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David Burnett, Global Petroleum Research Institute, Director of Technology
Akhil Datta-Gupta, Regents Professor and L.F. Peterson ’36 Endowed Chair
Fred Dupriest, Professor of Engineering Practice
Christine Ehlig-Economides, Professor and A.B. Stevens Endowed Chair
Eduardo Gildin, Assistant Professor and CJ Craft Jr. Faculty Fellow
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Berna Hascakir, Assistant Professor
Zoya Heidari, Assistant Professor and Chevron Corporation Faculty Fellow
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John Killough, Professor and Michael & Heidi Gatens Development Professor
Michael King, Professor and LeSuer Chair in Reservoir Management
Robert Lane, Professor and Aghorn Energy Development Professor
Jiajing Lin, Assistant Lecturer
Bryan Maggard, Senior Lecturer
William McCain, Visiting Professor
Priscilla McLeroy, Professor of Engineering Practice
Duane McVay, Professor and Rob. L. Adams ’40 Endowed Professor
George Moridis, Visiting Professor
Hadi Nasrabadi, Assistant Professor
Hisham Nasr-El-Din, Professor and John Edgar Holt Endowed Chair
Samuel Noynaert, Lecturer

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Glenn Sliva, Senior Lecturer
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Greetings

It is my pleasure to present the 2012 petroleum engineering department annual report. It has been an exciting year for the department, a year of transition and growth. In January of 2012, Professor Stephen A. Holditch stepped down as department head after eight years of distinguished leadership. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed director of the Texas A&M Energy Institute, a post he held until his retirement on January 31, 2013. Once more, I speak for all of the faculty and staff and the many students who have benefited from Steve’s time as department head by thanking him for an outstanding job. I became interim department head in January 2012, and am honored to have been selected the permanent department head beginning January 1, 2013. I want to highlight some of the major achievements made in the department during the last year.

The accomplishments of a department begin with the faculty, and we are fortunate to have a very distinguished faculty. Most notably, Professor Akhil Datta-Gupta was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 2012, joining Professor Holditch and Professor Ehlig-Economides as active NAE members on our faculty, along with retired members Dr. John Lee and Dr. John Calhoun. Akhil is one of the youngest members elected in many years. Congratulations to Professor Datta-Gupta for this achievement.

One of the most significant measures of faculty quality is the amount of international awards received by the faculty. In the past 10 years, our faculty has received a total of 25 Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) major international awards. In comparison, the department with the next most SPE awards during this period is University of Texas at Austin with 12, followed by the University of Tulsa with 11, and all the rest of the departments around the world with four or fewer. This is a remarkable record of recognition of our faculty. In this regard, 2012 was a typical year, with Professor Tom Blasingame receiving the Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal, SPE’s highest technical award, Professor Bob Wattenbarger receiving the SPE Reservoir Description and Dynamics Award (our second winner in a row, after Professor Mike King won in 2011), and Associate Professor Jerome Schubert being named an SPE Distinguished Member, making him the 11th active faculty member with this distinction.

Another measure of faculty quality is the output of scholarly research, and in this area our faculty also excel compared with their peers. Our faculty brought in about $9 million in external research funding in 2012, one of the highest per faculty in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. Another measure of scholarly production is publication in refereed journals. During the past four years in SPE journals alone, our faculty published 89 articles, more than any other petroleum engineering department. On a per-faculty basis, our faculty’s publication output was also the highest. In light of the large enrollments of both undergraduate and graduate students, it is a remarkable achievement for our faculty to maintain this high level of research.

The departmental staff provide essential support to the faculty and students. Our staff are routinely recognized by the Look College. In 2012, Gail Krueger, our undergraduate administrative coordinator, received one of the highest staff awards given on this campus, the President’s Meritorious Service Award. Congratulations to Gail for this well-deserved recognition.
No academic program can be outstanding without outstanding students, and we are fortunate to have the strongest students ever to enter our program. The 2012 freshman class had an average SAT score of 1290, substantially higher than the university average, and more than 90 percent of the class were automatically admitted to Texas A&M University, which means they were either in the top 10 percent of their high school class, or were in the top 25 percent of their class and had an SAT score greater than 1300. Admission to our department is extremely competitive, and with changes to University admission procedures that will occur for the 2014 freshman class, it is almost certain that the quality of our incoming students will become even higher. At the graduate level, the incoming class had an average GRE score of 1296. Notably in 2012, of the 58 new master’s and doctorate students, 18 were U.S. citizens, with students coming to us from such notable universities as MIT, Brown University, Cornell University, Boston College, University of California in Berkeley, University of Southern California, UT-Austin, and Tsinghua University. As oil and gas activity has spread to the northeast, top engineering students at schools that do not offer petroleum engineering are learning about our industry, and are coming to graduate school in our department to become rebranded as petroleum engineers.

The proof of the effectiveness of an engineering department is the accomplishments of its graduates, and to me, this is the measure that shows that the Texas A&M Petroleum Engineering Program stands out as the best. The success of our graduates continues to astound me as I meet more and more of them. Here are a few examples. Each year, Texas A&M recognizes the 100 fastest-growing companies that are owned by Aggies, called the Aggie 100. In 2012, 13 of the Aggie 100 were owned by our department’s graduates. Our alumni are constantly being recognized in the industry. Recently John Schiller, class of ’81 and CEO of Energy XXI, was honored by the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers at the Houston Wildcatters’ meeting on December 11, 2012, as Wildcatter of the Year. Tim Leach, class of ’82 and CEO of Concho Resources, was elected to the Petroleum Hall of Fame by the Petroleum Museum in Midland, Texas.

This department has attained its current pre-eminence in large part due to the generous support of our alumni. Led by our Industry Board, a group of almost 50 of our most successful graduates, the alumni have given generously to the department to fund scholarships, support student activities, endow faculty positions, and purchase equipment. The department received in 2012 gifts totalling more than $6.9 million, the highest ever. With 2012 gifts and pledges, the total endowment for the department reached $40 million in hand, and more than $10 million in planned gifts. Three highlights of the gifts received this year included $800,000 donated by Chevron for the purchase of two new x-ray computerized tomography scanners, a $500,000 gift from Kelly and Bill Von Gonten to establish the first full-ride scholarship at Texas A&M, and gifts and pledges from more than 30 donors totaling $4.2 million to fund the Stephen A. Holditch ’69 Department Head Chair in Petroleum Engineering. Initiated by our Industry Board, the Holditch chair is particularly unique in having multiple donors contributing to create a single endowment. The incredible generosity of our alumni is what sets this department apart from all other petroleum engineering departments.

I would like to close this introduction by offering one more huge “thank you” to Steve Holditch for his eight years of leadership as department head. This department was transformed during Steve’s tenure, growing from what was primarily a teaching entity to a major force in petroleum engineering research. We are all striving to maintain the momentum that Steve created.
Undergraduate Program

Ranking

*U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Texas A&M's petroleum engineering department as the top undergraduate program among departments with a Ph.D. program (last ranked 2002).

Goals

The primary goals of the program are to produce 200 highly qualified U.S. and international students each year, to place these students in entry-level industry positions or graduate programs, and to maintain our top ranking among petroleum engineering programs.

Curriculum

Our curriculum gives every student a solid foundation in petroleum engineering fundamentals, but we also insist on experience in the industry. As a result, our graduates will enter the industry ready to be productive contributors, but also will understand the need to continue to learn and improve their skills throughout their careers.

Four-year Degree Program

The four-year curriculum in petroleum engineering includes training in basic engineering sciences to prepare our graduates for the application of engineering principles to the petroleum industry. Courses in geology also give an understanding of the geological structures and conditions favorable for petroleum deposits. Other courses are also added in petroleum engineering which illustrate the application of the engineering principles to the type of problems and solution methods used in the petroleum industry.

Undergraduate Enrollment 2012–2013

- Petroleum engineering – 729
- Engineering – 8,397
- Texas A&M – 40,100
- Texas A&M at Qatar petroleum engineering – 98
- Texas A&M Qatar – 512

Student Quality 2012–2013

- Petroleum engineering average SAT score – 1290
- Texas A&M average SAT Score – 1215

Diversity

- 17.1% Female
- 22.4% Minority

Scholarships

- $772,770 total
- 405 department scholarships
- 16.3% female
- 20.7% minorities

Bachelor Degrees Awarded

- May 2012–December 2012
- 153
- Cumulative since 1930
- 4,681
Graduate Program

Ranking
Texas A&M University has been awarding master’s (M.S.) and doctorate (Ph.D.) degrees in petroleum engineering for more than 60 years. The graduate program of the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering is currently ranked second in the nation, tied with Stanford University, according to U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Graduate Schools (last ranked 2009). We have the largest number of PhD students and the largest number of MS students of any petroleum engineering program in the nation. We also have the leading distance-learning program in petroleum engineering with about 150 Masters of Engineering students enrolled.

