

SPE review

magazine of the Aberdeen and London sections
of the Society of Petroleum Engineers

issue 246 | December 2010/January 2011



Society of Petroleum Engineers

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RAISING THE STANDARD!

Technical innovation and HSE improvements were key focus areas of the highly-successful 16th SPE-ICoTA European Well Intervention Round Table, held in Aberdeen in mid-November.

See report on page 4

OPC WELL TESTING AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Imperial College London graduate and SPE Student Chapter member, Carlos Mata, winner of this year's OPC Well Test Analysis Award, proudly sponsored by Oilfield Production Consultants (OPC) Ltd.

In his 2010 Petroleum Engineering MSc thesis, 'Analytical Methods for Establishing Interwell Connectivity in a North Sea Field', Carlos, from Venezuela, described the design and implementation of a system to scan the production history of a field, for every well, to find time windows where interference analysis can be carried out using a simplified methodology to extract the interwell diffusivity history through statistical analysis of the pressure responses.

Piers Johnson, OPC Managing Director said: "This is the fifth year OPC has presented the award and we congratulate Carlos, whose thesis was chosen as being the most technically complete and practical."

Alain C Gringarten, Director of the Centre for Petroleum Studies at Imperial College and award judge, added: "We are grateful to OPC for their continuous support. They are an example of what companies can do to encourage and reward excellence at universities."

Carlos, who currently works for Maersk Oil, commented: "I am very grateful for the award. This subject is an area where much development and research can be carried out, as new technologies keep opening doors for new processes and techniques to achieve a better understanding of the subsurface. I hope the results and methodology from the study are useful and that further research is carried out. This has been a great learning experience."

OPC is an independently owned, globally renowned leader in the provision of professional expertise, management and support to the E&P industry.



Left to right:
Professor Robert Zimmerman (Imperial College London),
David Carney (OPC Ltd), Carlos Mata and Mike Eastgate
(OPC Ltd)

SPE review

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), a not-for-profit professional association of 90,000+ members from more than 100 countries worldwide, is a key resource for technical knowledge related to the oil and gas exploration, drilling and production industry.

The SPE provides services through its global events, publications and website at www.spe.org.

SPE review is published 10 times per year by the Aberdeen and London sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. It is sent to over 4,500 UK SPE members, and quarterly to an additional 6,000+ European members.

If you have read this issue and would like to join the SPE and receive your own copy of **SPE review**, as well as many other benefits – or you know a friend or colleague who would like to join – please visit www.spe.org for an application form.

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The copy deadline for the February 2011 issue is **26 January 2011**, with publication scheduled for **9 February 2011**.

SMART ENERGY 2011 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

SPE Aberdeen invites you to submit abstracts for its **Smart Energy 2011 Conference and Exhibition, 7-8 June 2011**.

Case studies welcomed on:

- use of new technology, method and/or procedures to manage mature fields more effectively and efficiently
- performance benchmarks
- methodologies and/or techniques for knowledge capture and transfer
- OPEX reduction initiatives using Smart technologies or methodologies
- mature assets
- benefits of collaborative work practices.

Presentations only are required for this event. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words.

Please submit online by 7 January 2011 at: www.rodgerandco.com
Contact: **01224 495051; spe@rodgerandco.com**

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JANUARY - MARCH 2011

Modules from the annual MSc course in Petroleum Engineering have been made available to practising industry professionals who might require updating in various subjects. Over twenty short courses are on offer covering reservoir characterisation, well performance, reservoir performance and field development.

www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/peteng

INTEGRATED RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT IN RESERVOIR

18 APRIL - 17 JUNE 2011

A joint programme with the Institut Français du Pétrole to train experts in hydrocarbon resources management. The programme is structured around field case studies and background lectures to familiarise engineers with real life problems associated with the optimal appraisal, development and operation of petroleum resources, and to provide a basis for management decisions.

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For further details, please contact:

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Programme for Professional Development

London

At SPE London's evening meeting, at **The Geological Society, Piccadilly**, on **18 January**, three after-dinner presentations will focus on the theme of 'Geothermal energy'.

SPE Distinguished Lecturer Professor Paul L Younger, of the Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability, will discuss the following:

Many parts of the UK possess favourable geology for the development of low- to medium-enthalpy geothermal resources. Under present and forthcoming circumstances, the time is ripe for thorough investigation of a range of exploration targets. The first target to be explored in recent times was the Weardale Granite, in County Durham. Other targets now being considered for development will no doubt benefit considerably from technology transfer from the oil and gas sector.

