



Gulf Coast Section

DECEMBER
2012

CONNECT

SPE GULF COAST SECTION NEWSLETTER

The Evolving State of Natural Gas

GENERAL MTG P.11

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Challenges of Deep Water Riser Design

P.19

WIRELESS RESERVOIR SURVEILLANCE USING INTELLIGENT TRACERS

NORTHSIDE P.15

RENEW YOUR SPE MEMBERSHIP

P.9

Then and Now

Buddy Woodroof P.5

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

STEVE BAUMGARTNER
2012-2013 SPE-GCS Chair



The calendar year is rapidly coming to an end. December signifies the end of many activities. Students are preparing reports and studying for mid-term tests to complete the first half of the school year. Our college students are studying for final exams to complete the fall semester. Fall sports are winding down their seasons with playoffs and winter sports are in mid-season action. Corporations are gathering quarterly and end-of-year results to present to their shareholders. SPE Gulf Coast Section members have received their renewal forms for their 2013 SPE memberships. If you have not renewed your 2013 SPE membership, do it online or by mail today.

December signifies the mid-point of the Gulf Coast Section program year. From a financial standpoint, we are above our projected revenue and net income thanks to the hard work and dedication of our study groups and committees. I invite you to visit the event calendar on the Gulf Coast Section website and read our monthly newsletter routinely to identify events and community activities and participate in events and activities that interest you.

The SPE Gulf Coast Section Succession Planning and Nominating Committees led by Hiep Vu (Past Chair) have been hard at work this fall. His committee members have been assessing the future board

- What did I learn?
- What did I accomplish?
- What would I do differently? Why?
- What did I not complete?
- What were the most significant events?
- What did I do right? What was my greatest contribution?
- What were the fun activities I did? What were the not-so-fun activities?
- What were my greatest challenges and roadblocks?
- What goals am I setting for 2013?
- What is my plan to achieve these goals?

The 2013 Houston Area Engineer of the Year will be honored during the 2013 Engineers Week Celebration February 17-23, 2013. The Houston Engineers Week Committee needs additional volunteers to help plan and execute this event. Please contact Andrea Ranft, Committee Chair, at AndreaRanft@TSCEngineering.com to volunteer.

We would like to know how we can serve your interests with programs and activities organized by the SPE Gulf Coast Section study groups and committees. We encourage you to become active in a study group or committee. Please send me your comments and suggestions at sbaumgartner@marathonoil.com.

vacancies for the 2013-2014 program year. The Succession Planning Committee has reached out to our study groups and committees to identify potential candidates for the board. Hiep will present the committee's recommendations to the SPE-GCS Board of Directors for review and approval at the December board meeting. The selected candidates will be presented to our section membership in the February newsletter.

An important part of preparing for 2013 is to review the past year and learn from it. Here are some questions to reflect on to initiate the process:

CONNECT

Information

Newsletter Committee

CHAIRMAN *Kim Tran*

SALES *Pat Stone*

BOARD LIAISON *Valerie Martone*

EDITOR/DESIGN *Deuce Creative*

deucecreative.com

*For comments, contributions,
or delivery problems, contact
editor@spegcs.org.*

*The deadline for each issue is
6 weeks before publication on the
first of each month. The SPE Gulf
Coast Section newsletter is published
eleven times each program year
and is mailed to more than
15,000 SPE members in Houston.*

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Monday through Friday

Advertising

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in this newsletter or on the SPE
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Photo Submissions

*We are looking for member photos
for upcoming issues! Email your
high resolution pictures to:
editor@spegcs.org*

