

UNCONVENTIONAL

DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERING QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Issue I

COVID-19 Update

The University of North Dakota is conducting all classes online through the end of the spring semester. All non-essential staff are urged to work from home. Petroleum Engineering faculty and staff will be working from home through April 4. All faculty and staff will respond to emails promptly.

The Industry Advisory Council meeting and banquet scheduled for April 23-24 have been postponed. We will send out announcements when we are able to reschedule.

For more information and updates about UND's response to the coronavirus, please visit <http://blogs.und.edu/coronavirus/>. The Petroleum Engineering department will be following state and university guidelines as they develop.

Congratulations to our PE Students

Graduate Research Achievement Day (GRAD) took place February 5 in the Hyslop Sports Center. This event showcases student work in poster form and is judged by faculty for cash prizes. Congratulations to PE PhD student Nidhal Badrouchi for winning first place in the Engineering category and a \$500 cash prize for his poster on Evaluation of CO2 Enhanced Oil Recovery in Bakken.

The Big Idea Challenge took place March 12 in the Big Idea Gym. CEM students were challenged to propose an engineering solution to global plastic problems based on fossil fuels for Circular Economy. Congratulations to PE team InnoBrains (Foued Badrouchi, Nick Knapp, Xueling Song, and Luis Ascencio Lopez) on winning first place and the \$1,000 cash prize for their presentation Recycling Plastic Waste into High-Transport, Ultra Low-Density Proppants for Hydraulic Fracturing.

The Denver Society of Petroleum Engineers awarded four of our students scholarships. Congratulations to Said Mohamed, Nick Knapp, Kwadwo Dapaah, and Alohihokulani Kahanu (DEDP) on their scholarships.

Faculty

- Dr. Vamegh Rasouli (Chair)
- Dr. Kegang Ling
- Dr. Hadi Jabbari
- Dr. Minou Rabiei
- Dr. Hui Pu
- Mrs. Bailey Bubach
- Dr. Aldjia Boualam Djezzar

Admin Assistant

- Ms. Sarah Bowser

Adjunct Faculty

- Jin Zhijun
President of SINOPEC E&P Research Institute
- Dr. Thomas Gentzis
Senior Geoscientist at Core Laboratories
- John Harju
Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, EERC
- Charles Gorecki, CEO, EERC
- John Hamling
Principal Engineer, EERC
- Larry Pekot
Principal Engineer and Reservoir Engineering Group Lead, EERC



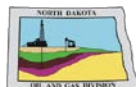
Nidhal Badrouchi



InnoBrains team Nick, Xueling, Luis, and Foued



Denver SPE scholarship winners Said, Nick, Kwadwo, and Alohihokulani



Petroleum Engineering Hosts Industry Presentations

Dr. Robert Balch, Dr. Tan Nguyen, and Dr. William Ampomah from New Mexico Institute of Technology each gave a short presentation on January 21.

Lannie Fladeland, Vice President of Industry Relations for Patterson UTI Drilling, presented Patterson UTI Drilling and New Technology Drilling Rigs to the department on February 6.

Olivier Chardac presented Automated Multi-Well Reports Review – Text Mining for Oil & Gas Applications: The Story of an Ongoing Project on February 10.

Dr. Øystein Arild, the department head for energy and petroleum engineering at the University of Stavanger, Norway, presented A Risk-Based Approach to Plug and Abandonment Design and Barrier Technology Qualification on March 2.

If you couldn't attend these presentations, they can be viewed on the Petroleum Engineering department's website under [Resources: Recorded Presentations](#). Thank you to all of our presenters for contributing their knowledge and expertise to our students and faculty. We appreciate your time and efforts toward our success.



Dr. Robert Balch



Lannie Fladeland



Dr. Øystein Arild

SPE Update

This semester for Lunch and Learn we had the privilege to hear from Terry Louche about the challenges that come along with deep water drilling. Charlie Gorecki, CEO, UND Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) shared an overview of their ongoing projects with the group. We viewed *Deepwater Horizon* to show the dangers and risks that come along with our industry drilling in the deep waters in the Gulf of Mexico. This was followed by a discussion led by department chair Vamegh Rasouli, who also serves as a consultant to Schlumberger, to talk with students on the issues that can come if careful consideration of risks are not taken into account.

Earlier this semester our students competed in the national PetroBowl competition in Los Angeles. Our team hopes to be a qualifier for the 2021 competition. We will hold training sessions Mondays and Tuesdays via Zoom, open to all majors. For the safety of our students, our remaining activities and Lunch and Learn sessions are pending. In response, we are holding a virtual documentary viewing followed by a discussion on *Deepwater Horizon*. We are excited to see what the next semesters bring and hope to be back to work creating the best possible environment for our members to learn and gain experience about the oil and gas industry.



2020 PetroBowl team in Los Angeles

Department Statistics

- 187 undergraduate students
- 20 Master students
- 32 PhD students
- 15 Visiting Scholars

Upcoming Events

- April 6: Registration opens for Summer and Fall semesters
- April 10-13: Holiday Break
- May 18: Summer Semester
- May 25: Memorial Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- Aug. 7: Commencement
- Aug. 24: Fall Semester
- Sept. 2: Last Day to Drop/Add
- Sept. 7: Labor Day


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/>
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