Ed Stephens, Geologist in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of St Andrews, will share current research into locating hot rock (EGS) and hot sedimentary aquifer geothermal resources in Scotland. Various lines of geological, geochemical and geophysical evidence will be presented to demonstrate that significant geothermal potential exists to be exploited, and the talk will highlight methodologies and tools developed by the petroleum industry that can be adapted to access these geothermal resources.

Roy Baria, Technical Director of EGS Energy, will discuss the background to the development of engineered geothermal systems worldwide and the current status of the first commercial EGS project in the UK, near St Austell, Cornwall.

The pre-dinner presentation, 'Gas pricing trends', will be delivered by **Niall Trimble, of The Energy Contract Company**, who will focus on pricing philosophy, the evolution of gas pricing in the UK, recent trends in gas pricing in the rest of Europe (including the role of price reviews), and pricing for LNG contracts.

Before dinner: 5-6pm

Dinner: 6-6.45pm

After dinner (three speakers): 6.45-9pm

Booking: www.katemcmillan.co.uk; tel: 07736 070066; katespe@aol.com

Cost: £33 for SPE/PESGB/EI members, £43 non-members, £18 unemployed members.

Aberdeen

On **26 January**, at the **Douglas Hotel, Aberdeen**, **SPE Distinguished Lecturer Birol Dindoruk, of Shell**, will discuss 'Reservoir fluid properties (PVT): issues, pitfalls and modelling'.

In reservoir studies, from material balance calculations to simulation, fluid properties are always required to estimate in place volumes, EOR (Enhanced Oil Recovery) potential, and the transport parameters that interact with the flow. The variations of PVT (Pressure-Volume-Temperature) properties during depletion phase are also needed to evaluate the reservoir performance and to design surface and subsurface facilities. In general, fluid properties are central to almost all the applications in the form of input. In recent years, the rising number of offshore projects has made the modelling of reservoir fluid properties even more important. In addition to behaviour of the fluids at reservoir/wellbore conditions, behaviour of the fluids at subsea conditions is also needed for modelling/flow assurance.

The presentation will outline some of the frequently-encountered key issues and argue that the final goal of a successful 'PVT program' is to represent/model the reservoir fluid from reservoir to refinery with a single set of adjustable parameters (modelling consistency).

For bookings and enquiries, contact: spe@rodgerandco.com or visit **Aberdeen Events** at www.spe-uk.org

Register Now

SPE DIGITAL ENERGY CONFERENCE | 2011 AND EXHIBITION

19-21 APRIL 2011

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS, USA

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Society of Petroleum Engineers

Record numbers attend Europe's premier well intervention event

A record number of 320 attendees, a diverse and dynamic conference programme, and a larger-than-ever technical exhibition created an atmosphere of energy and optimism at the 16th SPE-ICoTA European Well Intervention Round Table, as international experts gathered at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre in November to share experiences, exchange ideas and showcase new technology in this industry-critical discipline.



David Heslop, of Talisman Energy UK

The significance of well intervention excellence to the sustainable future of the oil and gas industry was captured by keynote speaker David Heslop, of Talisman Energy UK, who launched the event with an overview of the challenges and an insight into his company's innovations in the field. He also talked about the need to secure the industry's future by making it more attractive to talented young people at a crucial time in their studies. This message was later underlined by a visit to the exhibition by a party of local secondary school teachers – a first for the Round Table – who learned about some exciting



Left to right: **Linda Cowie** (Aberdeen City Council), with five Craft, Design & Technology teachers; **Colin Black**, SPE Aberdeen Career Guidance Committee Chair; **Daniele Petrone**, ICoTA European Chapter Chairman, and **Ian Sutherland**, of NOV ASEP Elmar.

The busy conference, which attracted delegates from USA, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Germany and France, tackled the key themes of technology innovation, well intervention for field abandonment, well isolation techniques, engineering excellence, subsea well intervention, enhanced coiled tubing operations and remedial well integrity solutions. Operators and service companies shared their issues, solutions and learnings through technical presentations and in-field case studies. Recent events in the Gulf of Mexico inevitably influenced many of the conference papers, which reflected what one delegate described as a "renewed focus on HSE in the well intervention arena."

Some 41 companies, ranging from emerging developers to well-established service majors, chose to showcase their technology innovations at the exhibition, generating a buzz of interest among existing and potential customers. Both delegates and exhibitors made the most of the information sharing and networking opportunities between conference sessions.



Conference Chairman Callum Munro, of BP, said: "It's been a very successful event, boosted by increased attendance, a large number of high quality paper submissions and an excellent exhibition, which have helped SPE and ICoTA to achieve our common aims for the Round Table to disseminate technical knowledge and promote the value of well intervention solutions. There was increased support from a number of

operators, but we would like to see even more operators play an active part. That's the challenge for next year!"

new teaching opportunities and the wide spread of industry careers available to young people.