FEATURES

December 2012

STUDY GROUPS

GENERAL MEETING

The Evolving State of Natural Gas

P. 11

DRILLING

*Drilling and Completion Equipment
& Service Market in 2013*

P. 13

NORTHSIDE

*Wireless Reservoir Surveillance Using
Intelligent Tracers*

P. 15

WESTSIDE

*Petrophysical Evaluation in the Eagle
Ford Shale: What's the Value Added?*

P. 17

COMMITTEES

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

*Challenges of Deep Water Riser Design
Executive Club*

P. 19

2012 PetroBowl

YP Tacky Sweater Holiday Party

P. 21

AUXILIARY

December 2012 Activities

P. 21

IN EVERY ISSUE

THEN & NOW

by Buddy Woodroof

P. 5

SPE-GCS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

October 2012

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Xuan VandeBerg Harris

P. 7

SPE GULF COAST SECTION
DIRECTORY

Your guide to your organization leaders

P. 26

MORE

SPE GULF COAST SECTION
RECEIVES THE 2012 MOST
INNOVATIVE SECTION AWARD

RENEW YOUR SPE-GCS
MEMBERSHIP

P. 9

EVENT RECAP

Rebuilding Houston

HCC Symposium

Energy Day

29th Annual SPE-GCS Tennis Tournament

P. 25

THURS
December 13

7:30 AM TO 10:30 AM

SPE-GCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LOCATION

*SPE Houston Office
10777 Westheimer Rd.
Suite 1075
Houston, TX 77042*

EVENT CONTACT

*Sharon Harris
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THEN & NOW

Column by
BUDDY WOODROOF

DECEMBER, 1952

Here's a wordsmith challenge: If during the heyday of Standard Oil there was a monopoly (single seller) in the oil industry, and during the early days of Royal-Dutch and Shell there was an oligopoly (few sellers), then what word could one use to describe the present day oil industry? How about a polygopoly (heck of a lot of sellers)?

How about these oil industry publication forecasts for 1953: 1) Oil will be discovered in Texas, Canada, and the Williston Basin and the geologists and geophysicists will both claim credit for it, 2) The price of crude will vary as influenced by various governmental actions and/or conditions of supply and demand, 3) A new, best-selling book based on the vagaries of the oil industry will be published, 4) A large oil show will be held and will attract a polygopoly of sellers/vendors, and 5) The oil industry will make greater and greater use of electronic brains at the expense of the real ones. Ironic similarities to present-day forecasts?

U.S. active rig count – 2,725

DECEMBER, 1977

The world deepwater drilling record (3,461 ft, offshore Thailand) is in jeopardy by upcoming wells planned by Exxon (offshore Surinam) and Shell Canada/Texaco (offshore Newfoundland). Bet you wouldn't have guessed either of those basins.

Despite a major oil discovery off Sakhalin Island in the Sea of Okhotsk, it promises to be a number of years before production can begin due to challenges associated with the frigid offshore environment.

Exxon reports that good results from a test run on 16,000 tons of Texas lignite coal at South Africa's huge coal-gasification complex could pave the way for a \$2-3 billion lignite SNG facility near Troup, Texas. Mexico scrambles to raise cash in the form of loans in support of Pemex from the U.S., France and West Germany.

U.S. active rig count – 2,118

DECEMBER, 1987

Venezuela reports that it should be ready to begin producing 50,000 b/d of the heavy oil-water-chemical mix it calls Orimulsion by next year, pending tests at a New Brunswick, Canada power plant.

Natural gas futures trading in 1988 is close to reality thanks in part to an interchange service planned for near Katy, Texas. Top executives from Texaco and Pennzoil meet for the first time since the Texas Supreme Court upheld the judgment against Texaco. Meanwhile, Texaco's bankruptcy judge rules that a two-thirds vote of a Texaco shareholder's committee will be needed to approve any settlement with Pennzoil.

Corporate raider and Trans World Airlines Chairman Carl Icahn is back in the news claiming that he plans to boost his holdings in Texaco outstanding stock to as much as 25%.

WTI crude - \$18.70/bbl; U.S. active rig count – 1,161

THE REST OF THE YARN

This month we continue our look-back at the on-going business integration process that took place between Shell and Royal-Dutch.