Research
Both the M.S. and Ph.D. programs offer opportunities to conduct original research, working closely with one or more members of the petroleum engineering department’s nationally recognized faculty. The masters of engineering (M.Eng.) program allows accepted applicants to work on their degree from anywhere in the world through distance learning.

Graduate Enrollment – 2012-13
Petroleum engineering – 388
Engineering – 2,884
Texas A&M – 9,600

Student Quality – 2012-13
Petroleum engineering average GRE score – 1296

Diversity
25.6% female graduate students
Student population from more than 44 countries

Student Funding
$117,300 in fellowships
49 fellowships awarded
24 graduate assistant teaching positions
118 graduate assistant research positions
50 sponsored students

Degrees Awarded
May 2012–December 2012
Ph.D. – 21
M.S. – 49
M.Eng. – 17
Cumulative since 1950
Ph.D. – 286
M.S. – 1195
Departmental Research Funding

Research expenditures

Research expenditures for 2012

Division of overall budget for 2012 ($16.7 million)

Source of research contract awards for 2012
Crisman Institute

The Crisman Institute for Petroleum Research is a unique program for academia. Founded years ago with a private endowment to support research in the department, the Crisman Institute has grown to a current permanent endowment of more than $5 million, the income of which is supplemented by annual contributions from 20 sponsoring companies to yield an annual funding level of about $2 million. Industry and governmental representatives help identify problems of major significance and support projects of particular interest to them through membership in the institute. Researchers in the Crisman Institute work closely with industry to identify and solve significant hydrocarbon recovery research problems through the four research centers in the institute: the Halliburton Center for Unconventional Resources, the Chevron Center for Well Construction and Production, the Schlumberger Center for Reservoir Description and Dynamics, and the Center for Energy, Environment and Transportation Innovation.

The focus of each center is to develop technology and processes to reduce uncertainties and costs in the finding and development of petroleum resources. This is done through the construction of databases of known resources to provide analogs to new resource opportunities and by developing technologies that either diminish the costs involved in existing technology applications or that amplify the reserves per completion as a result.
of better technology. We address both costs and the ultimate recovery per completion where applicable in our research efforts in the institute.

The institute also strives to produce significant advances in upstream petroleum engineering technology through the combined efforts of faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and highly qualified graduate students, in close cooperation with industry. Our faculty have decades of experience in technology development for petroleum resources and combine their talents within the four research centers to continue this development as required by industry. Current major research focus is on unconventional hydrocarbons including tight and source rock (shale) resources, plus support of programs on improved recovery from conventional resources.

During 2012 the number of member companies remained steady at about 20, including several companies headquartered in other countries (such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and Norway), in addition to major international and smaller independent U.S.-based companies.

Since 2005, the Crisman Institute has funded a total of 240 projects of which 190 are complete. During 2012 there were 24 active projects with an average of 39 Crisman-supported graduate students per semester. This represented approximately one-third of all graduate students supported on research assistantships in the department during that time.

Much of the research conducted through the Crisman Institute has resulted in the development of software and databases that are used by industry. An additional benefit member companies have experienced is the opportunity to become familiar with our students and their research which has often led companies to hire them post-graduation.

Eagle Ford shale fluid distribution study
Faculty Receive Major Research Grants from RPSEA

RPSEA, the Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America, is a unique private company and government partnership supporting research to increase oil and gas production in the United States. With $50 million per year of dedicated funding derived from federal oil and gas royalty revenue, RPSEA has been a major source of research funding for petroleum engineering programs since its inception in 2007.

The RPSEA program supports research in three areas: unconventional resource development, deepwater development, and a small producer research program. Our faculty have been very successful in obtaining RPSEA grants, which are awarded based on peer review of proposals submitted. Below are the recent RPSEA projects being conducted in the department.

Current RPSEA Projects

David B. Burnett ($284,839)
Field Site Testing of Low Impact Oil Field Access Roads: Reducing the Environmental Footprint in Desert Ecosystems

Duane A. McVay ($166,004)
Optimizing Development Strategies to Increase Reserves in Unconventional Gas Reservoirs

Ding Zhu / Dan Hill ($1,045,551)
Advanced Hydraulic Fracturing Technology for Unconventional Tight Gas Reservoirs

Ahmad Ghassemi ($373,495)
Sustaining Fracture Area and Conductivity of Gas Shale Reservoirs for Enhancing Long-Term Production and Recovery

Ahmad Ghassemi ($641,685)
A Geomechanical Analysis of Gas Shale Fracturing and Its Containment

Ding Zhu / Dan Hill / Eduardo Gildin ($730,865)
Diagnosis of Multiple Fracture Stimulation in Horizontal Wells by Downhole Temperature Measurement for Unconventional Oil and Gas Wells
MCERI

The MCERI (Model Calibration and Efficient Reservoir Imaging) industrial research consortium at Texas A&M University has been at the forefront of reservoir modeling, history matching, and streamline simulation technologies for the past decade. Much of the mathematical foundations behind modern streamline simulation have been developed in the research consortium, which is co-directed by Akhil Datta-Gupta and Michael J. King. Dr. Datta-Gupta and Dr. King are co-authors of the SPE textbook on the subject, *Streamline Simulation: Theory and Practice*. The research consortium continues to be one of the most active centers for the development of streamline technology and its applications to reservoir management and optimization, multi-scale data integration and history matching, upscaling/upgridding, and more recently, performance analysis and optimization of unconventional wells.

Reconciling high-resolution geologic models to dynamic data such as transient pressure, tracer and multiphase production history or time-lapse seismic data is by far the most time-consuming aspect of the workflow for both geoscientists and engineers. The situation is further complicated by the rapid progress in well-construction technology and the advent of smart wells and permanent down-hole sensors. The amount of data collected is increasingly becoming overwhelming and there is an immediate need to improve our capabilities to utilize the data in a timely and efficient manner. Furthermore, as the use of time-lapse seismic data becomes more common in the industry, there is also an increasing demand for quantitative and efficient use of these data for reservoir characterization in addition to reservoir monitoring. A focus of the MCERI research consortium has been the development of novel techniques and efficient workflows for reconciling high resolution geologic models to pressures, rates, fluid production and time-lapse seismic response. This includes geologically consistent regionalization and re-paramaterization, identification of spatial distribution of reservoir properties, and uncertainty quantification.

How coarse is coarse and how fine is fine? This is an often-asked question in reservoir simulation and modeling. We have developed novel adaptive upgridding algorithms to address this question through the design of simulation grids that optimally preserve the reservoir heterogeneity and geologic features. These
techniques have been extensively applied to simulation layer design for both conventional and unconventional reservoirs.

A more recent focus of the MCERI consortium has been the development of novel approaches for performance analysis and optimization of unconventional wells. We have introduced novel fast-marching methods for visualization of well drainage volumes in the presence of hydraulic and natural fractures. The fast-marching methods can be orders of magnitude faster than conventional reservoir simulators and allow for efficient computation of pressure and rate transient response, matrix-fracture parameter estimation and optimization of well-completion strategy.

A major emphasis of the MCERI research consortium has been field application and validation of the novel technologies in close collaboration with the industrial partners. The current joint industry research program members are: Aramco, Occidental, Shell, BHP Billiton, BP, Total, Anadarko, PEMEX, Chevron, Schlumberger, Korea National Oil Corporation, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Some recent MCERI publications are listed below.


During 2012, the Acid Stimulation Research Program (ASRP) initiated a cutting-edge program focusing on matrix acid stimulation. In response to the current industry demand to focus on issues of sandstone and carbonate acidizing, we have expanded our research, with projects ranging from fundamental studies of new chemical systems to optimization of treatment design. New theoretical models are being developed in the program, and implemented in computer software. Experimental components of the program use core and outcrop material from sponsors around the world in order to capture the effects of the unique petrophysical properties of these formations.