What the participants said...



"The event gave us the perfect platform to showcase our latest fully electronic remotely operated well intervention technology to the industry. We are a regular exhibitor at SPE shows around the world because the events generate valuable business opportunities and the technical conferences are of the highest standard. We are very pleased that we have a number of opportunities to follow up as a direct result of exhibiting here." **Ian Sutherland, NOV ASEP Elmar Europe and Africa**



"This is a very focused event, bringing us into direct contact with the customers we need to speak to. There's been a good mix of operator and service companies, but there are some operators we'd like to have seen here. This is the kind of show they should be coming to if they want to find out about the latest technology in their field."

Ritchie Cattanach, Oilenco



"I also attended the pre-conference course on well integrity, which was very good, providing a lot of valuable foundation information. Overall, the whole event has been a useful experience and well worth setting aside three days for."

Peter Will, CNR International



"It's been very interesting. I'm a Completions Engineer, so this is a learning experience for me that I will find useful in the future."

Siv Helen Mong, BP Norway



"It's been a good event for us and we've had a lot of positive comments. The teachers were very interested in our practical training materials and said they thought this kind of approach could really engage their pupils."

Bruce Adam, Marketec



"We've been exhibiting and attending the presentations and there's a lot of energy in the room. HSE is the buzz word, with companies focusing more on the safety aspects of their systems and procedures than in previous years."

Don Mitchell, Welltec

Education Perspective

"We are planning to develop a new Craft, Design & Technology course as a result of the morning. The companies visited were incredibly supportive and enthusiastic about working with the schools. We had offers of videos and simulations for use in the new course, and for visits to premises and talks to pupils in schools." **Linda M Cowie, Aberdeen City Council Development Officer Business Engagement**

Teachers' impressions:

"Bringing the technology, the problems and the solutions to a class as a hands-on would certainly give some youngsters food for thought regarding a career in the energy sector."

"I can now see how some of the skills we try to develop in our youngsters, such as creativity, problem-solving and communication, are required in this sector."

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Decisions, Decisions...

There's no uncertainty about it – the 120-plus audience at the October SPE London evening meeting, on business risk analysis methodologies and psychology, made the right decision to attend. Enthusiastic applause and extended question-and-answer sessions were the measures of a highly entertaining evening, which featured presentations by four experts in the field.

LONDON
& ABERDEEN
PRESENTATIONS



Faced with risks & uncertainties...

First up, in the pre-dinner session, was **Dag Ofstad, Senior Consultant with risk management software company IPRES**, who discussed 'The Stochastic Handling of Uncertainty'.

Dag explained that the global industry's increasing need to focus on marginal and challenging prospects, including ultra deepwater discoveries and unconventional resources, relies on quality decision analysis that evaluates projects and options consistently and takes account of all risks and uncertainties. This, he argued, requires a fully integrated approach involving input from all, including the practical disciplines, economists and project and portfolio managers.

"It is very important that in making decisions about, for example, whether or how to develop a field, we capture all the information, risks and uncertainties in one consistent model that everyone accepts and can contribute to," he said. "The linear, semi-deterministic model, which is worked by one discipline at a time, is the old way of doing things."

"If we have a tool, an integrated work approach and a methodology, we have all three basic elements for making good decisions."

Dag demonstrated how, with all data captured in a single common model, a stochastic Monte Carlo simulation will then deliver probability plots, time plots, decision trees, tornado diagrams and summary trees that can quickly and easily be compared to inform a successful development decision.

After a thorough 'grilling' by the audience, Dag was followed by **Todd Jonas, of Chevron**, who presented on 'Value of Information in Business Development Opportunities'.

Todd, the Decision Analysis (DA) Support Coordinator and functional champion for Chevron's Europe, Eurasia and Middle East Region, used a die-throwing scenario to demonstrate that information has value when:

- it delivers benefit that is worth more than the cost of obtaining the information
- it improves decision-making by reducing, removing, or resolving uncertainty
- it is obtained prior to making a decision
- the decision-maker is willing to make the decision based on the information.

He explained that in oil and gas asset bidding situations, when the main decision is how much to bid, a variety of tools can help. And because there is not always enough time to reduce uncertainty to any great extent, the focus should be on creating a state of knowledge about the asset before making a bid.

Todd then talked the audience through a hypothetical commercial scenario, describing the professional Decision Analyst's approach, highlighting how the benefit of information is quantified based on how reliably it indicates the true state of nature, and the influence of the value of information on decision trees. His key message was that it's never too early to build a robust Decision Analysis model to make probabilistic assessments and analyse decisions.

