

# UNCONVENTIONAL

## DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERING QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Issue I

### Fall IAC Meeting September 12-13

The fall Industry Advisory Council took place September 12-13 in the Gransburg Community Room of the Gorecki Alumni Center at UND. Companies represented include ConocoPhillips, Continental Resources, CoreLab, Creedence Energy Services, EERC, Emerson, Equinor, Halliburton, Marathon Oil, ND Petroleum Council, NESET, Oasis Petroleum, Rainbow Gas, Schlumberger, SkySkopes, Steffes, Trace Systems, Train ND, and Williston High School. Provost Thomas DiLorenzo and Interim Dean for the College of Engineering and Mines Brian Tande also attended the first day. On the second day, 17 PhD students presented a one-minute summary of their research. IAC members voted on the presentations and awarded travel funding to Nejma Djabelkhir, Hyeonseok Lee, and Chuncheng Li to attend future conferences.

The IAC banquet took place on September 12 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Kathy Neset of NESET gave the keynote address regarding her experiences, from her education at Brown University to present day Williston Basin exploration and development. Foued Badrouchi provided an update on the SPE student chapter, while Matt Jelinski spoke about the IADC student chapter. Bob Solberg was recognized for his numerous contributions to UND and the department over the years.

Please stay tuned for the announcement of the Spring 2020 IAC meeting and banquet. We hope you will be able to join us!



- Faculty**
  - Dr. Vamegh Rasouli (Chair)
  - Dr. Kegang Ling
  - Dr. Mehdi Ostadhassan
  - Dr. Hadi Jabbari
  - Dr. Minou Rabiei
  - Dr. Hui Pu
  - Mrs. Bailey Bubach
  - 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  
Director of Subsurface R&D, EERC
  - John Hamling  
Principal Engineer, EERC
  - Larry Pekat  
Principal Engineer and Reservoir Engineering Group Lead, EERC

Left: Interim Dean Tande speaks to the IAC members  
Right: Kathy Neset's keynote speech

### Geomechanics Presentation, August 28

Dr. Birendra Jha presented Geomechanics of Rocks and Reservoirs: A Multiscale Perspective in the Jodsaas Center conference room. This presentation was recorded and made available to our distance students and others who were unable to attend. The presentation covered some applications of coupled multiphysics simulation framework in modeling production- and injection-induced seismicity, hydraulic fracturing, and in reservoir characterization.



## Bakken Conference and Expo, July 16-17

The Petroleum Engineering department sent two faculty and five students to the Bakken Conference and Expo in Bismarck, ND, in July. Dr. Mehdi Ostadhassan and Karthik Balaji participated in the panel discussion *Innovation in Bakken Research: University- and Industry-Led Efforts to Solve Big Problems and Prepare the Next Generation of Bakken Leaders* with Will Whitley of Oasis Petroleum and Luke Geiver of BBI International. Shilpi Jain, Karthik Balaji, Abdulaziz Ellafi, Chuncheng Li, Xincheng Wan, and Sean Watts all presented their research to conference participants on the Innovation Stage. In addition, the conference generously provided a booth for the Petroleum Engineering program to provide conference attendees with information regarding its programs. Thank you to all who attended and made our participation possible.



## SPE Update

During the first week of school, we attended the Student Organization Fair to recruit new members and publicize our Welcome Back Picnic. We teamed up with 2 other student organizations, ASME and AIChE, to put on a picnic for all engineering students. We brought a chef, had a huge turnout, and ran out of food after the first hour. We have also been busy organizing the Lunch & Learn. Our first Lunch & Learn was with the North Dakota Geological Survey and many students attended. We also have Continental Resources and Credence lined up during September and many more to come. This year we are focused on having a strong Petrobowl team composed of undergraduate and graduate students. We have been meeting weekly to practice for the SPE Student Symposium next February. After the words of SPE President, Foued Badrouchi, during the IAC banquet, companies showed great support to our organization and promised to sponsor the Chapter.



Lunch and Learn session



SPE Picnic at University Park

## Department Statistics

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

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 30-Oct. 5: Homecoming
- Oct. 13-19: Williston Basin Field Trip
- Nov. 4: Registration opens for Spring 2020
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 28: Thanksgiving
- Dec. 16-20: Finals week
- Dec. 19-20: Commencement
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day
- January 1: New Year's Day
- January 13: First Day of Class

## 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:  
Undergraduate Program Inquiry:  
Graduate Program Inquiry:

[vamegh.rasouli@UND.edu](mailto:vamegh.rasouli@UND.edu)  
[bailey.bubach@UND.edu](mailto:bailey.bubach@UND.edu)  
[mehdi.ostadhassan@UND.edu](mailto:mehdi.ostadhassan@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> 