

Los Angeles Basin Section Society of Petroleum Engineers

Recipient of the SPE President's Section Award for Excellence & a SPE Gold Standard Section

A Message from the Chair

Crude Price Up, Energy Shifting, Past Peak Oil?, Steve Cheung returns to LASPE Board



Dear Colleagues,

We find ourselves in a place I did not expect to see, but the price of crude oil has risen to a level we have not seen since 2018; i.e., over \$80/bbl. This comes as welcome news for our colleagues throughout California in E&P and will hopefully bring a period of stability and

stave off additional transition our of the industry.

Over the last couple of months, we have also seen trends in energy shifting and something most people did not anticipate, coal use and production have increased and some shuttered coal mines are even planning on [reopening to help meet demand](#), while there has been a lot of news in the past few months of other mines closing down permanently. In a past Message from the Chair, I mentioned an [article by Med Kamal](#) where he discussed the future need for petroleum engineers and all the others that exist throughout the Oil & Gas industry. Many have said we are past peak oil, or at least peak employment in the industry, but such a prediction seems likely to be incorrect; check out this article with the opinions of a former SPE President [Nathan Meehan discussing the state of the industry](#).

Along with the need for the equipment and experienced personnel from the Oil & Gas industry within fledging industries

continues on next page...

Contents

Petroleum Technology Virtual Luncheon for November 9 is a MS TEAMS meeting featuring "Geothermal reservoir engineering with a focus on California's geothermal resources" with Dr. Birendr Jha of USC.
page 1 & 3

SPE CSSSG Webinar "A Commercial Solutions for CO₂ Capture"
page 4

Appreciation Luncheon Report
page 5

Distinguished Lecturers Online
page 6

USC Student Chapter Report
page 7

LASPE Upcoming Events & Newsletter Submission Dates
page 8

THE NOVEMBER 9TH PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY "LUNCHEON" WILL BE A 11:30 AM MS TEAMS MEETING FEATURING USC'S DR. BIRENDRA JHA PRESENTING: GEOTHERMAL RESERVOIR ENGINEERING WITH A FOCUS ON CALIFORNIA'S GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

See page 3

Message from the Chair continues...

like zero-carbon energy, [advances in electrification](#) provide great new opportunities within our industry to reduce carbon emissions while producing reliable liquid fuels for energy and transportation.

This month we welcome Steve Cheung back to the Board of Directors as the membership chair. Also, SPE LA Basin continues to seek interested professionals to join the board; please send me an email if you have an interest in helping in any capacity.

Sincerely,

Andrew López
SPE LA Basin Section Chair 2020-2022
aslopez@burnsmcd.com

Contact Page
page 9

LASPE Website
[connect.spe.org/
LosAngelesBasin/Home](https://connect.spe.org/LosAngelesBasin/Home)

[Young Professionals Facebook](#)



Los Angeles Basin Section
www.laspe.org

**PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY VIRTUAL
“LUNCHEON” WILL BE AN MS TEAMS
MEETING NOVEMBER 9 AT 11:30AM**

**Geothermal Reservoir Engineering with a Focus on
California’s Geothermal Resources**

Presented by Dr. Birendra Jha, USC

Click this link to just prior to meeting to join
<https://tinyurl.com/6n5v44ea>

Abstract:

California has a special place in the geothermal energy map of US and the world; after all, it is home to worlds’ largest geothermal field, The Geysers.

Both geothermal energy and oil and gas production are sourced from the subsurface, however one is considered renewable and the other is fossil fuel. The two subjects, and the respective industries, have many aspects in common whether it is the fundamental of reservoir engineering and geomechanics or use of wireline logs for formation evaluation. In this talk, I will talk about similarities and differences between oil production and geothermal energy extraction, especially in the context of California, which has a been a strong player in both areas. Focus will be drawn to recent advances in modeling and monitoring of geothermal reservoirs which have become invaluable tools for ensuring successful and sustainable development of both natural and enhanced geothermal systems.

Biography:

Birendra Jha is an assistant professor of petroleum engineering at the University of Southern California, where his lab (gemlab.usc.edu) conducts research in fluid flow and mechanical deformation processes to better forecast the performance and hazards of subsurface engineering operations such as oil production, geothermal energy extraction, CO₂ sequestration, and groundwater remediation in stress-sensitive rocks.

His research has been funded by the US Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, American Chemical Society, and energy companies. Prior to an academic career, Birendra worked for about seven years in the oil industry as a reservoir engineer. Birendra received his masters and PhD from Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively.