"Sometimes commercial parameters are negotiated long before such models are built and they can even be negotiated on a single deterministic success case. But when you have a robust, probabilistic Decision Analysis model, it's like turning on a light. We can use these models to really understand how likely it is that the development will occur and under what circumstances, and also to map future exit points," he concluded.

Following another lively Q&A session, **Pete Naylor, Principal Advisor with RPS**, discussed 'How to quit gambling: a structured approach to decision making'.

Pete argued that since many decisions in the oil and gas industry involve a complex mix of significant investment, conflicting objectives and multiple stakeholders, risks and uncertainties, identifying the best way forward using anything less than a structured and analytical approach is "plain gambling".

He introduced his company's Decision Risk Management (DRM™) process, which he described within the context of oil and gas business risk management as "a thinking tool that helps organisations make complex decisions in a structured and auditable way that fully accounts for risk and uncertainty."

Pete illustrated the process using a large-scale asset integrity case study which demonstrated how the iterative DRM™ process helped to turn a company's aspirations into achievements using three key steps – Clarify Scope; Identify Analysis Route and Use Quantitative Modelling. The project, which involved Pete and his team working closely with subject matter experts within the company, delivered the following benefits:

- Clear framing of the issues
 - decisions, risks, uncertainties, values
- Improved understanding
 - measure the most important parameter
- Quantification of options
 - comparing diverse factors on a common basis
- Aligned stakeholders (management, partners and government) thus enabling progress.

After another intense round of questions and a busy networking buffet which enabled the audience and speakers to continue the discussions, the gathering reconvened for the final presentation of the evening – 'Reliability of expert judgements and uncertainty assessments', by **SPE Distinguished Lecturer Steve Begg**.

In his introduction, Steve, a Professor at the Centre for Improved Business Performance at the University of Adelaide's School of Petroleum, said he would share some of the Centre's findings, gleaned from nine years of scientific research into whether, when making key business decisions or judgements, oil and gas industry Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are prey to

the same psychological pitfalls as those experienced by the general population and demonstrated by cognitive science.



On walkabout in Texas, Steve discovers a town that knows its limits!

First, he discussed the nature of uncertainty. The fundamental problem of industry performance not living up to expectations or possibilities (as identified by industry professionals themselves) is that people tend to grossly underestimate uncertainty. *"Better decision-making, at asset and portfolio levels, first requires accurate – ie unbiased and appropriate range – uncertainty assessment,"* Steve explained. He demonstrated how uncertainty and probability are not present in the systems we deal with (a common misconception), but are in our heads and are a function of what we know; moreover, risk is only one possible consequence of uncertainty – the other being opportunity, a positive factor that is often overlooked in decision-making. *"What's more, taking a 'risk analysis' perspective to dealing with uncertainty can relegate it to an afterthought, once you have decided what to do. This is completely the wrong way around. What you decide to do should result from your assessment of the possible consequences of uncertainty, good and bad."*

He then turned to 'people, probability and judgement', using some powerful optical and cognitive illusions to illustrate the fact that even if we are aware of the effect of an illusion, this awareness does not produce a more accurate perception. *"Illusions and cognitive errors, therefore, can be extremely difficult to overcome... Our 'mental wiring' is just not good when it comes to uncertainty."*

The final part of Steve's lecture highlighted the variable performance of industry experts who participated in cognitive experiments and used probability intuition in such activities as the assignment of P10-P90 ranges and assessment of co-variation and the reliability of predictors. He demonstrated that SMEs are just as vulnerable as the general public to 'anchoring' and 'unpacking' questions, ie questions worded in ways proven to influence the response.

Another area of vulnerability for SMEs is 'availability and vividness bias' – the tendency people have to base probability estimates on the most readily available, recent and vivid information they can remember. The economic impact of overconfidence based on such judgements can be considerable, Steve pointed out.

Returning to risk, he explained how taking a personal attitude to risk, ie being risk-averse or risk-seeking, rather than following the Expected Value Rule and taking an organisational attitude to risk, will undoubtedly lead to value loss.

His ultimate conclusion was that given that uncertainty is a function of what we know about a situation and that evolution has not equipped any of us with a good natural ability to assess uncertainty, we should not use intuition to propagate assessed uncertainties, but rather rely on the rules of probability, or Monte Carlo simulation.

A final flurry of questions revealed that despite being bamboozled by Steve's optical illusions, the well-entertained audience was still on form to make some expert assessments of the subject!

Further reading: <http://store.spe.org/Making-Good-Decisions-P413.aspx>

A pragmatic 'patch' approach to surface casing corrosion

SPE Aberdeen's technical meeting in October featured a practical 'warts and all' discussion by **SPE Distinguished Lecturer and ConocoPhillips Well Integrity and Diagnostics Engineer Jerry Dethlefs** of how his company has tackled an outbreak of external surface casing corrosion in its Kuparuk field, Alaska.