In 1912, Shell entered the production business starting in Oklahoma by forming Roxana Petroleum with offices in Tulsa and rapidly ramped up its production output. Deterding was determined to build an integrated operation in the Mid-Continent, and he was heavily committed to supplying oil to the Allies. In 1916, he built a terminal and refinery near New Orleans to refine Mexican crude from Shell's fast-growing LaCorona company. The same year, Roxana began building a pipeline from the Cushing and Healdton fields to Wood River and also built a refinery in Wood River. These were completed just before the 1918 Armistice, and Shell began marketing throughout the Midwest.

Thus, in six years, Deterding built two big, integrated oil companies in Standard's backyard and, along with a score of burgeoning independents, was giving it stiff competition. In addition, the Royal-Dutch Shell companies were far ahead of any of the old Standard companies in Mexico, Venezuela and most other parts of the world. It was truly "out with the old and in with the new."

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER'S QUIZ

"Twenty-six Broadway," the most famous address in the oil world for two generations, was the New York City address for The Standard Oil Trust and later, after its breakup, for Jersey Standard.

DECEMBER HISTORY QUIZ

What was the first university in the U.S. to offer course material dealing directly with the oil and gas industry, and in what year did they first offer such course material?

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OCTOBER'S WINNER –
KENT BOWKER, A CONSULTANT
IN NEW ORLEANS.**

If you would like to participate in this month's quiz, e-mail your answer to contest@spe.org by noon December 15th. The winner, who will be chosen randomly from all correct answers, will receive a \$50 gift card to a nice restaurant.

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SPE-GCS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

October 2012

OCTOBER

Total: 15,072

YP: 3,096

SEPTEMBER

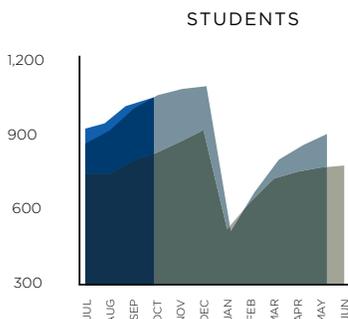
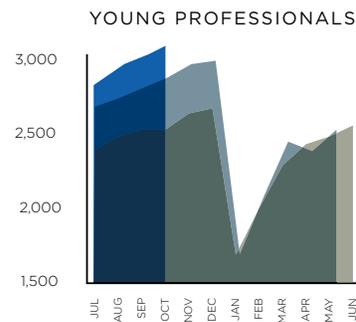
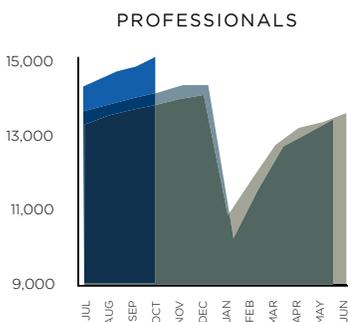
Total: 14,781

YP: 2,977

	OCTOBER		SEPTEMBER	
SPE-GCS Members	Total	YP	Total	YP
New Members	215	88	112	57
Transferred to Section	183	N/A	160	N/A
Transferred out of Section	104	N/A	88	N/A
Unpaid	1,723	643	1,786	668
Student Members	Paid	Unpaid	Paid	Unpaid
Texas A&M	789	137	753	139
UH/Rice	267	58	252	58
HCC	44	15	44	14
Total	1,100	210	1,050	211
Total Paid/Unpaid	16,172*	1,933	15,831	1,997
% Paid	89.3%		88.8%	

* A new section record!

2010-2011 2011-2012 2012-2013



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Xuan VandeBerg Harris

Xuan VandeBerg Harris is a passionate outreach volunteer for STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in the Greater Houston area. She is an energetic advocate in increasing SPE exposure in the community and in providing information about education and career opportunities in the engineering field. Xuan is our Section's Community Services Chair on the Board of Directors.

Her recent activities include organizing volunteers at the 2012 HCC Chancellors Symposium on Engineering, coordinating the SPE booth at Energy Day, and serving as presenter at the U of H Petroleum Lecture Series. In previous years, she has coordinated the High School Recruiting Fairs held in November at various school districts in the Greater Houston area. She is also a member on the executive council for the Society of Women Engineers – Houston Area Section, having served as president in 2010-11. She also founded the student chapter of IEEE at DeVry University in Houston, where she graduated with a BS in Electronics Engineering.