ASRP builds on the foundation of carbonate acidizing research developed in the Middle East Carbonate Stimulation Research program. The principal investigators leading this program are Dan Hill, Hisham Nasr-El-Din, and Ding Zhu. Other faculty researchers collaborating are Zoya Heidari and Mashhad Fahes. The individual projects included in ASRP are:

» Effects of Core Geometry and Treating Conditions on Wormhole Breakthrough Pore Volume in Carbonate Stimulation
» The Role of Permeability in Carbonate Matrix Acidizing
» Limited Entry Perforating Design for Acid Placement in Horizontal Wells
» Integrated Optimization of Carbonate Matrix Acidizing Design
» Effects of Acid Additives on Carbonate Acidizing
» The Influence of Seawater, Produced Waters and Other Saline Waters on Acid Reaction with Carbonate Rocks
» The Impact of Hydrolysis on the Performance of VES-based Acids
» Formation Damage due to Iron Precipitation
» The Effect of CO₂ Solubility Limitations on Spent Acid Recovery
» A Quantitative Application of Well Logs to Improve Prediction of Acid Stimulation in Carbonate Formations
» Petrophysical Rock Classification Using Conventional Well Logs to Detect Zones for Acid Stimulation in Carbonate Reservoirs.

Current committed and expected industry sponsors include: Baker Hughes, Pemex, BG Group, Petrobras, Chevron, Qatar Petroleum, ConocoPhillips, Saudi Aramco, Halliburton, Shell, Maersk, Schlumberger, and Total.
Multiscale Formation Evaluation of Unconventional and Carbonate Reservoirs

Directed by Zoya Heidari and Stephen Holditch, the Multiscale Formation Evaluation of Unconventional and Carbonate Reservoirs is a newly established Joint Industry Research Program (JIP) in the petroleum engineering department of Texas A&M University. The main goal of the Texas A&M Formation Evaluation Research Group is to develop methods for reliable formation evaluation in challenging formations such as organic-rich shale and carbonate formations. The roadmap that we propose is to integrate multiscale formation data for reliable formation evaluation and reservoir characterization. We will offer methods with the ability to perform formation evaluation by taking advantage of joint numerical simulation and inversion of formation measurements with different resolutions and volume of investigation, from core measurements to borehole measurements, and seismic measurements in the reservoir scale.

The long-term goals of the Texas A&M Formation Evaluation Research Group include:

» To develop methods, algorithms, and work flows in a format that can be directly and easily used in the petroleum industry to solve challenging problems in formation evaluation and reservoir characterization for unconventional and carbonate reservoirs,

» To establish a laboratory for developing new methods to characterize organic-shale and carbonate cores using NMR, electrical resistivity, dielectric, and other measurements, and

» To train professional petrophysicists and petroleum engineers for the future of the petroleum industry and potential scientists for academia.

The Texas A&M Multiscale Formation Evaluation Research Group collaborates with faculty within the petroleum engineering department (e.g., John Killough, Ding Zhu, and Dan Hill), with faculty from different departments within Texas A&M (e.g., the Department of Geology and Geophysics and the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program), and with scientists and engineers from other research institutes and universities with specialties in well logging, pore-scale measurements and numerical simulations, seismic interpretation and inversion, and reservoir simulation.

The outcomes of this research program will be in the form of analytical models, algorithms, or computational methods. Members of this research program have access to all the outcomes of the projects at any time. We will also schedule annual consortium meetings during the last week of May to report the accomplished research activities and progress of our projects to our consortium members. Our joint industry program members will receive an annual report booklet and an
electronic copy during the annual meetings or by mail by the end of May. The first research meeting was held May 20, 2013.

The initial membership fee to join the Texas A&M Multiscale Formation Evaluation Joint Industry Research Program is $150,000 paid in three years. After three years, the annual membership fee is $50,000 per year.

This research program began in September 2012. We started the program with eight projects in line with our long-term goals and will continue to add more as the number of sponsoring companies increase. Our current sponsors include BP, Chevron, and Devon Energy. The Texas A&M Formation Evaluation Research Group started the first year with the research projects as follows:


» Quantifying the Impact of Natural Fractures and Pore Structure on Borehole NMR Measurements in Multi-Porosity Systems including Organic-Rich Source Rocks

» Rock Classification in the Haynesville Shale-Gas Formation based on Petrophysical and Elastic Rock Properties Estimated from Well Logs

» Developing Enhanced Well Logging Methods for Improved Formation Evaluation of Carbonate and Organic-Shale Reservoirs (in collaboration with Dr. John Killough)

Three-dimensional pore-scale image of a synthetic organic-rich source rock used as input for numerical simulations of electrical field distribution in the heterogeneous porous media.
» Synthesis of Magnetic Nanoparticles Designed for Enhanced Well-Log Measurements
» Upscaling of Electrical Resistivity Measurements in Organic-Rich Source Rocks
» Quantifying the Impact of Spatial Distribution of Kerogen on Electrical Resistivity of Organic-Rich Source Rocks
» Permeability Assessment in Carbonate Formations using Conventional Well Logs Required for Prediction of Acid Fracture Conductivity (in collaboration with Acid Fracture Research Program)

Although we have some predefined objectives and projects, we are always flexible to define our short-term objectives according to the research needs of our JIP members. Our research priorities correspond with the suggestions we receive from our members. In addition to the projects we share with all our members, we define separate confidential projects and agreements based on specific needs of companies. One of our research collaborators in this category is Saint-Gobain Proppants.
Our faculty and staff have been very active this year, with many awards and accolades coming their way. We have also added several new faculty: five tenured or tenure-track faculty, and six non-tenured teaching faculty. Some highlights of the faculty and staff activities are given next.

**New Faculty**

**I. Yucel Akkutlu**, associate professor, joined our faculty in January 2013. Dr. Akkutlu is a chemical engineer and holds a Ph.D. in petroleum engineering from the University of Southern California. Previously he has worked for the University of Oklahoma and the University of Alberta. He is executive editor of the *SPE Journal*, and serves on the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada as chair of the materials and chemical engineering committee. Dr. Akkutlu’s current research is on equilibrium thermodynamics and transport of fluids in nanoporous materials, and on the scaling-up and simulation of transport processes in multiscale pore structures.

**Fred E. Dupriest**, professor of engineering practice, joined our faculty in January 2013. He is a retired chief drilling engineer from ExxonMobil and has more than 35 years of industrial experience. He received the SPE Drilling Award in January 2013.

**A. Rashid Hasan**, professor, joined our faculty in January 2012. He has 30 years of teaching, consulting, and research experience. Dr. Hasan’s research is focused on modeling coupled transport processes under steady and transient conditions applied to various production operations situations. He was the recipient of the SPE Production & Operations Award in 2011.

**Berna Hasacakir**, assistant professor, joined our faculty in April 2012. Dr. Hasacakir holds a Ph.D. in petroleum and natural gas engineering from Middle East Technical University, in Ankara, Turkey, and has pursued postdoctoral studies in the Energy Resources Engineering Department at Stanford University. Her research interests are focused on heavy oil and oil shale recovery by thermal enhanced oil recovery methods, difficult reservoirs, visualization of thermal fronts, and water and wastewater treatment.

**John Jochen**, senior lecturer, joined our faculty in January 2012. He is a petroleum engineer with more than 30 years of oil and gas experience.
**John Killough**, professor, joined our faculty in January 2012. Dr. Killough was appointed the Michael & Heidi Gatens Career Development Professor in Petroleum Engineering, effective June 1, 2012, for a term of three years. Dr. Killough is considered to be one of the pioneers in the application of supercomputing and parallelization to reservoir simulation. His paper on the simulation of hysteretic phenomena was the recipient of the Alfred Noble Prize and the Raymond Award.

**Jiajing Lin**, assistant lecturer, joined the faculty in January of 2012. She graduated from Texas A&M University in 2011 with a doctorate in petroleum engineering. Her interests include production engineering and unconventional reservoirs.

**Priscilla McLeroy**, P.E., professor of engineering practice, joined our department in the spring of 2012 and has more than 25 years operating and consulting experience with global energy companies. She co-wrote a recently published article, “Innovation in Gas Transportation Management” with recent graduate Stephen Melnyk, who received his B.S. in May 2012. The article can be found in *Hydrocarbon World*, Volume 7 (July 2012).

**Hadi Nasrabadi** joined our faculty in January 2013 as an assistant professor. He has been a visiting faculty member from Texas A&M University at Qatar since January of 2012. Dr. Nasrabadi’s research interests include compositional modeling of multiphase/multicomponent fluid flow in porous media; enhanced oil recovery; CO$_2$ sequestration; application of evolutionary optimization algorithms in reservoir engineering; and phase behavior of reservoir fluids.

**Cathy Sliva**, senior lecturer, joined our faculty in January 2013 to team-teach PETE 403. She works in industry and has more than 30 years of industrial experience.