SPE California Sustainability Study Group Webinar



Ramon Elias, Santa Maria Energy and Bill Clary, Pacific AgriTec “A Commercial Solution for CO2 Capture”

This presentation discusses a process for economically and efficiently removing over 90% of CO2 from combustion flue gas using algae. The technology utilizes a closed vessel called a closed photobioreactor (PBR). CO2 rich gas is passed through the vessel containing nutrient rich water and artificial light is used for continuous growth. The process generates clean oxygen gas (O2) and freshwater. No contaminant air, liquid nor solids are produced. The operation is essentially an algae ‘greenhouse.’ Excellent results were seen in a three-year trial run by Michigan State University supported by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), where exhaust gas carbon dioxide from a natural gas power plant combustion boiler was removed and algae continuously produced for 33 months.

A commercial pilot is planned for installation in the Orcutt oil field in Q1 of 2022 with improved and more robust equipment that is durable, compact, scalable, and adaptable to many different CO2 containing gas streams. The quantity of algae produced from a one-half acre Pacific AgriTec (PAT) facility would exceed the yield of a conventional 130-acre pond operation. We see rapidly increasing market demand for high quality algal biomass for use as food and food supplements, animal feed, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, farming, bioplastics, and fuels. The Orcutt pilot facility will demonstrate the potential for this process to reduce greenhouse gas while producing a valuable product, new jobs, and a healthy return on investment.

Speaker: Ramon Elias



Ramon Elias is an engineer, scientist, inventor, and business owner. His career spans over 47 years in the oil industry with significant roles in engineering, research and business, working on projects in California and other U.S., western Canada, Mexico, South America, and other parts of the World. He is a co-founder and executive officer for Santa Maria Energy, LLC and Pacific AgriTech, LLC. His community focus is to mentor students interested in STEM careers. He has been an SPE member since 1973 participating on numerous committees and as past chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Section. He was recently appointed to serve on the Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative Equity Advisory & Outreach Committee.

Speaker: William (Bill) Clary



Bill Clary has over 30 years of engineering experience working in research and development, technical support, and sales. He is a founder and former managing director of MIRATECH Corp, which manufactures and sells catalysts, silencers, heat recovery and control systems for industrial engines. He is a co-founder and President/CEO of Pacific AgriTec, LLC.

Bill grew up in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and attended Carleton College in Minnesota where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry. He later earned a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota.

[Register Today!](#)

Webinar is Thursday, [November 11, Noon - 1:00 PM](#)

Sign in early (after 11:30am) to meet presenters - stay late for an open discussion.

For more information, please contact: info@tonyzamora.com

To learn more about the SPE California Sustainability Study Group, [visit our website](#)

2021 LASPE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On August 20, 2021, the LA Basin SPE section's board and committee members (pictured below) held their end of the term year appreciation luncheon at Ballast Point in Long Beach. After each term, the LA Basin SPE section invites all board/committee members, and the golf tournament committee, to a luncheon to show appreciation for everyone's commitment and hard work on organizing all the events and assisting the organization. This year, the 2021 Western North America Regional Awards winners were also invited, pictured below.

Thanks again to all the Board and committee members who take time from their busy schedule each year to participate in the board meetings and various committees.



DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS ONLINE!

With Covid-19 causing cancelations of the presentation meetings world wide, you can still become informed by watching the [DL Webinars](#) - see below.

Here is the link to the complete selection of over 50 DL Webinars - [click here](#)

Distinguished Lecturer Webinar Program

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New to Old ▼

Global Climate Change Wars and Fossil Energy; Current and Future Realities
Contains 3 Component(s), Includes Credits
 Presented by Dr. George Stosur



Magnetic Resonance Technology: from Medical to the Oil Industry
Contains 3 Component(s), Includes Credits
 Presented by Gabor Hursan



Production Optimisation of Conventional and Unconventional Wells with ESP Real Time Data
Contains 3 Component(s), Includes Credits
 Presented by Lawrence Camilleri



Petroleum Resources Management System (PRMS): Maintaining the Global Standard and Addressing Key Concerns
Contains 3 Component(s), Includes Credits
 Presented by Dan DiLuzio



Drilling Decision Management in the Age of Drilling Automation
Contains 3 Component(s), Includes Credits
 Presented by Richard Meehan



EOR While Fracturing: Unconventional Rock-Fluid Interactions
Contains 3 Component(s), Includes Credits
 Presented by Dr. Hassan Dehghanpour



« 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 »

USC STUDENT CHAPTER REPORT

University of Southern California SPE student chapter was able to manage three major events during the month of October. One of the main events was the first in-person meeting after the pandemic that was organized outdoors on campus. During this meeting, the California Resources Company provided information regarding views on the future of the energy market and opportunities for students at all levels. As the Covid, 19 cases in California continue to decrease and the restrictions for in-person gathering start to relax the chapter would endeavor to bring more action on campus.

As the organization's calendar for the month of October has been very busy, the chapter will hold two major events for the month of November to respect the tight exam schedule of the students and better manage future events.