“When we were looking for somebody to take my place as Community Services Chair,” recalls Jeanne Perdue, currently Membership Chair for SPE-GCS, “I wanted to make sure that person had the same passion, the same enthusiasm, and lots of contacts with the community, and Xuan was the perfect person for the job. She truly wants to get the word out about how cool a job being an engineer is, and she supports all kinds of initiatives to get children excited about math, science and engineering. She’s a keeper!” Xuan is a consultant at Verdande Energy, a subsidiary of Verdande Technology. As an operations engineer, she supports the IT and Technical teams to help clients minimize drilling risks and prevent NPT (non-productive time) incidents in real-time drilling operations using CBR (cased-based reasoning).

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Pictured above: Steve Baumgartner and Ganesh Thakur

SPE GULF COAST SECTION RECEIVES THE 2012 MOST INNOVATIVE SECTION AWARD

The President's Award for Section Excellence recognizes SPE sections who display exemplary efforts in technology dissemination, section operations, member benefits, society and community benefits and innovation. Each section's annual report serves as the application for these awards. The awards are presented to an officer of each section during the President's Luncheon at the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Gulf Coast Section won the 2012 Most Innovative Section Award along with Germany, Port Harcourt Nigeria and South Saskatchewan. The Most Innovative Section award honors sections that introduce new ideas, processes or methods or a way of thinking. Key measures for this award are:

- new programs or services
- economic viability
- benefits have widespread potential
- ease of integration and implementation

Congratulations to the Gulf Coast Section!

RENEW YOUR SPE-GCS MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL OPTIONS

- Renew online with a credit card
- Mail a check
- Complete a wire transfer: Contact service@spe.org
- Pay for a Lifetime membership: The cost of a lifetime membership is 20 times the highest currently applicable dues rate (NOT necessarily the rate currently applicable to you). If you are interested in this option, contact service@spe.org.
- Use UNESCO coupons: Individuals can purchase UNESCO coupons with local currency and the coupons can be used to pay SPE dues. Visit the UNESCO website to purchase as SPE cannot assist you with purchase of these coupons. Mail the coupons with a copy of your dues invoice to the address below.
- Send a company bulk payment for your employees. Payments must be made before December 30th and your company will need to register. This option helps to alleviate costly bank fees, currency conversions, and processing of employee expense reports.
- Mail checks, UNESCO coupons or joint dues to:
SPE Attn: Membership Processing
P.O. Box 833836
Richardson, TX 75083-3836 USA

SPE sends out renewal notices by email and mail each September. Renewal payments must be received by December 31st. Members who have not paid their dues by January 1st will lose membership privileges, including JPT, member discounts, and access to TIGs, until their dues are paid.

RENEWING MEMBERS: APPLY FOR A DUES WAIVER

Under certain circumstances, SPE offers a dues waiver for renewing members up to two consecutive years for those facing

- disability or unemployment
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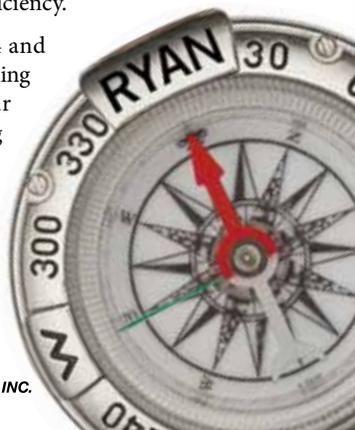
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The Evolving State of Natural Gas

In mid-2008, oil prices climbed to almost \$150/barrel, then dropped to around \$40 and now have moved back to \$100. Natural gas prices have remained very uneven throughout the world. In the US it sells for about one fourth of its "BTU-parity" with oil. There are many reasons for this situation: the considerable demand destruction in Russia; large new capacity of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Qatar and elsewhere; and of course, the inertia of the success in shale formation activities in the United States.