**Glenn Sliva**, senior lecturer, joined our faculty in January 2013 to team-teach PETE 403. He works in industry and has more than 30 years of industrial experience.
Retirement

Steve Holditch stepped down as department head in January 2012 and retired from the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering at Texas A&M in January 2013. He is currently a professor emeritus. Dr. Holditch also served as director of the Texas A&M Energy Institute from 2011 to 2013.

Dr. Holditch led the department from January 2004 to January 2012. He has been on the Texas A&M faculty since 1976 and taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels while supervising more than 100 M.S. and Ph.D. students. Dr. Holditch has received numerous awards in recognition of his technical achievements and leadership.

Dr. Holditch was SPE president in 2002, SPE vice president-finance and a member of the SPE board of directors from 1998 to 2003. In addition, he served as a trustee for the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) from 1997 to 1998. In 1995, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and in 1997 to the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. In 1998, Holditch was elected to the Petroleum Engineering Academy of Distinguished Graduates. He was elected as an SPE and AIME honorary member in 2006. In 2010, Dr. Holditch received the Outstanding Alumni Honor Award from the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University. He was also the 2011 president of the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas.

Ann and Stephen Holditch
Faculty Awards and Recognition

**Maria Barrufet**, professor and Baker Hughes Endowed Chair of Petroleum Engineering, was appointed a Dean’s Fellow for the 2012-2013 academic year. The Dean’s Fellow Program is a new program developed to provide an opportunity for tenured faculty to lead the Dwight Look College of Engineering initiatives in a short-term administrative role. Her initiative is Innovation in Distance Learning.

**Tom Blasingame**, professor and holder of the Robert L. Whiting Endowed Professorship, received the Anthony F. Lucas Technical Leadership Gold Medal from SPE. This award honors distinguished achievement in the identification and development of new technology and concepts that will enhance the process of finding or producing petroleum. He received his award during the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition Banquet in October 2012.

**Akhil Datta-Gupta**, Regents Professor and holder of the L.F. Peterson ’36 Chair, was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest distinctions an engineer may receive. He was recognized by the academy “for developing the theory and practice of streamline simulation for fluid flow in heterogeneous reservoirs.”

**Zoya Heidari**, assistant professor and Chevron Corporation Faculty Fellow, was one of six recipients of the prestigious 2012 SPE Petroleum Engineer Junior Faculty Research Initiation Award. This award recognizes her excellence and commitment to academic research and student supervision.

**Dan Hill**, professor and holder of the Noble Endowed Chair, was named interim department head starting January 10, 2012 and became department head January 1, 2013. Additionally, SPE selected him to be the first recipient of its new SPE Faculty Pipeline Award for 2012. This award recognizes Dr. Hill as a petroleum engineering faculty member who has developed innovative techniques to encourage Ph.D. graduates to pursue academic careers. Eight of

Among his numerous honors are the 2009 SPE John Franklin Carll Award for distinguished contribution in the application of engineering principles to petroleum development and recovery; the 2003 SPE Lester C. Uren Award for significant technical contributions in petroleum reservoir characterization and streamline-based flow simulation; and two SPE Cedric K. Ferguson Certificates for the best peer-approved paper in 2000 and 2006. He has been named an SPE Distinguished Member, Distinguished Lecturer, Distinguished Author and Outstanding Technical Editor. Dr. Datta-Gupta is also a recipient of the AIME Rossitter W. Raymond award.
Dr. Hill’s Ph.D. graduates currently hold petroleum engineering faculty positions.

**Michael King**, professor, was appointed holder of the LeSeur Chair in Reservoir Management in May 2012. Effective August 16, 2012, he began serving as the assistant department head for administration, where he oversees the staff, faculty development, student appeals, and other administrative functions.

**Robert Lane**, professor and Aghorn Energy Development Professor, was named a 2012 Texas A&M Engineering William Keeler Faculty Fellow. An engineering fellow is recognized for making outstanding overall contributions to the engineering program in classroom instruction, scholarly activities and professional service.

**Duane McVay**, professor, was appointed to the endowed Rob L. Adams ’40 Professorship in Petroleum Engineering January 1, 2012. He was named assistant department head for academic affairs effective August 16, 2012. He handles class scheduling, ABET readiness and TA/grader allocation, and will monitor enrollments and other academic functions. Dr. McVay was also appointed associate director of the Berg-Hughes Center for Petroleum and Sedimentary Systems. The appointment became effective September 1, 2012, for an initial three-year term.

**Hisham Nasr-El-Din**, professor and holder of the John Edgar Holt Chair, was named one of the recipients of the 2012 Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) Faculty Fellow Award. A TEES fellow is an established faculty member with a history of continuous performance who was nominated by a department head or TEES center director for his or her long-term outstanding research work and activity in graduate student training and mentoring.

**Jerome Schubert**, associate professor and the Larry A. Cress ’76 Faculty Fellow, has been named a Distinguished Member of SPE. This award acknowledges members who have attained eminence in the petroleum industry or the academic community, or who have made significant contributions to SPE.

**Peter Valkó**, professor, was appointed to the endowed Robert L. Whiting Chair in Petroleum Engineering, effective September 1, 2012, for a term of five years. This appointment was in recognition of his exceptional record as a researcher and educator.
Staff Awards and Recognition

Bob Wattenbarger, professor, was selected as the 2012 recipient of the SPE Reservoir Description and Dynamics Award. This award (formerly known as the Reservoir Engineering Award) recognizes outstanding achievements in or contributions to the advancement of petroleum engineering in the area of reservoir description and dynamics.

Kathy Beladi, senior administrative coordinator, was elected to serve as the college of engineering representative on the Texas A&M University Staff Council. The council serves as an official body to represent staff concerns to the university administration and makes recommendations on various issues relating to both classified and non-classified staff and reports directly to President Loftin.

Ding Zhu, associate professor and W.D. Von Gonten Faculty Fellow, was a 2011-2012 SPE distinguished lecturer. In this role, she presented the talk, “Understanding the Roles of Inflow-Control Devices in Optimizing Horizontal Well Performance,” at 22 SPE sections around the world.

Jason Demshar, senior information technology manager, received his master’s in educational human resource development in May. He was also elected to the inaugural Engineering Staff Advisory Council. He is one of seven newly elected members to serve with eight members remaining from the initial Engineering Staff Advisory Council working group, which set up the bylaws for the council. The purpose of the Engineering Staff Advisory Council is to engage and empower engineering staff members, enhance their work environment, and build a sense of community.

Phaedra Hopcus, who has been with the department for three and a half years, was promoted to senior program specialist. She works for Professor Akhil Datta-Gupta and Professor Michael King and has recently taken on new duties assisting the faculty search committee.
John Maldonado was promoted to facilities manager September 1, 2012. John has 19 years of experience in construction and facilities management and is currently one of the building proctors for the Richardson Building.

Ted Seidel, senior information specialist II for distance learning, graduated in May with a Ph.D. in agricultural education with an emphasis on distance education and educational technology. His dissertation was titled, “Vicarious Interactions and Self-Direct Learning of Students by Course Delivery Strategy.”

Gail Krueger, administrative coordinator of our undergraduate program, was one of 15 individuals selected to receive the 2012-13 President’s Meritorious Service Award. She received her award during a ceremony February 27, 2013, in Rudder Theater. Nominations for the award were submitted in the fall, and an anonymous committee comprised of representatives from across campus selected the winners. Each individual recipient received a monetary cash award, a commemorative plaque and a lapel pin. Awards are funded through the generosity of the Association of Former Students.

Gail Krueger and President R. Bowen Loftin
Aggie 100 Winners in Oil- and Gas-related Businesses

Each year the Aggie 100 identifies, recognizes and celebrates the 100 fastest growing Aggie-owned or Aggie-led businesses in the world. The Aggie 100 not only celebrates their success, it also provides a forum to pass lessons to the next generation of Aggie entrepreneurs.

The Aggie 100 was created by the Mays Business School’s Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship. The center provides encouragement, education, networking and assistance to entrepreneurially-minded students, faculty and Texas businesses.

Each year, honorees are invited to campus for celebrations that include an evening networking reception with fellow honorees and special guests from Texas A&M University, potential speaking engagements with Texas A&M students, breakfast with the dean of their college, and an awards luncheon where the rankings are announced.