Near Surface External Casing Corrosion; Cause, Remediation and Mitigation' provided a valuable insight into the tools and techniques used by the Alaska-based Drilling & Wells Group to turn around a serious well integrity issue and deliver cost savings of more than \$65 million.

Jerry explained that the Kuparuk onshore oil field started up in 1981 and now has approximately 1200 wells. The first cases of surface casing (SC) corrosion were noted in 2000 and within five years, more than 25 wells were found to have SC leaks from holes near the surface (occurring at a depth of 0-25 feet).

Investigation revealed that at the root of the escalating problem was the influence of the Arctic conditions on the casing cement blend.

The resulting SC corrosion mechanism was described as:

- repeated wetting of cement with oxygenated water
- cement breakdown = corrosive fluid
- add heat from production
- galvanic and thermo-galvanic cells form
- conductor becomes cathode
- SC becomes sacrificial anode resulting in complete penetration and failure of the SC barrier.

Following a full risk assessment, a low-cost remediation process – Excavation, Preparation and Patch – was brought into play. The rolling programme involved excavating a pit around each well, some over 20ft deep, to access the damaged SC. After the conductor is removed a patch is placed over the corroded SC. The conductor is then replaced, cemented and topped with a sealant material.

To stop the corrosion process and protect the SC on wells that have not yet failed, the repair team excavates around each well to approximately three feet, to seal the water and oxygen entrance paths by welding or plugging the conductor holes, top-filling with cement to near surface and topping with dielectric sealant.

Jerry said the new sealant selected for the remediation process is a 'grease-like', non-hardening co-polymer with dielectric properties, which provides a protective film and delivers excellent corrosion performance.

The job of the sealant is to:

- seal the annulus from water and oxygen, even if completely submersed
- be suitable for wide temperature fluctuations
- be environmentally benign
- be removable
- remain in place
- be replenishable.

Turning to the economics of his team's novel 'patch' approach, Jerry explained that the programme had cost less than six percent of the cost of conventional rig workover repairs, delivering savings of more than \$65 million (over an eight-year period compared to using a rotary rig and assuming 50% of the wells were 'economic' to repair).

"More wells now remain in service due to robust patch economics, demonstrating that a non-traditional, non-rig repair can be a safe, cost-effective alternative," he said.

In terms of SC corrosion mitigation, all the remaining wells in Kuparuk and its four satellite fields are being treated with the sealant, and for new wells, an improved cementing practice (cementing to near surface and topping with dielectric sealant) has been embedded within the Drilling plan.

Jerry rounded off by saying that other North Slope operators are now adopting the sealant protection programme approach to addressing SC corrosion issues and that it also has applications in many other global locations. These include offshore assets, where SC corrosion may occur due to exposure to saltwater, as well as onshore facilities vulnerable to cement additives, shallow surface water sources, production fluids release and exposure to well servicing fluid.



Jerry Dethlefs

Copies of some of these presentations can be viewed at:
www.spe-uk.org

A Regional Director's Perspective

ATCE 2010, in Florence, marked an important milestone for SPE North Sea Region, as **John Donachie**, VP Industry and Technology at Simmons & Company, Aberdeen, concluded his three-year tenure as Regional Director and handed over to fellow long-term SPE volunteer **Léon Beugelsdijk**, a Petrophysicist with Shell's Projects and Technology group, in Rijswijk. Here the colleagues share their experiences and thoughts on the key aspects of the role.

"Being an SPE Regional Director is a hugely rewarding experience. SPE is a global entity and with a diverse range of opportunities for a board member to influence and add value. The board holds



John

strategic oversight of many initiatives, including our print and electronic publications, meetings, conferences, workshops, technical events, section-led activities, membership-related activities, scholarships and student chapter management. An enormous amount of work is happening globally across the 160-plus sections and 207 student chapters, and the SPE International Board – which is representative of each region and each technical discipline – plays a strategic role in helping to guide these activities.

This includes making decisions on section and membership-related activities, as well as sharing innovation and best practice from our sections and considering whether to apply these regionally or internationally. The overall aim is to drive continuous improvement through sharing of technical and professional knowledge. To help deliver a focus during board tenure, board activities are structured into committees that cover: Education and Professional activities (EPA); Print & Electronic Media (PEM); TPM (Technical Programmes and Meetings), and Membership (MEM), which I chaired until rolling off the board.

Some recent examples of the MEM board committee's activities have included looking at how SPE International rolls out scholarship opportunities and the benefits we can give to faculty sponsors from a student perspective; we have also reworked the way the membership dues will be structured.