Massive new deposits of natural gas are discovered continuously, such as the recent feats in Eastern Mediterranean. The International Energy Agency has suggested that ultimate world recovery is over 30,000 Tcf of natural gas, 300 years of supply at current rate of use.

Price gyrations affect all aspects of the natural gas world, including LNG trade, the desirability or lack thereof of arctic pipelines, conventional and, especially unconventional gas production. A significant feature of future gas prices is that they are likely to be technology driven, similar to oil prices, rather than resources driven. Shale production and widely available LNG facilities will unify the price of gas internationally and reduce its seasonality in the not too distant future. It is likely that the United States will be exporting LNG within two years from today to a hungry China and a Russian-dependent Europe. Other modes of transportation, including new versions of compressed natural gas, will also be brought into the market to serve niche applications.

Dr. Xiuli Wang

Dr. Wang is an expert in natural gas. She is the lead-author of the book *Advanced Natural Gas Engineering* (ANGE), a contributing author of *Modern Fracturing - Enhancing Natural Gas Production* and has a large number of technical publications. She was the associate Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Natural Gas Science and Engineering* (JNGSE) during 2009-2011. She was also invited to serve as chairperson and

program committee member at many professional meetings and conferences at national and international levels.

She is currently the Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of XGas, Ltd, a natural gas conversion and transportation company in Houston, Texas. She is also an adjunct professor in the University of Houston.



Event Info

SPEAKER

Dr. Xiuli Wang
Vice President and Chief
Technology Officer
XGas, Ltd

LOCATION

Petroleum Club
800 Bell Street, 43rd floor
Houston, TX 77002

EVENT CONTACT

Barry Faulkner
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DECLINE CURVE ANALYSIS AND DIAGNOSTIC METHODS FOR PERFORMANCE FORECASTING – DCA / 17-18 December

FOUNDATIONS OF PETROPHYSICS – FPP 12-16 November

APPLIED RESERVOIR ENGINEERING – RE / 26 November - 7 December

PRODUCTION GEOLOGY FOR OTHER DISCIPLINES – PGD / 3-7 December

BASIC RESERVOIR ENGINEERING – BR 5-9 November

RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT – RIM 10-14 December

DEVELOPMENT GEOLOGY – DG 26-30 November

STUCK PIPE PREVENTION-TRAIN WRECK AVOIDANCE™ – SPP 10-12 December

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Drilling and Completion Equipment & Service Market in 2013

The oil and gas industry has been employing directional drilling for 35 years and hydraulic fracturing for 65 years, but the combination of the two in the Barnett Shale demonstrated to engineers that every known basin might be a candidate for horizontal wells with multiple-stage hydraulic fracturing. Starting in 2004, E&P spending on drilling technologies and well completion equipment & services began to soar, setting records each year through 2008, and then again in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Richard Spears will lead a discussion about his firm's outlook for drilling and completion-related services in 2013.

Richard Spears

With an engineering degree from Oklahoma State University and graduate work in industrial engineering, Richard Spears has worked for 33 years in the upstream oil and gas industry, starting as a field engineer for Halliburton. Today, Spears is one of the managing directors of Spears & Associates, an oilfield market research firm founded in 1965. The firm has 550 clients worldwide, including all major oil companies, many national oil companies, all major service companies and over 100 private and institutional investors. Spears has been with the firm since 1985 and leads the firm's mergers and acquisitions support practice.

Spears is a 27-year member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and was an SPE

Distinguished Lecturer 2005-2006. He is also a 25-year member of the Association of Energy Service Companies. He is on the board of directors and is an owner of several oilfield service companies: Varel International, a global drill bit manufacturer; Federal, the company that built the devices that ultimately plugged the BP Macondo blowout; Allied Wireline, a oilfield service company that is commercializing GE's digital openhole logging technology; and W-Technologies, a manufacturer of MWD components.

Richard and his wife Carol have one son at the University of Tulsa, one son at the University of Oklahoma, and a daughter in high school in Tulsa.



Event Info

SPEAKER

Richard Spears
Managing Director
Spears and Associates, Inc.