Thirteen petroleum engineering individuals or companies made the list in 2012:

1. *Navidad Resources – Tyler, Texas*
   Harold McGowen III ’82, President

2. *MudTech Services – Houston, Texas*
   Larry Cress ’76, President

5. *LINN Energy – Houston, Texas*
   Mark E. Ellis ’79, President

20. *Tex-Star Water Services – Irving, Texas*
   Grant Swartzwelder ’85, President

23. *Energy XXI Limited – Houston, Texas*
   John D. Schiller, Jr. ’81, Chairman

39. *Houston Offshore Engineering – Houston, Texas*
   Ngok Lai ’72, Owner
   Philip Poll ’88
   Jun Zou ’97

48. *Summit Petroleum – Midland, Texas*
   Dennis R. Johnson ’74, Chairman
   Matt R. Johnson ’00, President

49. *EV Energy Partner – Houston, Texas*
   Mark A. Houser ’83, President

63. *Lonquist & Co. – Austin, Texas*
   Richard R. Lonquist ’87, President
   Robert S. Crews ’90, Partner

68. *Signa Engineering – Houston, Texas*
   Rick Stone ’79, Chairman

71. *New Tech Engineering – Houston, Texas*
   Larry Cress ’76, President
   Geoff Kimbrough ’78, Regional VP

86. *Latshaw Drilling & Exploration – Tulsa, Oklahoma*
   Trent Latshaw ’75, President

98. *Laredo Energy, IV – Houston, Texas*
   Glenn Hart ’78, Chairman
   Jerry Holditch ’79, Executive Vice President
   Jim Flowers ’84, Vice President
   Scott Stevenson ’84, Vice President
   Doug Kaiser ’75, Engineering Manager
Industry Board

The Petroleum Engineering Industry Board promotes the continuous improvement of the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering at Texas A&M University. Members serve on committees focusing on the undergraduate program, the graduate and research programs, outreach programs, former student programs, and development. Its members are nominated from a variety of sources and selected by the department head to serve three-year terms. The industry board holds formal meetings twice a year. More details are available at http://www.pe.tamu.edu/Industry-Board/CurrentMembers.aspx.

In 2012, a major initiative of the Industry Board was the creation of the Stephen A. Holditch ’69 Department Head Chair in Petroleum Engineering, which a large number of the board members supported financially. The department benefits greatly from the dedication and generosity of this group.

Industry Board Members

Kathy Beladi (secretary) – Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering
Greg Bird ’82 (co-chair) – Jetta Operating Co. Inc.
Brady Bullard ’95 – Engineering Development Office
Elizabeth Cantrell ’96 – Kerns Petroleum Inc.
Clay Carrell ’88 – EP Energy
H. Craig Clark ’79 – Wishborne Energy
Jeff Coburn ’82 – Halliburton
Robert Coffman ’81 – ConocoPhillips
Andrew Coleman ’96 – Raymond James & Associates
David Dunlap ’83 – Superior Energy Services
David B. Dunton ’85 – Alpine Gas Co.
Jeff Elkin ’80 – Empresa Energy
Mark E. Ellis ’79 – Linn Energy LLC
Tim Friesenhahn ’86 – XTO Energy Inc.
Erin Gage ’02 – Engineering Development Office
Terry Gerhart ’84 – Noble Energy
William D. Gillespie ’80 – Marathon Oil Co.
Frosty Gilliam, Jr. ’80 – Aghorn Energy Inc.
Glenn D. Hart ’78 – Laredo Energy
Dan Hill – Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering
John H. Hollowell ’79 – Shell Energy Resources Co.
Steve Horn ’79 – CRS Proppants LLC
Mark A. Houser ’83 (co-chair) – EnerVest Ltd.
Ramona Hovey ’89 – DrillingInfo Inc.
Peter D. Huddleston ’80 – Huddleston & Co. Inc.
A. Carl Isaac ’87, P.E. – Crimson Exploration Inc.
Janeen Judah ’81 – Chevron Africa & Latin America E&P
Karl Kurz ’83 – CCMP Capital Advisors
Trent Latshaw ’75 – Latshaw Drilling & Exploration Co.
Jeff Lehrmann ’86 – Chevron Canada Resources
Donald Lovingfoss ’87 – Lovingfoss Energy
Jeffrey W. Miller ’85 – Vortus Investments
Stephen W. Miller ’79 – Chesapeake Energy Corp.
Richard Morrison ’80 – BP America Production
Gene Narahara ’81 – Chevron Energy Technology Co.
Douglas B. Otten ’65, retired
David Pursell ’85 – Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co. Securities
Terry Rathert ’75 – Newfield Exploration Co.
Lance Robertson ’98 – Marathon Oil Co.
Mark Rubin ’81 – Society of Petroleum Engineers
John D. Schiller Jr. ’81 – Energy XXI
Catherine Sliva ’80 (vice-chair) – BlueRock Energy Capital
Dr. Jeff Spath ’84 – Schlumberger Ltd.
George Voneiff ’83 – Unconventional Gas Resources
William D. Von Gonten ’88 – W.D. Von Gonten & Co.
E. Joseph Wright ’82 – COG Operating LLC
Clifford Zwahlen ’87 – Midstates Petroleum Co. Inc.
Endowments
There were 229 new gifts made or pledged in 2012 totaling more than $6.9 million. Gifts contributed by individuals totaled $4.3 million and corporate gifts totaled $2.6 million, with the biggest portion of these gifts in support of the new department head chair. Our thanks go to all the generous donors who make our program the best-supported petroleum engineering department in the country.

Stephen A. Holditch ’69 Department Head Chair in Petroleum Engineering

Aggies stepped up to endow a department head chair at Texas A&M University. This chair honors the service of an outstanding leader in petroleum engineering, Dr. Stephen A. Holditch, who stepped down as head of the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering after eight years of leading and developing Texas A&M petroleum engineering into one of the top programs in the nation. The Stephen A. Holditch ’69 Department Head Chair in Petroleum Engineering, funded through the Texas A&M Foundation, is being created to recruit and retain his replacement and provide funding for key faculty.

Many Aggie petroleum engineering former students have come forth to kick off the funding for this chair. The goal for this chair is $5 million. Funding efforts are ongoing, with the current level of contributions and pledges totaling more than $4.2 million.

The following alumni have made major contributions to the Holditch chair:

Mark W. Albers ’79
Greg Bird ’82
David Dunlap ’83
Jeff Elkin ’80
Energy XXI
Kim Eubanks ’79
Mike Gatens ’80
Terry Gerhart ’84
Bill Gillespie ’80
Frosty Gilliam ’80
Ken Haggart ’69
George Hickox ’80
Jeffrey Honeck ’82
Steve Horn ’79
Mark Houser ’83
Peter D. Huddleston ’80
Billy P. Huddleston ’56
Dennis Johnson ’74
Trent Latshaw ’75
Tim Leach ’82
Jeff Miller ’85
Samson ’88 and Jean Fan Ning
Doug Otten ’65
Terry Rathert ’75
Mark Rubin ’81
Cathy Sliva ’80
George Voneiff ’83
Jim Wilkes ’78
E. Joe Wright ’82
Full Ride Kelly & Bill Von Gonten ’87 Scholarship

Kelly L. and William D. (Bill) Von Gonten Jr. ’87 of Houston have endowed a full-ride scholarship for Texas A&M University students in petroleum engineering. Full-ride scholarships of this type are rare at Texas A&M.

Their $500,000 contribution through the Texas A&M Foundation, which marks the couple’s fifth endowed gift at Texas A&M, creates the Kelly and Bill Von Gonten Jr. ’87 Scholarship in Petroleum Engineering. The award is part of the Von Gonten Scholarship Program, named in memory of Bill’s father, W.D. (Doug) Von Gonten, an influential professor and department head whose 25 years of service resulted in the remarkable growth of petroleum engineering at Texas A&M.

This scholarship is awarded to a full-time Texas A&M student, preferably sophomore level or higher, pursuing a degree in petroleum engineering. Texas or U.S. residents with a minimum 3.0 GPR are eligible to apply, and selection of the recipient is subject to the Petroleum Engineering Scholarship Committee. The award is valued at $22,000 per academic year and will cover the full cost of attendance at Texas A&M.

Cole Barron, a sophomore petroleum engineering student, was the first recipient of this scholarship.

Von Gonten Scholars Program

The Von Gonten Scholars Program is a $120,000 gift for a four-year scholarship for top-performing petroleum engineering students at Texas A&M University. The Von Gonten Scholars Program is named for the late W.D. (Doug) Von Gonten.