Having handed over to Léon, I'm now back to focusing fully on my day job, but I'm still involved in the SPE, through the Aberdeen Section Membership Committee. I hope I can add some value from the insights I've gained internationally.

I've absolutely loved my tenure as North Sea Regional Director. I've travelled to wonderful places and I've met the most outstanding people, who have a shared an altruistic vision for our industry and who demonstrate great energy, intelligence and enthusiasm. Léon is one of those people and I'm delighted to be a member of a section that has Léon as Regional Director."

"My first encounter with the SPE was in 1994, when I was hired-in as a student to carry around slide carousels at one of the conferences in Delft. I became a full member in 1998, while back at Delft University. It was a huge resource to be able to attend SPE conferences and access the papers I needed for my research.



Léon

My SPE International involvement began in 2001, when I was invited to sit on the Formation Damage Conference Committee. I asked if I was expected to take minutes and make coffee, and was told no, I'd be ranking abstracts and chairing sessions. That was at the very start of getting young people involved in SPE International, an enthusiastic movement that was formalised with the first official Young Professional Workshop in Northern Italy, in 2003. I was part of the organising committee, John Donachie was the chair, so you could say we've grown up together in the SPE! I then also moved on into local roles, culminating with chairing the SPE Netherlands Section from 2008-10.

Being invited to join the International Board is the pinnacle of all that involvement. I have a great passion for what the SPE is trying to do for our industry and I think that volunteering for the Society is a fine way to look outward beyond my own company to see what others are doing across the industry.

One of the key things I want to do in my new role is to encourage stronger integration within the region and to help support the smaller sections and those sections that are about to start up. I'm looking forward to the start-up of the Northern Norway Section and possibly an Edinburgh Section – it's very encouraging to see the great work being done by their neighbouring sections to support them. Intrinsically-motivated people help to make a Regional Director's life very easy!

I also see a lot of energy out there for organising events and I would love SPE International to be able to help the sections further professionalise these events and promote them across the region and beyond. In the same way, I'd like to encourage integration across the region between the YPs, Student Chapters and Another Perspective, in Aberdeen, which have been holding some very successful workshops that we may well be able to raise to regional level.

As a member of TPM – the SPE International Board sub-committee that looks after strategic deployment of new events – I'm delighted to be getting more involved in the technical aspects of SPE. I see being SPE Regional Director North Sea as a great opportunity to add some value and make sure our regional members' voices are being heard at International level. For me, it's the opportunity of a lifetime!"

London students meet SPE Ambassadors

By Jide Adefioye, SPE London YP Committee

SPE London YP Committee, in association with Imperial College London and London South Bank University (LSBU) SPE Student Chapters, organised this year's Ambassador Lecture Programme, which took place in late October at LSBU's London Road Building.

Around 40 students attended the event and, being in the first month of their respective courses, benefited both from the programme's early career advice and the perspective of industry professionals.

Among the highlights were an introduction to SPE YP London Section, including the role and capacity of the SPE YP Committee, by Stephen Howell, SPE London YP Vice Chair (BG Group), and presentations from Stephen Howell and fellow London YP Committee members Ebube John-Nwosu (Petro Vision) and Rajkamal Srivastava (Deloitte), who summarised their respective careers to date and gave various tips on what to expect from the industry and how to prepare themselves for graduate programme screening and selection. Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session.



The students were very involved and raised key issues to discuss during the course of the event. They told us they appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and felt comfortable in the friendly environment. The main event was followed by an informal session, which allowed the students to interact with the panel over refreshments.

Merry Christmas



The Directors and staff of OPC wish all our clients and consultants a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2011.

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Tullow Oil Plc was founded in 1985. The company has continually grown since that time and today it is FTSE 50 and one of Europe's largest independent oil companies. The company's transformation derives from its major focus on Africa and particularly the discoveries in Ghana and Uganda.

The Jubilee Field was the first of three major discoveries in Ghana and it is on track to commence production before the end of 2010, representing the fastest ever full scale deep water development. Production will ramp up to 120,000 barrels per day in 2011. Further investment phases are envisaged to maintain plateau for many years.

Jubilee Field Asset Manager and Deputy Country Manager

Tullow is now looking to appoint an Asset Manager who will also act as Deputy Country Manager. This person will be the figurehead of the Jubilee Asset and provide leadership to the functional heads of the asset and lead the achievement of goals set for the asset in EHS, production and cost performance. The incumbent will also be responsible for successful delivery of incremental but significant capital projects to the Jubilee Field such as infill drilling phases. The Deputy Country Manager / Jubilee Asset Manager will have a significant role in the management and development of stakeholder relationships in all areas.

