NDIC Funding Update

The Department of Petroleum Engineering gratefully acknowledges the approval of the new fund to support the program for a period of 3 years beginning March 1, 2020. The total of $2,788,000 has been approved for: installation of the full-scale reservoir simulated drilling and completion labs to provide teaching assistance and mentoring to undergraduate students by faculty and Ph.D. students; and to support Ph.D. students’ research in the areas that NDIC has advised. This funding will also help us to produce a number of quality publications and allow students to attend conferences, promoting the program.

The previous NDIC fund for a duration of 18 months ended in February 2020. The total of $600,000 support enabled the department to hire over 10 new Ph.D. students, support faculty summer salary and resulted in publications of over 100 conference and journal articles and 60 presentations by Ph.D. students in conferences and workshops across the country. The students and faculty in Petroleum Engineering Department greatly appreciate the support of the NDIC.

Drilling and Completion Lab (DRACOLA)

In November 2019, the Department of Petroleum Engineering at UND received donation of the TerraTek/Schlumberger full scale Drilling and Completion Lab (DRACOLA). With $970,000 funding support from the State of North Dakota, since March 2020, we have started to set up the lab equipment in a 17,000 sq.ft space in Grand Forks. This facility is the only lab based set up which allows drilling into any rock type with any type of bit at real field scale (up to 10in. diameter) for 3-5ft lengths at confining pressure of as high as 15,000 psi. The lab has been used in the past for hydraulic fracturing and completion simulations and optimization of drilling parameters for deep drilling.

Mr. Harry Feilen was named as the director of DRACOLA in April 2020. With over 30 years of relevant experiences, Harry will help to set up the lab and service the industry.
Dr. Brian Tande Named Dean of the CEM
In March, Dr. Tande was chosen as the new Dean of the College of Engineering and Mines. Dr. Tande was previously Associate Dean under Dean El-Rewini and served as Interim Dean since El-Rewini’s departure last year. Tande holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering and bachelors degrees in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry. We look forward to working with him in the coming years.

PE Visits Schools Across the State
In February, Dr. Vamegh Rasouli, Dr. Hui Pu, and Sarah Bowser traveled to Williston and Watford City to promote the Petroleum Engineering program and highlight the new 2+2 program with Williston State College. The 2+2 program is a new collaboration for students to take two years of courses at WSC and then transfer to UND to complete their bachelors degree. The PE department presented at Williston State College, Williston High School, and Watford City High School over two days. We thank these schools for their welcoming collaboration and hope to see them again in the future.

PE Ph.D. Graduates
Congratulations to our PhD students, Xincheng Wan and Xun Zhong, who both successfully defended their theses this spring.

• Xincheng Wan, Coupled Simulation of Hydraulic Fracturing, Production, and Refracturing for Unconventional Reservoirs, advisor Vamegh Rasouli

• Xun Zhong, Surfactant-Nanoparticle Augmented Systems for Enhanced Oil Recovery: Formula Development and Evaluation, advisor Hui Pu

Congratulations to all of our Petroleum Engineering graduates! We are so proud of all you have achieved and look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments. Please keep in touch via our Facebook and LinkedIn.

IAC Meeting
Our Spring IAC meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19. We are planning for the Fall meeting sometime in October 2020.

Department Statistics
• 187 undergraduate students
• 20 Master students
• 40 PhD students
• 15 Visiting Scholars

Upcoming Events
• July 4: Independence Day
• Aug. 7: Commencement
• Aug. 24: Fall Semester
• Sept. 2: Last Day to Drop/Add
• Sept. 7: Labor Day
• Nov. 1: Scholarship Central Opens for 2021 Applications
• Nov. 11: Veterans Day
• Nov. 25-27: Thanksgiving Break

Contact (WE ARE HERE TO HELP!)
University of North Dakota, College of Engineering & Mines, Department of Petroleum Engineering
701.777.2533
2844 Campus Road
Collaborative Energy Complex Room 113, Stop 8154
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8154

Department Chair: vamegh.rasouli@UND.edu
Undergraduate Program Inquiry: kegang.ling@UND.edu
Graduate Program Inquiry: hui.pu@UND.edu

https://engineering.und.edu/petroleum/
Follow our SPE Student Chapter at: https://involvement.und.edu/organization/SPE
Find our College on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UNDCEM
or on Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDCEM