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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

### ***Professor Emeritus Robert Desbrandes Receives SPWLA Gold Medal for Technical Achievement***

**Robert Desbrandes**, professor emeritus of petroleum engineering, was awarded the 1999 Gold Medal for lifetime achievement by the Society of Professional Well Log Analysts (SPWLA). The award was presented to him in June at the SPWLA symposium in Oslo, Norway.

Desbrandes joined Schlumberger in 1947 and worked in Colombia and Venezuela as a field engineer. In 1952, after suggesting that a density sonde could be built, he came to the Engineering Department of the Schlumberger Corporation in Houston where he designed and built the first commercial wireline formation tester. From 1958 to 1982, he worked at the French Petroleum Institute (IFP) and taught well logging at the French National Petroleum School (ENSPM). In the 1970s, he was president of SAID, the French chapter of SPWLA. He returned to Houston in 1982 as a visiting professor at the University of Houston and in 1984 joined the Petroleum Engineering Department of LSU as an LSU Foundation distinguished professor.

Desbrandes authored 12 books or chapters and 70 articles, and took 36 patents, mostly in the field of logging or testing. His last book is the "Encyclopedia of Well Logging," published by Technip and Gulf Publishing Company.

Since his retirement in 1994, he alternates his time between Paris, France, and Baton Rouge, where he

participates in nuclear science research projects at LSU.



### ***Bruce Bernard Elected 2001 President of SPE***

**Bruce E. Bernard**, B.S. 1969 and member of the Engineering Hall of Distinction 1996, is the 2001 SPE president

Bernard joined Shell Oil Co. E&P in 1968 and held responsibilities in production engineering, field operations, and training activities within the Offshore Production Division from 1978 to 1982; he served as Division Petroleum Engineer, Manager of Development Engineering, and Division Engineering Manager in Shell's Gulf of Mexico businesses. Following various managerial positions at Shell Oil's Central Office and in the Midcontinent Division (1983 - 97), Bernard held leadership roles as Division Production Manager (Alaska) and Head of Production of the California production business. He was elected president of Shell Oil Western E&P Inc. and served as vice president of Shell Oil Co. E&P Technology, president of Pecten Intl. E&P Co., and as a member of the Leadership Team of Shell E&P International Ventures Inc. He retired from Shell in 1997.

### ***John R. Smith Selected 1999 - 2000 SPE Distinguished Lecturer***

**John Rogers Smith** was selected as a Distinguished Lecturer in the Society of Petroleum Engineers' 1999 - 2000 program. The program provides speakers who are experts in their fields to SPE chapters around the world. Smith, who spent 23 years at Amoco before joining LSU, will present up to 24 lectures on drilling in wells deeper than 10,000 feet.

Deep, overpressured wells account for a disproportionate share—about 27 percent in the U.S.—of all drilling costs. Factors contributing to the high cost of deep wells, such as poor bit performance in deep shales, are reviewed in his lecture.

Smith holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in petroleum engineering from LSU. He is the beneficiary of an annual grant funded by the Campanile Charities Endowed Professorship of Offshore Mining and Petroleum



**Bernard** has participated in a variety of industry and community endeavors. His SPE activities include chair-person of the SPE Distinguished Lecturer Committee, co-chairperson of the Cultural Diversity Task Force, member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and chairperson of the Long Term Governance Task Force.

## From the Chair

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The department is undergoing major changes. First, there is the name change to *The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering*. Then, the retirement of Professors Bill Bernard, Bill Holden, and Walter Whitehead and the influx of several new faculty and staff. Five out of our nine faculty joined the department in the last three years, and all but one staff member was here in the 1980s. All these changes are positive signs of rejuvenation and vitality.

The recent events affecting the petroleum industry seem to have no adverse effect on the enrollment. The last two freshmen classes were the largest in the 90s. Companies have been on campus recruiting for summer internships and full-time employment. However, placement is a concern as offers are lagging behind last year at this point in time. Lack of adequate placement may affect student retention in the program. However, optimism reigns in view of the latest jump in oil prices.

The Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) introduced new criteria based on outcome assessment. To comply with the new criteria, which promotes improvement, the department is in the process of putting in place a system that, when fully implemented, will demonstrate our systematic pursuit of excellence and satisfaction of the needs of our constituencies in a dynamic and competitive environment. You, alumni of the department, are one of our key constituencies. In the near future we will be seeking your input as to the appropriateness of the program's mission, goals, and objectives. We will also seek your involvement in assessing the outcomes of the program. We are excited about all the changes awaiting us in the near future and are ready, with the usual help of our alumni and friends, to meet the challenges of a new century!



