EVERYTHING CHANGES, AND WE CHANGE WITH THEM

THE OIL BUSINESS ISN'T ALL THAT'S BOOMING

The Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering has long been known for our reputation for quality education and developing engineers who are innovative and ready to solve challenges. Currently, the department is facing our own set of challenges. And to those of you who toiled through a program in this department and know us best, you know we are too stubborn to shy away from a good challenge.

In recent months, news publications and our own College of Engineering have reported both positive and negative material regarding the state of the oil and gas industry and its effect on universities. While we do monitor these publications and sites regularly, our modus operandi has been to maintain focus on the business of education and research. As they say, all else is lagniappe.

As mentioned in the Houston Chronicle's July 4th article by Ryan Holeywell, academia has a very real challenge in recruiting top faculty to join us in the noble profession of education. So far, this has not had a major impact on our faculty recruitment, although at times competing with industry is not unlike competing with the MLB to maintain a viable bullpen. Since 2012, the department has been privileged to recruit Drs. Paulo Waltrich, Mehdi Zeidouni, and Wesley Williams as new faculty. However, we had to say goodbye to our colleagues and friends, Dr. Christopher White, Mr. Darryl Bourgoyne (who left because his dad “gave him an offer he couldn’t refuse”), Mr. C. Wayne Manuel, Mr. Gerry Masterman, and Dr. John Smith, the latter of whom is retired, but kindly agreed to return this academic year to teach Drilling Engineering and a few of our 10 sections of Blowout Prevention in the Spring. Incidentally, if any upcoming retirees with a PhD. or M.S. want to return for some good football and to teach, we'll have space! Or if a one- or two-year sabbatical from your current job sounds fun, come sign up to teach as a Professional-in-Residence. They say the students keep you young (and if it’s true, we are a veritable Fountain of Youth at the PERTT Lab.)

We are in the business of education. As a result of the booming oil business, our business has increased dramatically. The College of Engineering’s Mimi LaValle wrote a very insightful article this summer on our historic enrollment growth. However, the statistics best reflect our story: when our incoming freshmen were entering high school in 2010, 59 degrees were awarded that academic year. Our enrollment that year boasted 317 undergraduate students and 45 graduate students. This past academic year, we awarded 102 Bachelor’s degrees, 93 of those in the Spring. Looking at enrollment this academic year, we are on track to graduate 157, and the College of Engineering reports that our undergraduate enrollment, including freshmen, is 1,320 and 70 graduate students. Additionally, in 2011 we were offered a new LSU Systems request to include LSU-Shreveport into our expanding...
Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from LSU as we hit stride in another fall semester, with new faces not only in the students, but also faculty and staff. For those of you whom I have not yet had a chance to meet, a brief introduction: I took over as Chair of the department from Steve Sears in Fall 2011. Steve took a well-deserved leave of absence for a year, and then returned to a half-time faculty appointment. A big thanks goes out to Steve for his five years of outstanding leadership. I’m also grateful to him for encouraging me to consider the position when he began planning to step down, and for continuing to be a valuable mentor and colleague.

My background is in chemical engineering. I started at LSU as an Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering in 1996 and remained until the 2011 move. Despite my outsider status, I am keenly aware of the special bond that many of you have to the LSU Petroleum Engineering Department. Part of this is the unique culture in petroleum engineering in general – one academic discipline serving one industry. But more important are the legacy and culture originally fostered by Professors Craft and Hawkins, and then built on by the faculty, chairmen, and students that have followed. I was fortunate to meet Murray Hawkins a number of times before his passing and am committed to retaining the core values that he and Mr. Craft embodied, even as we grow and evolve.

As you probably gather from the cover story, the Department’s recent history is defined by extraordinary enrollment growth and the many changes that has brought about. The speed and scale that this has occurred poses serious challenges (especially for the not-very-nimble structure of an academic department). But, it also brings opportunities. During the next few years we will hire a record number of new faculty, move to a new home as part of the more-than $100MM renovation and expansion of Patrick F. Taylor Hall, gain new, larger research and teaching labs, and expand the scope of industry work at the Well Facility.

I’m excited to be a part of all this, and hope all of you find a way to connect with us either virtually or face to face. If we have lost contact, please help us reconnect: send an email, log onto our facebook page, or drop by if you are in town for a game. If you feel like doing more, there are many opportunities, ranging from volunteering to judge our junior/senior projects in the spring, to providing data or mentoring for a senior project, to donating to support a laboratory, or start-up funding for a new faculty member.

Thanks for being an active part of our extended family, and best wishes for the rest of 2014.