Tullow are looking to appoint a high impact, high potential individual, who will contribute in this critical leadership role in setting new industry standards in Ghana and who will later hold other very significant leadership roles that contribute to the future growth and development of Tullow Oil Plc. Tullow will actively consider both seasoned candidates with related experience and also individuals with potential who want to take the next step in their upstream career in a new international setting.

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LONDON EVENTS

SPE London Careers Day explores a wealth of opportunities

Chaired by Clara Altobell and Bunmi Titiloye, Continuing Education Committee

A career in the oil and gas industry can take many forms, which is why the SPE London section Careers Day, 'Fuelling Your Future in the Oil and Gas Industry', invited representatives from different backgrounds to help SPE members decide on the right path for them.

The first talk could be considered a traditional example of a successful career in the industry. Chris Cox has worked for major oil and gas operators, starting in a technical role and moving into management, where he is now senior Vice President for BG worldwide upstream assets. His advice included: move around to get a diverse experience and decide if you want to stay technical or move to management, as the roles and rewards are different. This topic was consolidated by George Griffin, of Penna, whose workshop, 'Making the transition from technical expert to corporate leader', outlined six key focus areas to support a successful transition.

The 'Defining your career platform' workshop, facilitated by Nigel Davies and Helen Cresswell, also of Penna, gave delegates time to think about their next step and avoid the trap of letting their career manage itself.

Stuart Girling, former owner and founder of Eclipse Petroleum Technology, discussed a less conventional career path. His advice to budding entrepreneurs in 'Going it alone' included: "get a good accountant, offer a quality service and tailor your day-rate." Sharad Goenka, from private equity business 3i, then gave some pertinent advice to those thinking about starting their own oil and gas company. Beth Hughes, founder of 'Making change stick' led a workshop helping business-makers set up a framework for their business idea, covering vision, model, resources and potential pitfalls.

Whatever your career path, keeping your skills up-to-date and relevant is always an advantage. Henry Edmundson, Schlumberger, explained that learning is most effective when it is fit for purpose and goes from concrete to abstract.



(from left) - Clara Altobell, Piers Johnson, Chris Scott, Neal Barnes and Ian Williamson

Four professionals from different backgrounds participated in the panel session, persuading the audience that their sector was the best to work in. Ian Williamson, Baker Hughes, represented the oilfield service industry and highlighted the opportunity for a competitive salary, good training and exciting and varied

work. Neal Barnes, Tullow, campaigned on behalf of oil and gas operators, offering responsibility, influence, competitive salary and career opportunities. Chris Scott, Eclipse Petroleum Technology, supported working as a consultant as way to have flexibility in your working hours, a high salary, interesting workload, and a means of staying technical. Piers Johnson, OPC, represented owning your own company and shared how much he'd enjoyed the experience, but pointed out that it's not for the faint-hearted and involves a lot of work and commitment.

The Careers Seminar was followed by the first-ever London Recruitment Fair, temptingly named 'Beers and Careers'. Ten companies sponsored the event and OPC also paid for the beer! The free event, open to all oil and gas professionals, had an upbeat atmosphere and attracted a steady stream of visitors. Walter Sifuentes, Schlumberger, won the Simpson Crowden business card draw for a stay in the 5-Star newly-refurbished Savoy Hotel.

There is a willingness to repeat the exercise next year, and we would like to thank our sponsors for their support:

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New Frontiers in E&P: Shale Gas

24 March, 9.30am-5.30pm, Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1

Covering:

- Global shale gas overview
- Technical challenges: drilling, completion and fracking
- Subsurface risks and rewards
- Case studies
- Environmental impact
- Economic viability

EAST AFRICA: The Pursuit of African Oil

28 April, 9.30am-5.30pm,

Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1

This seminar has a primary focus on Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique & Madagascar.

The day takes attendees through:

- East Africa basin overview
- Subsurface & surface technical challenges
- Doing business in East Africa
- Case studies
- Outlook for the future

It is aimed at people with a variety of technical, commercial and management disciplines interested in knowing more about the opportunities in this exciting region.

Both events:

Tickets: £200 members SPE/PESGB/EI inc VAT, £230 non-members

Booking: Secure advance booking at www.katemcmillan.co.uk or contact Kate McMillan on telephone 07736 070 066.

If you would like to sponsor or speak at a Continuing Education Event, email Katespe@aol.com



SPE ABERDEEN EVENTS

SPE 3rd European Well Abandonment Seminar



29 March 2011, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre

Interest is high for this topical technical seminar, with a record number of abstracts vying for a place on the conference programme. The number of companies exhibiting is also set to increase considerably compared to the previous seminar in 2009. Both reflect the increasing activity of oil and gas operators conducting or actively planning well abandonment activities, as cessation of production looms closer for many assets.

