

Space Administration (NASA) developed from a national desire to explore outer space and the moon. NASA's Johnson Space Center was constructed in the 1960s and with it many aerospace jobs opened up. Along with oil and gas, Houston remains a large influence in the aerospace industry.

The city of Houston is accessible with its two main airports, George [H.W.] Bush Intercontinental Airport and William P. Hobby Airport. Popular weekend destinations by flight include the mountains of Colorado and the beaches of Mexico. The Texas Hill Country, Galveston's beaches, and popular Texas cities such as Austin and San Antonio are all within driving distance for weekend trips.

Houston's Way Ahead

Roughly 10,380 petroleum engineers work in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan area—an area containing the highest number of petroleum engineers in the US. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of petroleum engineers in the US is expected to grow a whopping 18% through 2018, faster than average for all occupations, as there are expected to be more jobs than qualified applicants.

Andres Zoldi, a reservoir engineer with Chevron and based in Houston, quotes Steven Johnson's *Where Good Ideas Come From*: "Crowding people leverages creativity." "That's because many people with a few incomplete ideas can come together and emerge with great complete ideas," he says. "The diversity of people is also enormous. This makes Houston an interesting crucible for ingenuity and creativity."

Joey Bernica, a reservoir engineer with ConocoPhillips, also based in Houston, thinks location is a key factor differentiating the city from many other energy hubs. "Houston dominated the energy industry for years because the majority of energy business was conducted right in its backyard," he explains. "The Gulf of Mexico, east Texas fields, and the Permian Basin can all be reached without crossing a state line. Going forward, the biggest challenge for Houston as an energy hub is keeping up with the global market. That said, numerous large shale gas and deepwater plays within a very close proximity to Houston will be ramping up over the coming years." **TWA**



Energy education outreach: Delta Section YPs and LSU students who made a presentation to high school AP chemistry and physics students. From left, James Stiernberg, Dakoriye Charles, Sofia Miranda, Wendy Redpath, and Teddy Yao, all of LSU; Jack Carona of Griffin and Griffin; and Elizabeth Mann of Shell.

Delta Section YPs and LSU Students Discuss Industry with High Schoolers

Four SPE Delta Section young professional (YP) members and five Louisiana State University (LSU) students teamed up on 25 March to discuss the oil and gas industry, industry careers, and preparing for college with advanced-placement (AP) chemistry and physics students at Fontainebleau High School in Mandeville, Louisiana. The YPs and collegians showed material from the SPE energy education outreach program, Energy4me (www.energy4me.org), discussed careers and college studies, and answered many questions.

Sofia Miranda, an LSU freshman, discussed time management in college versus high school and the importance of studying in college. LSU junior Wendy Redpath talked about her personal experience switching from civil to petroleum engineering and the course overlap between the two disciplines. Courtney Sample, a Chevron reservoir engineer, discussed the importance of internships as a means by which students can confirm their college major choice. Elizabeth Mann, a Shell facilities engineer, talked about recruiting and what companies look for in students.

Another key topic was the many opportunities in the industry. Dakoriye

Charles, an LSU freshman, discussed the travel he has done because of his petroleum industry involvement. Jack Carona, a petroleum engineer at Griffin and Griffin, talked about the benefits of a nonroutine job that changes daily. Richard Zaunbrecher, a deepwater exploration team lead at Shell, discussed his experience as a supervisor. Other participants included Teddy Yao, an LSU freshman, and James Stiernberg, a graduate student at the university.

Saudi Arabia Section Hosts YP Technical Symposium

The Saudi Arabia Section's 2011 Young Professionals (YP) Technical Symposium was held during March at the Plaza Conference Centre in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Attended by more than 350 YPs and students from local and international companies, the event marked the largest gathering for oil industry YPs in the country.

Symposium Chairperson Msalli A. Al-Otaibi gave opening remarks, which were followed by keynote speeches by Khalid A. Al-Falih, Saudi Aramco president and chief executive officer, and two other speakers.

Six technical sessions were held, featuring 30 technical papers written and presented by YPs. Session topics

included production enhancement and operation; reservoir engineering and management; reservoir characterization and simulation; drilling, workover, and well completion; technologies and innovation; and health, safety, and environment. Six technical courses and a workshop were held in conjunction with the technical sessions.