-Karsten E. Thompson

Industry Advisory Committee

The Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering would like to thank our current members serving on the Industry Advisory Committee and our Recent Graduates subcommittee:

Mr. Ben Bates  
Mr. Steven M. Bohnet  
Mr. Lee Boothby  
Mrs. Ashley Doyle Brignac  
Mr. Russ Buettner, Jr.  
Mr. E. Clyde Crouch  
Ms. Jahnette deBlanc  
Mr. A. Norman Duplantis  
Mr. William S. Flores, Jr.  
Mr. Charles E. Gibson  
Mrs. Alida Chaumont Guzzetta  
Mr. Lars Herbst  
Mr. William D. Hunter  
Mr. Ray J. Lasseigne  
Mr. Tim Lindsey  
Mr. Harry J. Longwell III  
Dr. Eric E. Maidla  
Mr. Roy Marker  
Mr. Stephen Merrick  
Mr. Walt Navoy  
Mr. William Pecue II  
Mr. Donald Remson  
Mr. Taylor Russell  
Dr. Pedro Silva Lopez  
Mr. Brandon Sanchez  
Mr. Michael J. Sparicino  
Mr. Brian Stewart  
Mr. William H. Stone  
Dr. Jacob Thomas  
Mr. Claiborne Vansant  
Mrs. Tara Salinas Watson  
Mr. Jerome F. Wenzel, Jr.  
Mr. Ted Zaleski
On March 15, 2013, four female seniors conducted an interview of Mrs. Lida Leon Ziegler (B.S. 1963), who is the third woman to graduate in the history of the Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering at LSU. These young ladies, who are now counted with Mrs. Ziegler among our alumni, are Ms. Lauren Bentley, Ms. Amanda “Mandy” Garrett, Ms. Elizabeth “Libby” Ingram, and Ms. Candice Miller. The ladies discussed the political climate in the sixties, sexism, and the choices that every career woman eventually has to make regarding her obligations as a wife and mother. She pointed out that a benefit to the salary is that you can hire help to assist with these duties. While she did make sacrifices, she also did not have to be the one to clean the house!

Mrs. Ziegler hails from Cuba, the sugar bowl of the world. She received her formative education in Cuba. However, due to civil disturbances at that time, Mrs. Ziegler was advised by her father to apply to LSU. The family knew a minister in the state, and Lida travelled to Louisiana with him. When she graduated from LSU in 1963, not many women were being recruited by oil and gas companies. Unable to find work in her field, she began working with the Louisiana Department of Transportation until 1968. She received an interviewed from ExxonMobil (Mobil at the time), and with the encouragement from a Chief Engineer there, she started as a Reservoir Engineer. Initially, she was responsible for several field operations. After proving herself worthy, she was promoted to Reservoir Engineering Supervisor, and she eventually supervised well-completion activities. "I was the oldest and first woman hired by Mobil", underscores Mrs. Ziegler. She retired from Mobil after 29 years.

In a piece of advise to today’s young engineers, she exemplifies herself that if they show that they are hard workers and appreciate the time their employers give them, they could advance quickly in their careers as she did. On another note, she also stressed the need for today’s engineers to be very vigilant, keeping in view the environmental issues, safety concerns, and various other potential hazards that might occur in the industry.

As they concluded the interview, the young ladies thanked Mrs. Zeigler for her time and insight as she is a great role model for today’s engineers. The way she led her life confronting the impediments in her career serves as an example of the resilience one would have to possess in order to obtain fruits of success. We are very proud of her success and wish to extend our gratitude to her for all of her perspectives and valuable suggestions.

-Dinesh Sarasani with Andi Donmyer contributing
The Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering proudly surveyed as two former faculty were inducted into the College of Engineering’s Hall of Distinction. On April 26, 2012 the LSU College of Engineering inducted Dr. Zaki A. Bassiouni to its Hall of Distinction at the Lod Cook Alumni Center during the 31st annual Hall of Distinction ceremony. Dr. Bassiouni was chosen for his distinguished professorial achievement, dedicated service to engineering, and outstanding humanitarian activities. Two years later on April 3, 2014, Mr. Bill R. Hise was inducted at the 33rd annual Hall of Distinction ceremony, also held at the Lod Cook Alumni Center.

Dr. Bassiouni served the department as a professor from 1977-83 and Chairperson from July 1983-2004 before accepting the position of Dean of the College of Engineering and Bert S. Turner Chair in Engineering in June 2004. A professional petroleum engineer since 1964, he received his Bachelors in Petroleum Engineering from Cairo University, Egypt, a diploma in geophysics from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Pétrole et des Moteurs of Paris, France, and an M.S. (DEA) and Ph.D. (Docteur En Sciences) from the University of Lille in France.

