PerGeos Software Short Course April 12 and May 14
The technical workshop PerGeos Software for Digital Rock Analysis in 2D and 3D: Understanding More About Your Samples took place Friday, April 12. Due to adverse weather, the workshop was shortened and the speakers returned on May 14 to complete the presentation. Thank you to Tomas Silva Santisteban and Rangarajan Pelapur from Thermo Fisher, who presented the information both days.

Industry Advisory Council Meeting April 17-18
The spring Industry Advisory Council took place April 17-18 in the River Valley Room of the Memorial Union at UND. Companies represented include Continental Resources, Schlumberger, Hess, ND Petroleum Council, ConocoPhillips, SkySkopes, EERC, Equinor, Creedence Energy Services, Neset, XTO, TrainND, Oasis and Rainbow Gas. A special thank you to Hess and XTO for sponsoring the meeting.

The IAC banquet took place on April 17 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Howard Gober, retired from ConocoPhillips, gave the keynote address regarding his experiences in the industry. Foued Badrouchi introduced himself as the new president of the student SPE chapter and provided an update on their activities. Dwight Wendschlag was recognized for his numerous contributions to the IAC over 7 years prior to his retirement this year.

The fall IAC meeting will take place September 12-13, 2019, location to be determined. We encourage all Petroleum Engineering students to attend the banquet on September 12. This is a perfect opportunity to ask industry members about their experiences and make connections in the field. We hope you will be able to join us.
Dr. Joshua Wynne Named Interim President for UND

The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education on Thursday named Dr. Joshua Wynne, UND vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine & Health Sciences, to be the University’s interim president while a permanent successor is sought for outgoing UND President Mark Kennedy. The vote was unanimous by the State Board. Wynne is set to take over on an interim basis once Kennedy departs UND for his new job as the president of the University of Colorado System in June. He will retain his current duties as vice president and dean while he is serving as interim president. “It’s truly an honor to accept this important role in the history of this great institution,” Wynne said. “I am humbled by the chance to work with the students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of the University of North Dakota as interim president. Together, we will continue the momentum we’ve already achieved through the One UND Strategic Plan.”

Dr. Brian Tande Named Interim Dean for CEM

Dr. Brian Tande, associate dean for the College of Engineering and Mines at UND, has been named interim dean as Dean Hesham El-Rewini leaves UND for Marymount University in Arlington, VA. Tande, a Stanley, N.D., native, holds chemistry and chemical engineering degrees from the University of Minnesota and the University of Delaware, where he earned his Ph.D. Tande says that in his new role as interim dean he wants to ensure the College fully supports UND’s strategic plan by growing online programs, improving retention and graduation rates and expanding research.

PE Pursues Feeder Programs with Three Schools

In the March newsletter, we announced that the president of Williston State College, Dr. John Miller, met with UND faculty to discuss collaborations between the schools, including an articulation agreement. The PE department has initiated discussions with two Canadian schools, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), in order to form similar agreements. Stay tuned for more announcements regarding these important collaborations in Petroleum Engineering educational opportunities.

SPE Update

SPE held an emergency election back in April to elect a new President, Foued Badrouchi, for the upcoming year. He is a Petroleum Engineering PhD candidate with new ideas on how to get more students involved in the chapter on campus. At the Spring IAC Banquet, SPE made a decision to sponsor the first 30 students to sign up, which is usually a $20 cost to our members. We were able to do this because of donations and our member volunteering at the “Clean Up the Ralph” at UND’s Ralph Engelstad Arena to raise money.

Starting back up in the fall, SPE will continue to volunteer on a weekly basis at the Food Pantry on campus. The new location will be in Wilkerson Complex room 169 since the Union is under construction. We will also be attending the Student Organization Fair during Welcome Weekend on Sunday, August 25 from 4-6 pm. It will be an opportunity to encourage the incoming freshman to get involved and we will be handing out stickers and pens. Our Lunch & Learn sessions will also start up again in September on Wednesdays. These sessions are informative and valued by our members. Furthermore, we are planning to organize two field trips in December 2019 and March 2020. The PetroBowl competition will be one of the main focus of the student chapter to get a good ranking. Our first chapter meeting this fall will be on Wednesday, September 4 at 5 pm. We look forward to a big turnout and meeting new students.