflood.”
- Shrutti Ravindra Jahagirdar, Maharashtra Institute of Technology, “Bypassed Oil Detection Using Spectroscopy and Nano Technology.”

- Maureen Nnenna Ogbonna, University of Port Harcourt, “Optimization of GTL with a New Generation Catalyst and a Computer Model.”

### Master's Division Finalists

- Luiz Fernando Rocha Bitton, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, “Validation of Simplified Mathematical Model for Turbidity Currents.”
- Obinna Duru, Stanford University, “Modeling of Reservoir Temperature Transients and Parameter Estimation Constrained to the Model.”
- Tetsu Yasunami, Kyushu University, “Numerical Temperature Prediction System in Injection Tubing, Bottom Hole and Reservoir Condition for Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Injection into Deep Coal Seams.”

### PhD Division Finalists

- Elena Rodriguez, University of Texas at Austin, “Model for the Straining of Fines in Unconsolidated Sands.”
- Seyed Reza Taheri, Curtin University of Technology, “Remote Sensing, Fuzzy Logic and GIS in Petroleum Exploration.”
- Valcir Tadeu Beraldo, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, “Streamline Simulation with Compressibility and Spatial and Dynamic Variation in Oil Composition.”

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## Expanded JPT Online Debuts

JPT's redesigned and expanded website debuted during the 2008 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition, offering live news, blogs, and video. Previously, *JPT Online* contained only a web copy of the monthly print publication, which is still available through the redesigned website and will continue to include free downloads of technical papers summarized in *JPT*. The website can be accessed at [www.spe.org/jpt](http://www.spe.org/jpt).

The new *JPT Online* will contain video interviews of industry experts and conference speakers, blogs from important SPE conferences, live news, and opportunities for readers to comment on articles. The new site will also highlight key topics from the pages of *JPT* and provide links to other SPE publications, useful resources and guides, and upcoming events.

## Chapter Winners Picked

Six student chapters were finalists for the SPE 2008 Outstanding Student Chapter Award, recognizing a student chapter whose programs, activities, and levels of participation during a single academic year distinguish that chapter from all others. The award is designed to recognize exceptional merit in several areas; the award may not be given every year, and only one award is given annually. The winner of this year's award is the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Chapter. The finalists were the chapters at the University of Cairo, the University of Ibadan, Istanbul Technical University, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, and Malaysia University of Technology.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Chapter was selected for its numerous activities and accomplishments. The chapter was named Most Outstanding Engineering Department at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The chapter coordinated, organized, and hosted the Petroleum

Engineering Tour Day for more than 900 high school students and visitors; assisted with the organization of the SPE Symposium and Exhibition on Formation Damage Control; planned and organized the 6th Annual Industry Appreciation Crawfish Boil for more than 300 visitors; devoted time to community service activities; and raised funds for the department, college, and university. The chapter was also recognized as the 2007–08 Most Outstanding Student Section by the American Association of Drilling Engineers.

The chapter also helped to more fully incorporate new freshman and international members. They assisted the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Petroleum Engineering Department in managing the large amount of new students by providing presentations to class lectures, assisting in laboratory classes, raising money to replace laboratory tools and equipment, and by offering a mentoring program to new students.

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