Mr. Hise, who served as the first director of the IADC Petroleum Industry Blowout Prevention and Well Control Training Center at LSU, joined the department and remained teaching until 1980. He received a both B.S. with Distinction in 1952 and an M.S. in 1954 from the University of Oklahoma in Petroleum Engineering, and a commission in the United States Air Force as a distinguished military graduate. Currently, Hise is part owner and Vice President of The Hise Company, which offers a wide range of consulting services.

Dr. Richard Koubek, Dean of the College of Engineering, was honored to recognize Dr. Bassiouni and Mr. Hise at both ceremonies. “The College of Engineering is honored to recognize these stellar engineers, [who] have enacted strong leadership through transformative roles in their professions and impressive contributions to LSU. These inductees represent the true significance of the LSU Engineer.”

The College of Engineering established the Hall of Distinction in 1979 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the engineering profession. Seven charter members were elected that year, and, generally, two achievers in engineering have been added each year since.
Mr. Harold P. Abels, II
Mr. Benjamin P. Ackley
Mr. Mark R. Alexander
American Association of Drilling Engineers – Lafayette Chapter
American Petroleum Institute – Houston Chapter
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
A. P. Keller, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. H. Paulsen
Armstrong
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher G. Arnold
Mr. Ronald W. Atchley
Mr. John J. Baird
Baker Hughes Foundation
Baker Hughes Incorporated
Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Justin E. Baker
Baker Hughes Foundation
BP Foundation, Inc.
BP Corporation North America Inc.
BP Fabric of America Fund
BP Foundation, Inc.
Mr. David L. Brice
Mr. Jerry D. Bullock
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Burtner, III
Campanile Charities, Inc.
Mr. Alan W. Carlton
Mr. Earl D. Carson
Mr. Randal G. Cazenave
Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program
Chevron Inc.
Mr. Shannon R. Chollett
Mrs. Maryann Ciastron
Mr. James O. Cleveland
Mr. David P. Coatney
Dr. and Mrs. James M. Coleman
Mr. Harold E. Colvard
Mr. Ronald R. Compton
Mr. Michael J. Connolly
ConocoPhillips
Mrs. Callie W. Cool
Mr. and Mrs. F. Baron Craft
Mr. Harry H. Cullen
Mr. Roy H. Cullen
DCP Midstream
Devon Energy Corporation
DGE II Management LLC
Mr. Ernest J. Dickinson
Mr. Neil R. DiIorenzo
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel V. Diluzio
Mr. and Mrs. A. Norman Duplantis, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald W. Dupont
Mr. and Mrs. Mansden J. Dupuy
Mr. Thomas R. Dykes
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Eldred
Mr. Basil R. Elzein
Eni Petroleum Co Inc.
ExxonMobil Corporation
ExxonMobil Foundation
Mr. Warren R. Farmer, IV
Mr. Pierre Faure
Mr. Russell D. Fendick
Mr. Andre’ B. Feucht
Mr. John A. Fleniken
Mr. Andre’ B. Feucht
Mr. Russell D. Fendick
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Fortune
Mr. Jeffrey W. French
Mr. Charles M. Frick
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Garrett
Mr. David B. Gaudin
GDL Foundation
Mr. Michael L. Geldmacher
Mrs. Myra S. Gilchrist
Mr. Alex J. Goodwin
Mr. Willie A. Goudeau
Mr. Keith J. Gorques
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Govreau
Mrs. Joanne D. Granier
Mr. Samuel C. Guy
Halliburton Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Tom Hamilton
Mr. David C. Hammatt
Ms. Mary A. Harris
Mr. Daniel S. Harrison
Mrs. Carol Hayes
Mr. Lance E. Hebert
Mr. Jack B. Hillburn, Jr.
Mr. Chadwick Hill
Mr. Robert A. Hill
Mrs. Maria C. Hill
Mr. Robert H. Hines, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hinner
Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Hollarley
Hudson Services Inc.
Mr. Richard D. Hudson
Mr. Jeffrey R. Hughes
Mr. William B. Huthman
Mr. Richard M. Hutto
Mr. Thomas H. Hutto, Jr.
Mr. Richard W. Huyse
Ms. Marya Ingrum
IPT, Inc.
Mr. William R. Jackson, Jr.
JBL & Associates Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Jellison
Mrs. Debbie Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford W. Keser
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Keller
Mr. Philip S. Keller
Mr. George A. Khoury, Jr.
Ms. Donna D. Killian
Mr. Neil H. Klock, Jr.
Mr. Jonathan P. Knowles
Dr. Dorothy Knox
Mr. Eric M. Kocian
Mr. Jack Langford
Mr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Langhettee, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund J. Langhettee, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lasseigne
Mr. Felnus B. Leake III
Mr. James B. Lewis, Jr.
Mr. William R. Lewis
Mr. Charles A. Lipari
Petroenergy Evaluations Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Phillips
Pi Epsilon Tau – LSU Chapter
Mr. John B. Poinderster
Mr. Isidor Polasek
Ms. Sally W. Pool
Mrs. Helen W. Powers
Ms. Lynne M. Prevot
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Prichard, III
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Reid
Mr. Nick M. Rezvani
Mr. and Mrs. Jon E. Risenden
Mr. Corbin J. Robertson, Jr.
Mrs. Eva Rodriguez
Mr. Stephen A. Rohleder
Ron Fuqua Consulting LLC
Rowan Companies Inc.
Mr. Kenneth J. Sample
Sasol
Mr. Wayne A. Schneider
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen O. Sears
Mr. J. Darby Sere’
Sere’ Family Foundation
Ms. Ashley Shaffer
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry E. Shea, Jr.
Shell Oil Co Foundation
Shell Oil Company
Mr. Jeffrey A. Shyer
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Mr. W. C. Simpson, Jr.
Mrs. Kay G. Smart
SM Energy
Mr. Bruce A. Smith
Mr. James E. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. John Rogers Smith
Mr. Billy J. Sneed
Society of Petroleum Engineers – Dallas Section
Society of Petroleum Engineers – Delta Section
Society of Petroleum Engineers – Evangeline Section
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Solanas, Jr.
Mr. Robert G. Sornsen
Spectra Energy Foundation
Steve and Cailleen Thompson Living Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Brian R. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stone
Dr. Jacob Thomas
Mr. Alvin C. Toniette, Jr.
Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling
Trinidad Drilling LP
Mr. James M. Trotter
Mr. and Mrs. William K. Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Watsky
Estate of Emmett C. Wells, Jr.
Mr. Harry C. Wells
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry E. Shea, Jr.
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Steve and Cailleen Thompson Living Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Brian R. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stone
Dr. Jacob Thomas
Mr. Alvin C. Toniette, Jr.
The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering was honored to be a part of a service in gratitude for Murray Free Hawkins, Jr. (August 23, 1917 - March 7, 2013), retired Head of the Dept., on May 11th, 2013 at LSU Union Ballroom. This service was hosted by the Hawkins family for the LSU community.