LOCATION

Petroleum Club
800 Bell Street, 43rd floor
Houston, TX 77002

EVENT CONTACT

Amy Timmons
713-863-6563
amy.timmons@weatherford.com

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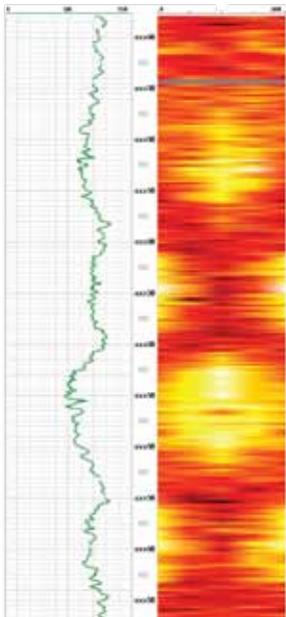
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Brock Williams

Brock Williams is the General Manager for RESMAN's North American operations, having joined in 2010. Prior to RESMAN, Brock spent 28 years working for BP in a variety of positions in Lafayette, Louisiana; Aberdeen, Scotland; Anchorage, Alaska and Houston, Texas. Brock's last assignment in BP was Intelligent Wells Project Manager where he worked with technology providers to develop reservoir surveillance technologies.



Event Info

SPEAKER

Brock Williams
General Manager
RESMAN North America

LOCATION

Greenspoint Club
16925 Northchase Drive
Houston, TX 77060

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WED
December 12

11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

Petrophysical Evaluation in the Eagle Ford Shale: What's the Value Added?

Petrophysical evaluation and characterization of source rock reservoirs can be very useful in identifying candidates for stimulation treatment optimization. Recent results from numerous horizontal wells drilled and completed in the Eagle Ford shale have demonstrated economic viability when proper candidate selection and crucial background information was obtained. The Eagle Ford shale comprises complex mineralogies. There are lateral and vertical variations, anisotropy and varying flow characteristics. All of these require innovative techniques in log and core evaluation. This presentation will examine two case histories from the Eagle Ford. The first case history discusses a situation where advanced technologies such as oriented dipole sonic, geochemical spectroscopy logs, and magnetic resonance were combined with traditional measurements to address specific applications to aid the geologic and completion teams in picking the best intervals to test vertically and offset horizontally. The second case history examines the use of chemostratigraphy-based sample analysis and pulsed neutron spectroscopy logs run in cased hole to compute the brittleness map as a guide for selecting fracture placement in intervals least prone to proppant embedment and most prone to surface area coverage.

Sandeep Ramakrishna

Sandeep Ramakrishna is a Technical Advisor of Petrophysics with Halliburton in their Formation and Reservoir Group in Houston. He has 15 years of formation evaluation experience spread between service companies and an operator. Sandeep has been involved in the development of a number of different techniques used to analyze unconventional reservoirs using wireline

logs. In his current role, he is responsible for formation evaluation of unconventional resource plays in North America. Sandeep has a MS degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Tulsa and a BS degree in geology from the University of Pune, India. He is a member SPE, AAPG and SPWLA and has published a number of papers for each society.

Event Info

SPEAKERS

Sandeep Ramakrishna
Technical Advisor - Petrophysics
Halliburton

LOCATION

Norris Westchase Center
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alexander_mccoy@oxy.com

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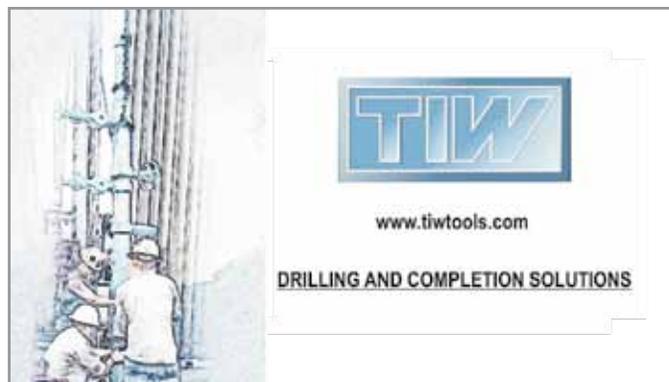
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Oil and gas projects are moving into ever increasing water depths. Deepwater brings many challenges for riser design. This, coupled with increased pressures, sour production fluids and installation constraints means that appropriate selection of field architecture, riser type and vessel type are critical. In addition, optimal riser design becomes more and more desirable to limit vessel payloads and to maximize field life. This presentation will set out these challenges along with existing solutions and potential future solutions.