A highlight of the symposium was the workshop titled "Innovation and Development: Keys of Success." The workshop had three discussion sessions that focused on challenges faced by YPs and how innovation and development can help overcome them. As part of the technical program, two field trips were organized to the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling control room and Qurayyah seawater injection plant, the largest injection plant in the world. Both field trips were heavily attended by university students and YPs. A panel discussion, "The New Era of Oil and Gas: Challenges and the Role of Young Professionals," was held on the final day and focused on the importance of YPs in the industry's future.

Msalli A. Al-Otaibi, Saudi Aramco

Mumbai Section Focuses on YP Involvement

Enhancing the technical knowledge and soft skills of young professionals (YPs) and students is a major goal of the SPE Mumbai Section and, in particular, the executive committee responsible for YP activities. The section has conducted more than 25 events directed at or involving YPs over the past year, including eight Ambassador lectures, four Energy4me (www.energy4me.org) presentations to schools, and 14 other events such as quiz and essay competitions and guest lectures for students and YPs.

The Ambassador Lecture sessions were organized at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune, by YPs with diverse career paths and profiles. The goal of the lectures is to bridge the gap between petroleum engineering students and YPs. The presentations

were enthusiastically received and impromptu quiz competitions proved popular. YPs have also raised awareness of industry issues and petroleum engineering through Energy4me presentations in Mumbai schools. In addition, the section has encouraged YPs to make presentations and share their knowledge at section technical meetings.

The section's YP group will continue to host bimonthly meetings, led by subject experts, on topics of importance to the present and future energy industry.

Madhavi Jadhav, Reliance Industries

Gulf Coast Section Organizes First YP Session at HSSE Conference

What would you do to drive better performance and gain industry alignment in the health, safety, security, and environmental (HSSE) sphere? The industry is often judged by regulators, the public, and governments, on the basis of its lowest performers. Is there a way to build a more consistent and collaborative culture across the industry so that everyone shares the same objectives of reducing safety incidents to zero and protecting the environment?

These were some of the issues of the first young professionals (YP) session at the 2011 SPE Americas E&P Health, Safety, Security, and Environmental (HSSE) Conference held 21–23 March in Houston. The session, organized by a YP committee of the Gulf Coast Section, included presentations from industry experts on some of the challenges the industry faces in aligning HSSE performance expectations among organizations and personnel. In breakout sessions, participants formed teams to develop an approach or idea to address specific challenges. Student participants focused on water resource management and created a plan of action for sustainability. **TWA**

Mentoring Through Technology: Industry Leaders Video Library

The Industry Leaders Video Library is a new project launched by the Young Professional Coordinating Committee (YPCC) to help engage young professionals (YPs) and empower their careers. The goal of this initiative is to develop an online collection of video interviews with oil and gas leaders from SPE's six technical disciplines. Interviews have been or will be conducted with professionals from all sectors of the industry.

The initial phase of the pilot project, carried out in Houston by YP volunteers Laura Johnson and Deepak M. Gala, comprised three interviews.

- Drilling and completions—Fred Ng, general manager of engineering at Wild Well Control
 - Health, safety, security, environment and social responsibility—Tom Knode, HSE manager at Halliburton
 - Reservoir description and dynamics—Ganesh Thakur, vice president, global adviser, and Chevron fellow at Chevron Energy Technology Company, and 2012 SPE president
- The Industry leaders who participated were asked to share their experiences, wisdom, career advice and anecdotes about their personal and professional lives. They discussed a variety of topics, ranging from technical and leadership challenges to mentoring opportunities.

The remaining video interviews for the pilot will be conducted in the second half of this year with leaders of the remaining three technical disciplines.

- Management and information
- Production and operations
- Projects, facilities, and construction

The YPCC is committed to develop online resources that provide broader accessibility for young members. An online library of videos is available to all members at www.spe.org/go/ypn. The committee hopes to build the video library over time. If you are interested in helping to coordinate future videos or have an idea for a video, or your company would like to become a sponsor of this initiative, please email yp@spe.org.

—Laura Johnson and Deepak M. Gala