Von Gonten Scholarships

- Mark W. Albers ’79 Scholarship (new)
- Jeff Miller ’85 Scholarship (new)
- Battlecat Oil & Gas Scholarship
- Gregory A. Bird ’82 Scholarship
- Chevron Corporation Scholarship I
- Chevron Corporation Scholarship II
- Mark and Julia Ellis Scholarship
- Sterling S. Lacy Jr. ’46 Scholarship
- Tim and Amy Leach Scholarship
- Lovingfoss Family Scholarship
- Dr. Larry D. Piper ’57 Scholarship
- Dr. Doug Von Gonten Scholarship
- Kelly & Bill Von Gonten ’87 Scholarship
Nelson Scholars Program

The Nelson Scholars Program is a $60,000-$100,000 gift for a four-year scholarship gift to attract exceptional freshmen to the petroleum engineering profession. The Nelson Scholars Program is named for oilman James K.B. Nelson and was established in 1987.

Nelson Scholarships

Terry Gerhart ’84 Scholarship
Steve Holditch ’69 and Class of ’69 Scholarship
James W. “Bill” Amyx Memorial Scholarship
Gregory A. Bird ’82 Scholarship
Laurelei and J.C. Burton ’60 Scholarship
Dru R ’80 & M. Scott Cone ’82 Scholarship
Deupree Foundation Scholarship
Joy and Ralph Ellis Scholarship
J. Ralph Ellis, Jr. ’52 Scholarship
Raymond H. Eubank ’48 Family Scholarship
Joe B. Foster ’56 Scholarship
Jack and Nell Glynn Scholarship
The Grey Wolf Drilling Company Scholarship
Mary Lou & Jimmie D. Harrington ’47 Endowed Scholarship
Henry and Jean Holland ’45 Scholarship
Peter D. Huddleston ’80 and Kathy B Huddleston ’81 Scholarship
B.P. and F.M. Huddleston ’56 Scholarship
Jack E. & Carolyn H. Little ’60 Scholarship
Joseph A. Marek ’57 Scholarship
Merit Energy Company Scholarship
Susan W. & Jeffrey W. Miller ’85 Scholarship
The Nancarrow Family Scholarship
Newfield Exploration Company Scholarship
B.D. O’Neal ’53 Scholarship
Ann G. and Charles K. Orr ’57 Scholarship
Dr. Philip Oxley Scholarship
Petroleum Engineering Faculty Scholarship
Petroleum Engineering Industry Board Scholarship
2011 Petroleum Engineering Industry Board Scholarship
Edward O. Price, Jr. ’50 Scholarship
Terry W. Rathert ’75 Scholarship
Marita and Earl E. Rossman, Jr. ’54 Scholarship
Kristi and John Schiller ’81 Scholarship
Saint Mary Land & Exploration Co. Scholarship
Diana S. Stepan ’94 Scholarship
Cheryl & Michael W. Taylor ’74 Scholarship
Douglas Von Gonten Memorial Scholarship
Roger J. Wolfe Scholarship

Other New Endowed Gifts

Kim Cadena Scholarship
Ramona Hovey ’89 Scholarship
Chesapeake Energy Scholarship
Forest Oil Fellowship
Dr. Tarun Grover ’08 Fellowship
Steve Miller ’79 Planned Gift
Chevron Corporation – Chevron Engineering Imaging Laboratory
The following is a list of our petroleum engineering students who received academic financial support through the department during academic year 2012-2013.

**AADE Houston Chapter Scholarship**
- Jody Gaeckler
- Richard Mercer
- Mark W. Albers Scholarship
- Jeffrey Christopher

**Benny Altman Memorial Scholarship**
- Dylan Bucanek
- William Chapman
- Marcus Elliott

**James W. “Bill” Amyx Memorial Scholarship**
- Kelsey Long

**Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Grant**
- Bradley Burnside
- Stephen Cantu
- Austin Cantwell
- Clayton Cox
- Cory Gilbert
- Mitchell Greene
- Yuze Jing
- Hanyu Li
- Jose Martinez
- Ryan Maupin
- Ashley Mills
- Jacob Misemer
- Kyle Pichler
- Mason Sneed
- Meagan Soto
- Brooks Taylor
- Dylan Waak
- Julia Waninger

**API Houston Chapter Scholarship**
- Andrew Allen
- Kristan Barret
- Michael Festervand
- Jonathan Freel
- William Goin
- Shawn Guice
- Joshua Hanchera
- Blake Hermes
- Annie Hilford
- Aimee Jenks
- Corey Jones
- Justin Lundquist
- Thomas Maranuk
- Jonathan McDonnell
- Steven McRaith
- Aaron Miller
- Armando Moreno
- Michael Peterson
- Tyler Pierce
- Norman Ren
- Alfred Stone
- James Thompson
- Reid Towart
- Andrew Wlazlo
- Robert Wyrick

**Battlecat Oil & Gas Scholarship**
- Austin Borden

**John E. ’74 and Deborah F. ’76 Bethancourt Scholarship**
- Lyndsey Duvall

**Gregory A. Bird ’82 Scholarship**
- Jacob Russell

**Travis L. Booher ’62 Scholarship**
- James Bevan
- John Grant

**BP-Amoco Foundation Grant**
- William Baycroft
- Charles Burt
- William Deupree
- Melissa Garrett
- Anne Mims
- Hamza Paracha
- John Paul Thibodeaux
- Jacob Behrends
- Kyle Chandler
- Melissa Mooney
- Oscar Simpson
- Cori Ziemianski

**J.L. Burkhart ’57, B.J. Reid ’79, BRG Petroleum Inc. Scholarship**
- Hannah Evans
- Mason Tucker

**Laurelei and J.C. Burton ’60 Scholarship**
- Phillip Flores

**Margot & Al Byington ’58 Scholarship**
- Marcela Martinez

**Margo & Powell Campbell ’66 Scholarship**
- Ryan Epperson
- Blake Howard
- Jeffrey McGowen
Reid Scofield
William Van Brunt

**Chesapeake Energy Corporation Grant**
Agustin Avellaneda Matteo
Carter Brooks
Kyle Bulpitt
Brian Coffman
Matthew Gunter
Kristin O’Brien
Nicolas Osa
Jonathan Truong
Jacob Young

**Chevron Corporation Scholarship I**
Kevin Meloy

**Chevron Corporation Scholarship II**
Jacqueline Lightner

**Chevron Corporation Grant**
Troy Aalund
Edward Andrade
Seifeddin Badri
Dylan Breaux
Sean Buechele
Aidan Casey
Austin Chaney
Marcus Fisher
Christopher Frazier
Dylan Guthrie
Emily Heskin
Gabriel Jagush
Katherine Johnson
Matthew Jones
Cody Kainer

Joshua Mathews
Michele Mistretta
Christopher Schilling
Jonathan Sienkiewicz
David Sonka
Natasha Stolte
Matthew Williamson
Samuel Wilson
Chi Yao

**Concho Resources Grant**
Lauren B’Oris
Mark Rudolph
Luke Sisti

**Dru R ’80 and M. Scott Cone ’82 Scholarship**
Leigha Alexander

**JoAnn H. and Michael M. Cone ’60 Scholarship**
Brian Arnst
Mario Coll
Madeleine Kilgore

**ConocoPhillips Oil Company Grant**
Andrew Decheck
Megan Keller
Alana Low
Michael Waites

**Christy D. and Mark A. Conrad ’90 Scholarship**
Dane Hooker

**Dr. Paul B. Crawford Memorial Scholarship**
Matthew Corsi
Sean Nguyen

**CRS Proppants/Stephen R. Horn ’79 Grant**
Tyler Anselmi
Ashely Bechler
Bharat Bhattarai
Charles Carson
Johann Cherian
Juan Diez
Jarred Inman
Christopher Joiner
Connor Mauldin
Rafael Paz
Peter Prutzman
Thomas Read
Ryan Skeffington
Nicholas Smith
Grant Sykes
Adam Warren
Daniel Weimer
Ryan Whitmire

**Patricia & Jerry B. Davis ’52 Scholarship**
Kyler Clark
Shane Farren

**Ernest F. Dean ’54 Scholarship**
Douglas Chipponeri
Matthew Wiese

**Deupree Foundation Scholarship**
Daniel Hilton

**Richard C. “Dick” Durbin ’56 Scholarship**
Bradley Burt
Michael McGowen
William D. Edman '62 Endowed Scholarship
Stephen George