## *John B. Brock III Inducted into LSU Hall of Distinction*

The LSU Alumni Association inducted seven alumni into its Hall of Distinction at the Lod Cook Alumni Center, Sept. 17, 1999. One of the honorees is John B. Brock III, B.S. 1954.

Brock serves on the board of directors for Ocean Energy Inc., where he is a former chairman. He was president and chief executive officer of United Meridian Corp. and UMC Petroleum Corp.

Brock has received the LSU Foundation President's Award for Lifetime Support at the Trendsetter level and is a member of the LSU Alumni Association Lewis Spencer Graham Society. He also serves on the boards of directors for Southwest Bancorporation of Texas Inc., Southwest Bank of Texas, and Kanaly Trust Co.

Brock is a member of the leadership team helping with the Craft and Hawkins campaign. Highlights of the campaign are listed on page 3.

## Staff Spotlight on: Jeanette Wooden

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Jeanette Wooden came to the department at the age of 17 as a student worker. Soon after her graduation in December 1991, with a Bachelor of Science degree in art education, she joined the department as secretary and advanced to her current position of coordinator of academic area at the Petroleum Engineering Research and Technology Transfer Laboratory.

Over the past seven years, Jeanette has been a vital force in the department. She works with industry personnel, faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students to implement the ideas and suggestions of her super-

visors. Jeanette helps coordinate industry schools, seminars, and workshops conducted by the department. She has also been extremely helpful to the new faculty in preparing research proposals and publications.

Jeanette is a caring, unselfish, and loyal person. She is a great addition to the department. For those who graduated before she joined the department, she is the "Mary Eloise Haynes" of the 90s!

Jeanette is married to Len Wooden. Together they have a six-year-old daughter, Erica, and a four-year-old son, Derek.

# *Highlights of the Craft & Hawkins Petroleum Engineering Department Campaign*

The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering Campaign is focused on establishing endowed funds in the LSU Foundation for the benefit of the department. The goal of the endowment was initially set at \$5 million, and all private contributions during the five-year period, 1998 - 2002, count toward the goal. The campaign is focused on four areas: endowed chairs, scholarships, laboratory renovation and maintenance, and unrestricted gifts.

To date, a total of \$3.9 million was pledged to the scholarships, professorships, laboratories, and unrestricted endowment funds. Because of the multi-year nature of the pledges, the actual cash contributions to date amount to \$547,647. We have also received in kind contributions in the form of equipment, services, and computer software from GeoQuest, Merak Projects, and Schlumberger. One of the key elements of the campaign is to endow scholarships that assist students with college costs. Scholarships are an effective means to recruit and retain good students. The alumni scholarship fund was used in fall 1999 to award 33 scholarships to entering freshmen. The average ACT score for the group is 28. Our goal is to establish 40 scholarship endowments at a level of \$50,000 each. The annual award for each is \$2,500. Six of these scholarships are already in place and were awarded at the Advisory Committee dinner held on October 8, 1999.



*Mr. David L. Long (center), recipient of an Alumni Scholarship, was presented his award by (left to right) Dr. William Holden, Mr. Bruce Bernard, Mr. Kenneth Scott and Professor Emeritus Murray Hawkins at the Industry Advisory Committee dinner held at the Lod Cook Alumni Center on October 8, 1999.*

## ***Two Companies Pledge \$750,000 to Support Laboratories***

The foundations of two petroleum companies, Shell and Burlington Resources, pledged, as part of the ongoing campaign, more than \$750,000. Shell Oil Companies Foundation pledged a total of \$502,000. This generous contribution, to be paid over a period of five years starting in 1999, enabled the department to purchase state-of-the-art hardware and software and to defray the cost of a computer network manager, who oversees all departmental computer-related activities.

Burlington Resources Foundation pledged \$250,000, to be paid in install-

ments also over a five-year period. The funds will be used to refurbish and modernize the department's reservoir mechanics laboratory. This unique labo

*Charles V. Cusimano*

struction of Tiger Stadium East Side boxes. He actively supported the consolidation of several departments and divisions into the Center for Coastal, Energy, and Environmental Resources. Cusimano also endorsed and aggressively pursued privatized student housing at the University of New Orleans and helped establish religious centers on all of the LSU campuses.