Consideration of well suspension and abandonment during the life cycle of every well is now being recognised as crucial. Decisions made during the design, construction and operation of a well may significantly impact the ease and cost of abandoning a well. It is important to understand the implications of a subject that cannot be avoided.

This seminar offers an excellent opportunity to learn from expert practitioners, hear about best practices and see the services and tools used. Topics will encompass case studies and vital industry updates on:

- Well suspension and abandonment – the future is here
- Understanding and planning for abandonment
- Assessment and assurance of abandonment barrier integrity
- Benchmarking and sharing learning
- Industry focus

For more information, exhibition bookings and sponsorship opportunities, please contact: spe@rodgerandco.com. Event details at: www.spe-uk.org

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DEVEX 2011 - 'Sharing Solutions for Mature Basin Development'

11-12 May 2011, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre

Now in its eighth year and co-sponsored by SPE Aberdeen, DEVEX has built a reputation for high-quality presentations showcasing the state of the industry in the North Sea and beyond.

The call for abstracts was issued in November with a deadline for submissions of 16 January 2011. Presentations (which need not be formal papers) and posters are welcomed. The conference aims to encourage participation from all disciplines who work together to address challenges and provide solutions to mature basin development. Case Studies form an integral part of DEVEX's ongoing success and are especially welcome.

Many of the major operators and service companies will be represented. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to share learnings with the rest of your industry.

Abstracts may be submitted online at: www.DEVEX-Conference.org.

Any queries re submissions should be addressed to: Emily Wilson, AECC, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8BL, tel: +44 (0) 1224 330 487; devex@aecc.co.uk

Unleashing the potential in your career

2 March 2011, Park Inn, Justice Mill Lane, Aberdeen

This unmissable event, created by SPE Aberdeen's Another Perspective Committee, will help identify some of the barriers to career progression and illustrate how to overcome them.

A panel of inspirational senior women from industry will share the challenges and rewards of their career journeys, and there will be opportunities for interactive role play, networking and knowledge-sharing with like-minded professionals.

The seminar is open to everyone at any career stage, from any sector.

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW: at www.rodgerandco.com

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LONDON

- 18 January (5pm-9pm) (Before dinner): 'Gas pricing trends', Niall Trimble (The Energy Contract Company)
(After dinner): 'Geothermal energy' presentations by: Professor Paul L Younger (Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability and SPE Distinguished Lecturer); Ed Stephens (Department of Earth Sciences, University of St Andrews), and Roy Baria (EGS Energy)
- 24 March (9.30am-5.30pm): New Frontiers in E&P: Shale Gas
- 28 April (9.30am-5.30pm): East Africa: The Pursuit of African Oil

VENUE FOR ABOVE EVENTS:

The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1

For details of all SPE London events, visit:

www.katemcmillan.co.uk and www.spe-uk.org 'London Events'

If you would like to sponsor an SPE London event, please email TKuiper@chevron.com

ABERDEEN

- 26 January (6.30pm): 'Reservoir fluid properties (PVT): issues, pitfalls and modelling', Birol Dindoruk (Shell and SPE Distinguished Lecturer)
VENUE: Douglas Hotel, Market Street, Aberdeen

EDINBURGH

- 2 February (6.30pm): 'Core Analysis – a guide to maximising added value', Colin McPhee (Senergy)
VENUE: David Hume Tower, University of Edinburgh, George Square, Edinburgh

CONFERENCES/EXHIBITIONS

- 2 March: Unleashing the potential in your career
VENUE: Park Inn, Justice Mill Lane, Aberdeen
- 29 March: SPE European Well Abandonment Seminar
VENUE: Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre
- 11-12 May: DEVEX 2011
VENUE: Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, DEADLINE 16 January – see below
- 7-8 June: Smart Energy 2011
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, DEADLINE 7 January
Please submit your abstract (100-200 words of text only) to:
Rodger and Co: spe@rodgerandco.com

For details of all SPE Aberdeen and Edinburgh events, please visit: www.spe-uk.org 'Aberdeen Events'

SPE LONDON Young Professionals
Technical Blast: Carbon Capture, Transport & Storage

Call for Abstracts!!!

The SPE London Young Professionals, in conjunction with other North Sea SPE YP sections, plan to hold a full-day seminar in London on 'Carbon Capture, Transport and Storage', and are calling for abstracts in the following subject areas:

- Site selection
- CO₂ Sequestration Techniques / Reservoir Engineering Concepts and Feasibility Studies
- Storage Permits
- CO₂ Transport and Stream Composition
- Leakage
- Financial Security and Contribution

The event is scheduled for 25 March 2011 and you should be prepared to present your abstract in more detail on the day.

Hurry!!! Deadline for submission is 10 January 2011.

Email your abstracts to: ypilondon@spemail.org

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