Valerie and Jeff Elkin Scholarship
Joseph Jones
Richard Mercer

Mark and Julia Ellis Scholarship
Steven Fly

Joy and Ralph Ellis Scholarship
Melissa LeRoy

J. Ralph Ellis, Jr. '52 Scholarship
Garrett Whittington

Energy Quest II LLC Grant
Eric Everett

EOG Resources Grant
Kenneth Chesshir
John Wleczyk

Raymond H. Eubank '48 Family Scholarship
Kyle Zimmermann

Kelli Marie Flanagan '06 Memorial Scholarship
Connor Wilcox

Fort Worth Wildcatters Association Scholarship
Zachary Taylor

Joe B. Foster '56 Scholarship
Tobin Gelbs

Henry A. Gilbert Memorial Scholarship
Kaikhans Baimbet
Daniel Coats
Johnny Evans

David Green
Corey McKinzey
Grant Melson
Ryan Schenkewitz
Richard Sigman
Daniel Walter
William Warner

Rhonda & Frosty Gilliam, Jr. '80 Scholarship
Britt Feik
Fredrik Vaage

Ginnings-Whiting Scholarship
Ryan Ariwibowo

Jack and Nell Glynn Scholarship
Ana Perez

The Grey Wolf Drilling Company Scholarship
John Freeman
Abdelrahman Kotb
Niraj Shah
Matthew Simpson
Adam Zhu

Mary Lou & Jimmie D. Harrington '47 Endowed Scholarship
Wahl Harvey
Eli Lauffenburger

Hess Foundation Grant
Ryan Cyr
Jamil Deen
Christopher Duin
Michael Germain
Nathan Matusek
Daniel Meyer

Caitlin Papso
Preston Pope
Kevin Presley
Matthew Presley
Kelsi Sherman
Ritthy Son
Richard Thayer
Meghan Whipple
Bryce Whitmire
John Wiggins

Henry & Jean Holland '45 Scholarship
Benjamin Hoffman

Charles A. Holston Honors Scholarship
Brian Liefer

Mark and Lou Houser Scholarship
Andrew Bakke

B.P. Huddleston '56 Scholarship
Kevin Ma

B.P. and F.M. Huddleston '56 Scholarship
Colby Morris

Kenneth R. Huddleston I Endowed Scholarship
Jordan Fleck
Glenn Hudson
Caleb Winkowski

K.R. Huddleston II Honors Scholarship
Tuan Thanh Phi
Chad Schrumpf
Andrew Weldon
Danica Westgard
Peter D. Huddleston ’80 and Kathy B. Huddleston ’81 Scholarship
Garrett Granier

IADC Scholarship
David Dean
Joseph Jones
Richard Mercer
Jeff Mladenka
Robert Willis
Rachel Wood
Cole Young

William Earnest Jochec Memorial Scholarship
Everett Claycomb

Nan and Joe Johnson ’51 Scholarship
Ryan Rice

Wallace O. Keller Memorial Scholarship
Brandon Colondres
Neil Longenbaugh

Kyle Kepple ’92 Endowed Scholarship
Jeff Mladenka
Ryan Stage

Dottie and Buddy Kleemeier ’66 Scholarship
Kristina Klock

M. Scott Kraemer ’43 Scholarship
Colby Carpenter

Joyce Whiting Kraemer Scholarship
Timothy Dash

Sterling S. Lacy Jr. ’46 Scholarship
Zachary Griffin

Tim and Amy Leach Scholarship
Joseph Cox

Fred M. Lege III Scholarship
Blake Ardrey
Caleb Hathcock

Jack E. and Carolyn H. Little ’60 Scholarship
Jeffrey Lo

Paula and Bill Lonquist ’48 Scholarship
Jacob Neshyba

Marathon Oil Company Grant
Clay Bludau
Aaron Borden
Hassan Daramsis
Shelby Fancher
Carter Henderson
Shelby Hillman
Matthew Holland
Steven Little
Michael Staff
William Wagner

Joseph A. Marek ’57 Scholarship
James Yancy

Matlin Corporation/Permian Basin Aggies Scholarship
Tanner Butler
Garrett Wilson

Merit Energy Company Scholarship
John Drozd

Susan W. & Jeffrey W. Miller ’85 Scholarship
William Moomaw

Jeff Montgomery Endowed Scholarship
Gojko Matovic

The Nancarrow Family Scholarship
Jennifer Wisler

Randolph Newcomer, Sr. ’57 Scholarship
Dylan White

Newfield Exploration Company Scholarship
Matthew Tomberlin

Newfield Exploration Company Grant
Eduardo Izaguirre
Conner Mowery
David Ragland

George A. Odum ’67 Scholarship
Robert Quigley

B. D. O’Neal ’53 Scholarship
Belle Ibanez

Ann G. and Charles K. Orr ’57 Scholarship
Eliza Bornman

Glenda & Doug ’65 Otten Scholarship
Luke Lau
Jordan Park
Katherine Tomberlin

Dr. Philip Oxley Scholarship
Zachary Bateman

Petroleum Engineering Industry Board Scholarship
Brian Heilbrun
Eric Redondo
2011 Petroleum Engineering Industry Board Scholarship
Earl Hoover

Pi Epsilon Tau Scholarship
Brandon Matlock

Pioneer Natural Resources Company Grant
Abdalla Ali
Gavin Atkins
Scott Brown
Courtney Brown
Meagan Craighead
Weihao Ding
Karlis Ercums
Christopher Eustice
Sanchez, Genaro
Michael Grant
Cullen Guglielmo
Xuyang Guo
Seth Hereford
James Hervey
Abdelrahman Issa
Christopher Johnson
Kelly Keller
Jacob Moehrig
Matthew Morte
Daniel Ochsner
John Odlozil
Stewart Patterson
Zachary Pfluger
Mary Pollard
Gaurav Rai
Tyler Rheinlander
Jacob Rietveld

Daniel Rockey
Michael Scanlin
Parker Simmons
Ashlee Simmons
Omar Tenorio
Timothy Wallace
Shangjie Yue

Dr. Larry D. Piper ’57 Scholarship
Raymond Xue
Travis Yuille

Jessie & Max Powell ’49 Endowed Scholarship
Joe Cobb

Edward O. Price, Jr. ’50 Scholarship
Garrett Reddin

QEP Resources Grant
Keenan Abraham
Carson Brickey
Alexis Cleckler
Mahd Dada
Jacob Farmen
Adele Jarolimek
Sara Kaderabek
Travis Runge
Antonio Wilkinson

Randall & Dewey Scholarship
Andrea Ayala
Ayten Rady

Terry W. Rathert ’75 Scholarship
Raymond Noah

Charles A. Rohan Memorial Scholarship
Rongqiang Chen
James Koy
Zongyi Li
Michael Stewart

Marita and Earl E. Rossman, Jr. ’54 Scholarship
Benjamin Faith
Andre Gava Domingos

Kristi & John Schiller, ’81 Scholarship
Robert Willis

Mary Sue and Col. Albert D. Schutz ’40 Scholarship
Kimberly Dechaud
Brady Lain

Cathy and Glenn Sliva Scholarship
Samuel Adlis
Shaelynn McFadden
Jennifer Nguyen

SM Energy (St. Mary Land & Exploration Co.) Scholarship
Robert Leidy

Ted H. Smith Jr. Scholarship
Colton Reese

SPE Dallas Section Scholarship
Andy Contreras
Matthew Holland
Michael Johnson
Natalie Mazanek
Nicolas Osa

SPE Gulf Coast Section Scholarship
Brian Arnt
Lane Borden
Krystyn Bradley
Carson Brickey
Dillon Briers
Kyle Bulpitt
Lindsey Duvall
Christopher Eustice
Steven Fly
Christopher Foster
Garrett Granier
Matthew Gunter
Matthew Halpin
Stephen Janacek
Joseph Jones
Lindsay Kalberer
Kevin Lafferty
Austin Mallet
Kevin Meloy
Michelle Noto
Kristin O’Brien
Garrett Reddin
Matthew Sasso
Katrina Schilling
William Schlobohm
Noel Strickling
Brooks Taylor
Lis Thornton
Katherine Tomberlin
Jennifer Wisler
Robert Wyrick

Mr. & Mrs. Horace G. Spiller, Sr. Scholarship
Dillon Briers
Matthew Grubb
Karen Johnson
Andrew Malone

Dillon Briers
Kyle Bulpitt
Lindsey Duvall
Christopher Eustice
Steven Fly
Christopher Foster
Garrett Granier
Matthew Gunter
Matthew Halpin
Stephen Janacek
Joseph Jones
Lindsay Kalberer
Kevin Lafferty
Austin Mallet
Kevin Meloy
Michelle Noto
Kristin O’Brien
Garrett Reddin
Matthew Sasso
Katrina Schilling
William Schlobohm
Noel Strickling
Brooks Taylor
Lis Thornton
Katherine Tomberlin
Jennifer Wisler
Robert Wyrick