Ben Andrew

Ben Andrew holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Pembroke College, Oxford and a Master's Degree in Physics from Imperial College, London. With over seven years of engineering experience in deep-water riser design at 2H Offshore, he has worked in the London, Kuala Lumpur and Houston offices.

Ben is currently a Principal Engineer in the Houston office. He is responsible for the global analysis of the top tensioned risers that interface with the Chevron Big Foot TLP. These will be the deepest top tensioned risers attached to a TLP, in more than 5,000 ft. in the Gulf of Mexico. Previous projects include a similar role on the BP Block 31NE project in West Africa for freestanding hybrid risers attached to a turret moored FPSO in more than 6,500 ft. Ben also has extensive experience with drilling and completion riser systems.

Event Info

SPEAKER

Ben Andrew
Principal Engineer
2H Offshore

LOCATION

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Houston, TX

CONTACT

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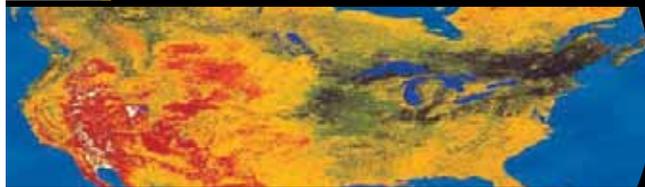
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Tuesday, December 11

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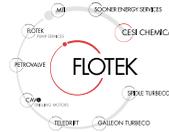
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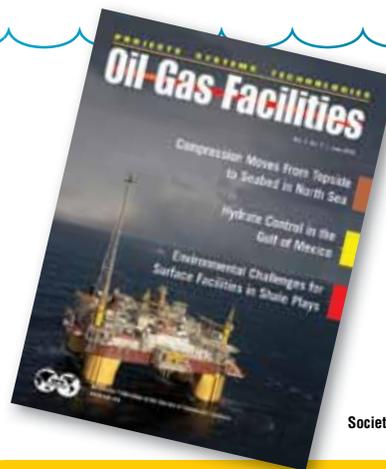
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NOTE: Each 2013-14 first-time scholarship recipient may be eligible for a summer internship with an oil & gas company on availability

Event Info

TO APPLY

Log on to the SPE Gulf Coast Section homepage and select the Scholarship/Internship committee page. A link to instructions and the online application are located in the center.

QUESTIONS

gcs-scholarship@spemail.org

INSTRUCTONS & APPLICATON

<http://spegcs.org/scholarship-app/instructons/>

DEADLINE

Complete scholarship form by 2/13/2013

EVENT RECAP

We've had quite a busy four months since our program year started in August. Check out some photos from our recent events. We'd like to feature more photos from our section events in the Connect. If your committee or study group has photos from your recent event, please send the original, high resolution file to the Connect editor at editor@spegcs.org.



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Retraction

In the October Connect, an error was printed stating that the International Study Group is looking for a Vice Chair. It should state that the International Study Group is looking for volunteers. We apologize for the misprint.

COMPLETIONS AND PRODUCTIONS STUDY GROUP

On behalf of the editorial team at *Connect*, we apologize to the Completions and Productions Study Group for the error and oversight of their event in the November issue. The event title was "Slowback" isn't the Whole Story...There is More to It. For those that may have missed the event due to our error, we apologize.



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CALENDAR

December 2012

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
				<i>Drilling Young Professionals</i>		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<i>Northside</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>	<i>Westside Young Professionals</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>	<i>Auxiliary Event</i>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		<i>Christmas Holiday Offices Closed</i>				
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29