2021 SPE Pittsburgh Section Scholarship Recipients

Jason McIlvain, Slippery Rock University

I've just finished my sophomore year at Slippery Rock University majoring in Natural Gas and Petroleum engineering. Our SPE student chapter at Slippery Rock has provided many opportunities to learn about the industry as well as meet some great people. I am currently doing research on the thermodynamics of complex petroleum fluids using molecular simulations at Slippery Rock. I am honored to be a recipient of this award, as SPE has already been so beneficial to me in so many ways.



Luke Rattay, University of Pittsburgh

Hello, my name is Luke Rattay, and I attend the University of Pittsburgh. I am currently a senior majoring in chemical engineering and minoring in petroleum engineering, chemistry, and economics. This summer, I am completing my fourth co-op rotation with The Lubrizol Corporation in Avon Lake, OH. My other co-op terms with Lubrizol have been in Wickliffe OH, Gastonia NC, and Bayport TX. Upon my graduation in December 2021, I plan to find a job in the Houston, TX area.



Luke Minsky, Saint Francis University

My name is Luke Minsky and I am a senior Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering student at Saint Francis University (SFU). At SFU I play on the Division 1 Men's Golf team and am an active member in our SPE student chapter. In our SPE student chapter I have had the role of treasurer since freshman year but have now been elected as vice president for my senior year. After my sophomore year, I participated in summer student research at SFU and studied microemulsion phase behavior during enhanced oil recovery. I am very appreciative and honored to receive this scholarship from the Society of Petroleum Engineers. This scholarship will help tremendously with my education, and I'm very thankful to be given this award.



Cory Riemer, Slippery Rock University

My name is Cory (CJ) Riemer and I am a senior studying Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering at Slippery Rock University. I am an active member of SPE, and the Vice President of the Slippery Rock Chapter. SPE has helped me with networking through organizing chapter events. One of the many connections I have made has led me to an internship this summer with Deep Well Services. This scholarship will help me focus on my education with having less to worry about financially.



Yu Zhang, Saint Francis University

My name is Yu Zhang, a Junior Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering student at Saint Francis University and I am the Social activities chair of the SFU-SPE student chapter from 2021-2022. I have always wanted to work in engineering, but I don't know which field to choose. When I learned about Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering at SFU, I realized that this is my area of interest. I feel honored and grateful to be a recipient of the 2021 SPE Scholarship. The scholarship has helped me continue my education and focus more on my studies.



Charles Pelsang, Saint Francis University

I am Charles Pelsang, a Junior Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering student at Saint Francis University. I am originally from Blue Grass, Iowa. I am currently working on an internship in Champaign, IL, with Peoples Gas Light & Coke Co, a subsidiary of WEC Energy Group, in the Gas Storage Department. I am truly honored and thankful to be a recipient of the 2021 SPE Scholarship. This will help with the continuation of my education, and I am very thankful for this opportunity.



Jordan Thibodeaux, Penn State University

Jordan is a Junior studying for a B.S. in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering and a minor in Energy Business and Finance at Penn State. At Penn State, she is involved in our SPE student chapter as current Secretary and former Events Coordinator, and heavily involved in Penn State Homecoming and THON, a 46 hour dance marathon raising money for pediatric cancer. Jordan is a Wells Intern for Chevron for the summer of 2021 in the DSC, and was previously a Wells intern for Chevron in summer of 2020 in the Gulf of Mexico and an Engineering Intern for TransCanada working on the Keystone XL Pipeline. She has been around the oil and gas industry her whole life and is excited for what the future holds. This scholarship will help fund her education and feels honored to have been selected.



Mychal Kearns, Penn State University

My name is Mychal Kearns, and I am a sophomore at the Pennsylvania State University majoring in petroleum and natural gas engineering with a minor in energy and business finance. I am an active member of SPE and will be the membership chairperson for the 2021-2022 school year. I am currently working with the department of energy and mineral engineering at Penn State on a summer research internship. Some of my other involvements on campus include the Schreyer Honors College, re-founding Theta Chi Fraternity, THON, and the Latin Mass Society. I love being outside, playing any sports, and traveling. I am honored and beyond grateful for this SPE Pittsburgh Scholarship.



Cayman Kelly, Slippery Rock University

My name is Cayman Kelly. I am a Senior Petroleum and Natural Gas Undergraduate Engineering Student at Slippery Rock University, where I serve as the President of our SPE Chapter. Being on the board of my SPE Chapter has helped me widen my opportunities by acquiring new technical, personal, and leadership skills. My most recent endeavor was my Summer Internship with Advanced Resources International, where I focused on evaluating the success of CO2 EOR projects across the country. The Summer prior, I was able to partake in the CNX Career Education Experience, where I completed multiple projects with the oversight of their engineering team. With each additional industry experience, my passion for Petroleum Engineering continues to grow. I feel hopeful as I look forward to my future as an engineer after graduation in May. I am



honored and grateful to have the financial and academic support from the SPE Pittsburgh Section.

Caleb Ei, Penn State University

I am Caleb Ei, and I am a junior in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering at Penn State. I am also the Treasurer of our SPE Chapter for the upcoming school year. Most of my experience in the petroleum industry has come from working on drilling and service rigs, but I have recently taken an internship with Range Resources in their Productions Department. There is so much to be learned beyond the classroom, and SPE has really been a great help in allowing me to develop both professionally and personally throughout my academic career. I am grateful for this scholarship from the SPE Pittsburgh Section, as it will assist me financially in my development in the petroleum and natural gas industry.