Dr. Doug Von Gonten Scholarship
Matthew Halpin
Kevin Lafferty

Kelly and Bill Von Gonten ’87 Scholarship
Cole Barron

Douglas Von Gonten Memorial Scholarship
Imad Abdelraouf
Samatha Armstrong
Kenneth Ashworth
Taylor Bartay
Andrea Carter
Daniel Cortines
Joseph Deschamps
Justin Eastwood
Matthew Hunter
David Hurd
Lindsay Kalberer
Austin Lankford
Joseph Larakers
Charles Leach
Jeffrey Leblanc
Jeremy McCaslin
Beshoy Mikhaeil
Tyler Pruski
Maha Qureshi
Connor Richmond
William Schlobohm
Dayananda Shah
Robert Strong
Hunter Swerdloff
William Tarpley

Dillon Briers
Lisa Thornton

Diana S. Stepan ’94 Scholarship
Katherine Nunley

Cheryl and Michael W. Taylor ’74 Scholarship
Nicholas Lahutsky

Harold J. Vance Scholarship for Excellence Scholarship
Fitrisia Anandita
Jeremiah Benner
Nathan Fernandez
Slone Harrison
Hammad Irshad
Brian Lanier
Austin Lester
Dylan Morales
Michael Newberry
Andreas Prakoso
Amin, Shahin
Jacob Sloan
David Smith
Adiv Sulaiman
Andrew Sundin
Preston Tidwell

June and Laman Vance Memorial Scholarship
Ethan Martin

Harold J. Vance I Endowed – SPEE Scholarship
Laura Pelaez Soni
Cody Volovar
Andrew West
Jason Zhao

**Steve Wade ’72 Memorial Scholarship**
Juan Macias
Michelle Noto

**Fred G. Walsh ’74 Scholarship**
Sarah Liem
William Tindol

**Joseph H. Wellborn, Sr. ’41 Scholarship**
Carlos Menendez
Andrew Oordt

**Whiting-Pinson Scholarship**
Brendan Love
Brian Richards

**James H. Wilkes Scholarship**
Adam Brady
Kevin Pollak

**Roger J. Wolfe Scholarship**
Matthew Mayer
Katrina Schilling

**ALRDC Fellowship**
Gibran Hashmi

**Anne and David Dunlap Fellowship**
Peerapong Ekkawong

**Baker Hughes Fellowship**
Andrea Nino Penaloza

**Chevron Fellowship**
Sylvain Calisti
Bingzhou Huang
Songxia Liu
Brandon Meyer

Adnene Mhiri Muhammad Riza
Martin Saint-Felix
Jin Sek Kim
Jenika Shannon
Assiya Suleimenova
Dao Xiang

**ConocoPhillips Fellowship**
Kathryn Briggs
Jose Moreno
Cassandra Oeth
Jenika Shannon

**George J. Moridis Fellowship**
Shingo Watanabe

**Harold M. Hoffmeister Fellowship**
Mohit Dholi

**John C. Calhoun, Jr. Fellowship**
Sherif Abdelmoneim
Cheng An
Dennis Arensman
Alvaro Aranibar Fernandez
Kathryn Briggs
Zhuo Chen
Yang Cao
Gama Firdaus

**Steve and Ann Holditch Fellowship**
Christopher Holland
Daniel Shedd
Raheel Zubairy

**Myra W. and Robert L. Mills Fellowship**
Yi Zhou

**SPE Dallas Section Fellowship**
Obiajulu Nwosa
Petroleum Engineering Athletes Shine on the Field and in the Classroom

It is rare for an engineering student to be a varsity athlete, but our department currently has three student-athletes who have made their marks as part of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie football team.

Leading the way athletically is Randy Bullock, placekicker from 2008 to 2011, and a May 2013 graduate. Randy’s career as a college player culminated with his receiving the Lou Groza Award recognizing the best placekicker in college football, followed by his selection by the Houston Texans as the only kicker taken in the first round of the NFL draft. Randy’s professional football career has been delayed by a training camp injury, but expect to see him on the football field again next season.

Petroleum Engineering has another senior kicker who has had a major impact on the football field, punter Ryan Epperson. Ryan has been the Aggie’s starting punter for four years, and in 2012 averaged 42 yards per kick, near the top for all punters in the SEC. The only negative for Ryan this past season was that Johnny Manziel and company did not give him many opportunities to ply his trade, but that’s a good problem for a football team to have.
Finally, there is one petroleum engineering student playing for the Aggies who is not a kicker, junior linebacker **Jake Russell**. Jake was named to the Academic All-Big 12 team in 2011. We can all cheer on Jake as he comes back for his senior year in 2013.

These students have all made an impact on the gridiron, but what we are most proud of in the department is that they are also scholars, excelling at our rigorous petroleum engineering curriculum. How about these for impressive statistics – Randy Bullock, 2.93 GPA (B.S. May 2013), Ryan Epperson, 3.36 GPA, and Jake Russell, 3.93 GPA! Congratulations to these outstanding student athletes.

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**Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship Winner Hopes to Continue Blazing “Pathways”**

The National Science Foundation (NSF), Texas A&M University Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TAMUS LSAMP), and the Bridge to the Doctorate (BTD) Fellowship Program, in partnership with the Dwight Look College of Engineering, the College of Science, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has awarded petroleum engineering graduate student **Jenika Shannon** the Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship. This fellowship provides an annual stipend of $30,000 per year plus $9,000 per year for tuition, fees, and other expenses.

This fellowship, given in recognition of Jenika’s potential as a leader and role model to both undergrad and graduate students in her field, began January 1, 2013, and will support Jenika’s graduate study for two years. Each summer, she will be given the opportunity to attend the NSF Joint Annual Meetings and network with other BTD fellows from other LSAMP programs around the country.

Jenika, the first Texas A&M petroleum engineering major to be offered this great honor, said, “It is truly an honor to have even been accepted into a (petroleum engineering) program as competitive as Texas A&M’s. Truthfully, there is no place I would rather be. The prestige, spirit, and tradition associated with this university is indescribable; I am glad to be a part of it. I will well represent the department as a Bridge to Doctorate fellow and I hope to continue to blaze ‘pathways’ for those who follow.”
SPE Student Chapter Awards

Congratulations are in order for the Texas A&M Society of Petroleum Engineers student chapter, which was selected as the Outstanding Student Chapter for 2012. In addition to this prestigious award, the chapter has also been recognized for meeting the Gold Standard, the exceptional standard at which the student chapter performs in the categories of membership, planning, education, professionalism, service, support, and fundraising. This is the second year in a row the chapter has achieved this standard.

2012 Graduation Awards

Graduating students were recognized during the Petroleum Engineering Awards Ceremony held in the Richardson Building May 11, 2012, and guest speaker John Bethancourt delivered some inspirational words of wisdom and encouragement.


Those students who graduated magna cum laude (grade average 3.700-3.899) were Omar Aldajani, Atallah Alharbi, Patrick Armes, Zachary Hutchison, Jose Martinez, Taylor McCrory, Jared McCorkle, and Amy Zou.

The highest level of honor graduates are those graduating summa cum laude (grade average 3.900-4.00). Those students were Garrick Brueyroux, Michelle Klavan, Kevin Lammers, and Audrey Thompson.

The next award given out is The Faculty Awards of Excellence which was established by our petroleum
engineering faculty to recognize outstanding scholarship among our graduates. The undergraduate award went to Kevin Lammers, with the master award going to Ernesto Valbuena Olivares, and the doctoral award to Eric Bhark.

The student who showed the most improvement in their academic grades from a freshman to graduation received the Harold Vance Award. This year’s recipient was Taylor McCrory.

Cole Chavey received the Albert B. Stevens Memorial Award, which was established by George McGehee to help deserving students with financial need to make the transition from student to practicing engineer.

Fellow students and faculty nominate and vote on the student they feel reflects most the qualities of being an outstanding undergraduate in both scholarship and extracurricular activities to receive the Robert L. Whiting Award. The winner this year was Garrick Brugeyroux.
Students selected the faculty member who they felt maintains high expectations of their students and ensures academic rigor in their undergraduate classes. The winner of the Petroleum Engineering Department Award for Excellence in Teaching this year went to Mike King.

Congratulations to all of the 2012 departmental award recipients!