Cusimano is a member of SPE, IPAA, API, New Orleans Geological Society, Optimist Club, Sierra Club, and Petroleum Club. He also serves on the NOKIA Sugar Bowl Committee and is a former

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***Patrick F. Taylor***

**Patrick F. Taylor**, born in Beaumont, Texas, earned his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering in 1959 from LSU. He is chairman, president, and CEO of Taylor Energy Company, an independent exploration and production company with offices in New Orleans and Houston.

Upon graduation Taylor was employed by John Mecom, Sr., an independent Houston oilman. In 1967 Taylor formed his own consulting engineering company and began acquiring oil and gas properties. In 1974 Taylor and Mecom formed Circle Bar Drilling Company and adapted inshore technol

## *New Faces for a New Millennium*



**M. Janet Dugas, Clerk Chief**  
Janet joined the department in 1997. She is responsible for developing and maintaining our Web site. She assists our undergraduate and graduate advisors with the recruitment of students into the department. She supervises student workers, and maintains undergraduate and graduate students' records.



**John M. Griffin, Instructor**  
John joined the department in January. He received his Ph.D. in petroleum engineering from LSU in 1991, M.S. in mineral engineering from the University of Alabama in 1978, and B.S. in geology from Emory University in 1975. He teaches petroleum economics and several laboratory courses.



**Ernie W. Loftice, Research Specialist**  
Ernie also joined our department in January of this year, overseeing the Petroleum Engineering Research and Technology Transfer Laboratory. He received his B.S. in education from The University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1981 and A.S. in life sciences and technology from Nicholls State University in 1976.



**M. "Randy" Rasti, Computer Manager**  
In August of 1996 Randy joined our department as a Teaching Associate. With his vast expertise in networking and computers, he became the designated computer manager this past August. Randy received his B.S. in petroleum engineering at LSU in 1971.



**Ephim I. Shirman, Research Associate**  
Ephim joined our department in November of 1998 after receiving his Ph.D. in petroleum engineering at LSU. His M.S. in petroleum engineering was also from LSU (1995). Ephim also received advanced degrees in mechanical engineering from Moscow Oil and Gas Institute. His area of research is downhole water sink technology.



**John R. Smith, Assistant Professor**  
In August of 1998 John joined the department after 23 years in industry. He received his B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971, M.S. in

# Alumni Bits

## 1930s

**Clarence P. Boutte** ('32) passed away in December of 1997 in LaPlace, Louisiana.

Our condolences to the family of **Charles H. Clawson** ('35) who passed away in September of 1997 in Shreveport, Louisiana.

## 1940s

**Russell W. Holman** ('40) is self-employed, residing in Dallas, Texas.

Pipeline extends its condolences to the family of **Joseph W. Hecker** ('41) who died April 7, 1997.

**C.O. Magee, Sr.** ('41) retired from Exxon after 24 years. He also retired from Mapor USAR and is semi-retired from real estate in Alexandria, Louisiana.

*Pipeline* extends its condolences to the family of **John O'Connor** ('41) upon his death.

**Robert G. Bryan** ('42) passed away on May 16, 1997.

**Adolph J. Maier, Jr.** ('47) passed away on October 30, 1997.

## 1950s

**Glen Drewett** ('53) is president of Marine Rubber & Urethane, Inc. in Humble, Texas.

**John Brock III** ('54) is chairman of the board of Ocean Energy, Inc. in Houston, Texas. *(See related story on page 2)*

**Jerry Crocker** ('56) is owner of Rush-Andrus Engineering in Edmond, Oklahoma

**Elton G. Yates** ('57) passed away on March 18, 1999. Our condolences to his family.

**M.W. Braden, Jr.** (B.S. '58; M.S. '65) is president of Production Enhancement Partners, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Bobby C. Holmes** ('59) passed away on March 12, 1998, in Houston, Texas..

**Edward Amar, Jr.** ('64) is the owner of Amar Oil in Hammond, Louisiana.

**Thomas H. Hutto, Jr.** ('65) is drilling manager for Texaco China BV.

**Terry Teekell** ('65) is vice president and general manager of Parish Water Company in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Don Ray George** ('68) is president and CEO of Don Ray George & Associates in

## Alumni Bits

**James I. Platt** ('83) recently was promoted by Security DBS to area business manager for Mid-Continent Business Unit located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Catherine D. Belanger** ('84) is consulting for Exxon in New Orleans, Louisiana. She and her husband, *W. Louis Belanger, Jr.*, ('84) have two daughters and a son.