The first event is going to feature speakers from The Agricultural Gas Company – “AG Gas” on November 12th on the zoom platform. The event flyer is going to be posted on the organization's LinkedIn account.

One of the key elements in the student chapter is to bring different industries together with the oil and gas industry and explore new paths in the fast-changing industrial environment of the future.

The event will describe an emerging stage California company - The Agricultural Gas Company – “AG Gas®” whose patented technology repurposes industrial CO₂ for beneficial use on agricultural crops including high-value Cannabis. CO₂ enrichment of agricultural crops represents a “FOR PROFIT” global market for industrial CO₂ gas and CCS. Numerous beneficial, environmental attributes result in the deployment of AG Gas technology, and significant opportunities and overlaps exist with the oil-&-gas industry.

While student members of the organization try to prepare themselves for the last weeks of the semester the organization will try to arrange a general meeting to discuss the positive points of the previous events and plans in an amicable environment.

Lastly, the University of Southern California SPE invites all SPE members to follow the chapter's LinkedIn account for the most recent updates in events.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/university-of-southern-california-spe-student-chapter>

University of Southern California SPE student chapter wishes good health and success for all,

Nima Daneshvarnejad
University of Southern California
President of SPE student chapter
nimadane@usc.edu

SELECTED SPE UPCOMING EVENTS 2021 - 2022

Date	Title
Nov 9*	Geothermal Reservoir Engineering with a Focus on California's Geothermal Resources Dr Birendra Jha, USC
Nov 11	SPE CSSSG Webinar "A Commercial Solutions for CO2 Capture" Ramon Elias, Santa Maria Energy & Bill Clary, Pacific AgriTec
Dec 14*	New Successes with Advancements in Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery Warren Kourt, Titan Oil Recovery Corp.
Jan 11*	Increasing Oil Production with Solar Generated Steam Steve Geiger / David Mercier, Innovation Partners
Feb 8*	TBA
Mar 8*	Impact of Climate Issues on the Energy Industry through 2050 SPE Distinguished Lecturer Philip Grossweiler, Halliburton
April 12*	To Increase Production, Listen to Your Wells SPE Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Luis Quintero M & H Energy Services
	* Asterisk * on date indicates a Board of Directors meeting starts at 10:30 AM prior to Petroleum Technology Luncheon. All are welcome to attend.

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Month Published	1st Submission Call	Last Submission Call	No Submissions Accepted After	Newsletter Publish Date
Dec 2021	11/15	11/22	11/24	Dec 1
Jan 2022	12/13	12/20	12/28	Jan 3
Feb 2022	1/17	1/24	1/28	Feb 1



2021 - 2022 LASPE OFFICERS, BOARD & CONTACTS

Name	Position	E-mail
Andrew López	LASPE Chairperson 2020-2023	aslopez@burnsmcd.com
Open	Vice Chairperson	
Robert Schaaf	Past Chair - Board Member	rpschaaf@gmail.com
Francois Florence	Treasurer - Board member through 2022	francois.florence@gmail.com
Vanessa Perez	Secretary - Board member through 2022	perezv28@gmail.com
Ian Johnecheck	Board member through 2022	ianJohnecheck@gmail.com
Ted Frankiewicz	Board member through 2022	tcfrankiewicz@gmail.com
Steve Cheung	Board member 2021-2024	
Committee Chairs		
Open	Awards	
Ted Frankiewicz	Forum and Program Chair	tcfrankiewicz@gmail.com
JR Smoyer	Golf Tournament Committee Advisor	jr.smoyer@raptorwireline.com
Scott Hara	Community Outreach/STEM	scotthara@yahoo.com
Vanessa Perez		perezv28@gmail.com
Ian Johnecheck	YP Activities	ianjohnecheck@gmail.com
Dr. Iraj Ershaghi	Publication Mentor	ershaghi@usc.edu
Brian Tran	Scholarship	briantran01@yahoo.com
A.B. Gorashi	Training	goras9@aol.com
JR Smoyer	Young Professional	jr.smoyer@raptorwireline.com
Robert Schaaf	Nominations pro tem	rpschaaf@gmail.com
Larry Gilpin	Newsletter & Website Editor / Publisher	Larry@4thForge.com
Steve Shryock	Student Chapter Liaison	sgshryock@aol.com
Steve Cheung	Membership Chair	steveior@yahoo.com
Dr. Jalal Torabzadeh	Student Chapter Advisor - CSULB	jalal.torabzadeh@csulb.edu
	Student Chapter President - CSULB	beach.spe@gmail.com
Dr. Iraj Ershaghi	Student Chapter Advisor – USC	ershaghi@usc.edu
Nima Danshvarnejad	Student Chapter President - USC	uscspe@usc.edu nimadane@usc.edu
Simeon Eburi	SPE Regional Director-North America	stevespe@yahoo.com
SPE International	Contact for Sections	sections@SPE.org