Note from Department Chair

I wish a good semester start for all students and faculty in Petroleum Engineering. With the support of the industry and the effort of faculty and students’ contribution, the department made great progress during the last academic year and is expected to expand further this year. We seek continued support of the industry to assist us to increase the number of our undergraduate students, as the main target for this year and to produce hands on Petroleum Engineers who can be the future developers of the Bakken Shale oil. We appreciate any comment and feedback to improve our services to students.

Best Regards, Vamegh Rasouli

NDIC Funds Petroleum Engineering

We acknowledge the NDIC and the Oil and Gas Research Council (OGRC) for supporting the Petroleum Engineering program at UND with $600,000 over a period of 18 months beginning this fall. The fund will support tuition and stipends for Ph.D. students and summer salaries for faculty to work on projects in the areas of big data analytics, machine learning, re-fracking, UAS applications in the oil and gas, CO2-EOR and sulfate deposition. The results of the projects will be presented to the NDIC and industry every 6 months for their comments and feedback. The funding may continue after the initial period upon successful progress in the first 18 months.

Special thanks to Lynn Helms, Brent Brannan and Ron Ness for their effort to make this arrangement and supporting our program.

PE Field Trip Sept 16-21

Fifteen PE students joined the field trip in the Williston Basin and visited the facilities at TrainND, Halliburton, ConocoPhillips, Cudd Energy Services, Marathon Oil, Creedence Energy Services, Oasis Petroleum, Neso Consulting and Hess Corporation. Thanks to all these companies for accepting students to visit their facilities. Also, our sincere thanks go to Oasis Petroleum and Hess for sponsoring this field trip, without which it would have been difficult to make it happen. Special thanks to Kevin Black, the CEO of Creedence Energy and Chair of the PE Industry Advisory Council (IAC) for his effort to coordinate the event.
Hydraulic Fracturing Short Course

On September 21st, Dr. Branko Damjanac, the Principal Engineer at Itasca Consulting Group, based in Minneapolis presented a short course on “Geomechanics of Reservoir Stimulation by Hydraulic Fracturing”. Students from various departments as well as external groups and individuals attended this short course. Great feedback was provided by the attendees.

2019 UND Drillbotics team

This year, new Drillbotic’s team includes students from PE, ME, and EE. They are planning to improve some of the design aspects of the rig that they built last year and enter this year’s SPE Drillbotic’s competition. They will be informed in December, 2018 if their design is approved to move to the build phase in Spring 2019. We wish the team all the best.

Visit to China Universities and Industry

During June 4-14, 2018 Dr. Rasouli and Dr. Pu visited six Chinese universities and discussed various collaborations. Also, Dr. Rasouli visited SINOPEC, China National Oil Company to follow up on joint industry projects and training programs at UND. The significant potential shale gas and shale oil resources in China has increased their interest to learn about the technology in the Bakken.

PE Faculty & Students at SPE ATCE

This year, PE Faculty and students attended and presented papers and posters at the SPE Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition (ATCE) in Dallas, September 24-26. The event appeared to be more active with the raise in the oil price.

UND SPE Chapter Back-to-school BBQ Event

The Society of Petroleum Engineers was off to a fantastic start to the new year! Kicking it off on August 31st was the first ever Engineering Bash, a back-to-school BBQ held in collaboration with 5 peer engineering organizations. An attendance success. Over 50 students came to enjoy hamburgers, music & simple camaraderie with their engineering peers.

The year’s first SPE meeting was held on September 5th, with Ilene Odegard and Mary Feller of UND Career Services invited to guest speak about "Handshake" - UND's new job/company networking app - as well as provide tips on how to get the most out of the STEM Career Fair on September 27th. And concluding the month, on September 9th, SPE announced it was offering five $200.00 reimbursements to all PE undergraduates and graduates who were interested in attending SPE’s Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE). A great opportunity for anyone interested in a career in the upstream industry. Several people took advantage of the offer. It was reported they had a terrific experience!