**Steve McDaniel** ('84) is director of investment banking at Merrill Lynch in Houston, Texas.

**Bruce A. Smith** (B.S. '84; M.S. '87) is a senior petroleum engineer with Key Production Co. in New Orleans, Louisiana

**Chris Van Way** ('84) is president of J.P. Oil Co., an independent oil company. He was recently named "Operator of the Year" by California Bureau of Land Management. He and his wife, Angie, have five children and reside in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**Wayne S. Finger** ('85) is a district manager for Schlumberger in Opelousas, Louisiana. He has held various positions in the Gulf of Mexico, Bombay, India, Tokyo, and Austin and Abilene, Texas, with Schlumberger since graduating.

**Mustafa "Mark" Hacıislamoglu** (M.S. '85; Ph.D. '89), works for Drilling Measurement in Houston, Texas.

**Mark A. Mayfield** ('85) is supervisor of midstream optimization with Unocal in Sugar Land, Texas.

**Susan J. Simons** ('85) is a surveillance operations engineer for Aera Energy (a joint venture of Shell and Mobil.) She is married and living in Santa Barbara, California.

**Thomas L. Smith** ('85) is vice president and general manager of Advanced Mobile Storage in San Antonio, Texas.

**Alfred J. Thomas III** ('85) is an engineering manager with American Explorer in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**Turhan Yildiz** (M.S. '85, Ph.D. '89) is an assistant professor at the University of Tulsa.

**Charles J. "Charlie" Burland** ('86) is owner and general partner of Gregory's Snack Bar, a family restaurant business, after leaving the U.S. EPA-Region IV in Atlanta in 1994. He graduated in December 1997 with a masters degree in public administration from Georgia State University with honors.

**Pablo A. Gomez** ('86) recently moved from Bogota, Colombia, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to take a reservoir engineering position with Petroleum Argentina San Jorge. He and his wife have one child.

**Alton R. Perry III** ('87) is a senior production engineer with Basin Exploration in Houston, Texas.

**David A. Williams** ('87) is a lead petroleum engineer with Chevron Overseas Petroleum, Inc. in Cabinda, Angola.

**Henry Leigh** ('88) is currently working for B.J. Services International in Maturin, Venezuela. He is a district engineer in charge of the Stimulation Department.

**Otto Luiz Alcantara Santos** ('89) is a petroleum engineer with Petrobras in Salvador, Brazil.

**Steve Bell** ('89) is the marketing communications and knowledge manager of global energy and mining of Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP in Houston, Texas.

**1990s**  
**Hui Xu** (Ph.D. '90) is now a senior engineer working on the GeoFrame software system at Schlumberger in Austin, Texas.

**Ken L. Fitzgerald** ('92), works for Evans-Hamilton, oceanographic consultants in Seattle, Washington.

**Mark Holliday** ('92) and family have moved to Neuquen, Argentina, where he works for the Alberta Energy Company International as the drilling, completion, and workover superintendent in Argentina.

**Adel Ibrahim** (Ph.D. '93), is an associate professor at Cairo University, while his wife, **Fatma Karim** (M.S. '92), works for Schlumberger. They have two children, Karim, eight, and Abla, four.

**Jose Da Graca Luis** ('93), is working as a production engineer with Texaco Panama, Inc. in Angola, West Africa.

**Ulrich R. Oosthuizen** ('93) is a petroleum engineer with Kuwait Oil Co. in Ahmadi, Kuwait.

**Bryan N. Batson** ('95) lives in Jackson, Mississippi. He has passed the first step of his boards and is in his third year of medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He is currently getting to apply Bernoulli's Principle and LaPlace's Law to vascular surgery.

**Rachel (Kernion) LeFlore** ('95) is a petroleum engineer at Texaco E & P in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is married to Max LeFlore, who works for Schlumberger Wireline and Testing. They have one son, Robert Coi Greenwood, born September 1998.

**Wojtek Manowski** (M.S. '97) resides in Poland.

**Richard Duncan** (M.S. '98) passed away April 8, 1999. He was employed by PI/Dwights at the time of his death.

**Basil Elzein** ('98) works for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Luis Figueiredo** ('98) is working for Chevron CABGOC.

**Khalid Halabi** ('98) is a petroleum engineer for Chevron in Houston, Texas. He plans to pursue an M.B.A in management from the Houston Baptist University.

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**Louisiana State University**  
Craft & Hawkins Department of  
Petroleum Engineering  
3516 CEBA  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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