LSU Faculty Club witnessed a great ambience of acknowledgement to Hawkins’ commitment and contribution, not just to the university, but to the petroleum industry and the United States. The Visitation with the Family at the Faculty Club and the Memorial Service that followed at the LSU Union inspired enumerable stories of a family man who adopted a community and fashioned that community into an extended family.

Several family members and friends, including Rev. Dr. H. Hunter Huckabay, Jr. (B.S. 1956), Murray F. “Lad” Hawkins, III, Warren Hawkins (B.S. 1970), F. Baron Craft (B.S. 1962), Dr. Adam T. “Ted” Bourgoyne (B.S. 1966, M.S. 1967), Dr. Harry J. Longwell, Jr. (B.S. 1963), Julia “Jugie” Hawkins Battle (B.S. 1975), and Margaret Hawkins Matens reflected on their favorite memories from his life. Each memory reinforced his role as a mentor and echoed his love of family. LSU and Petroleum industry, reminisced his works and they stressed the impact his life had on multiple generations.

Professor Hawkins received a B.S. in chemistry (1938) and a M.S. in physics (1940), both from LSU. Joining as faculty in 1946, Hawkins continued his dedication by serving as the Dept. Chairman from 1964 until his retirement in 1977. His reputed book “Applied Petroleum Reservoir Engineering,” co-authored with B.C. Craft, Sr. has been continuously radiating knowledge across the global community.

As the department’s namesake suggests, Hawkins was instrumental in the growth and success of the program.

-Dinesh Sarasani with Andi Donmyer contributing
I first met Professor Hawkins, along with Professor Benjamin C. Craft, in 1962 at the first annual High School Seminar held for High School Seniors interested in a career in Petroleum Engineer. From that first meeting forward, Murray had a profound impact on my professional development. He became a lifelong mentor who took a personal interest in me as a person as well as my professional accomplishments.

I first got to know Professor Hawkins as a student in his classes. He had a wonderful way of teaching the fundamental principles underlying the petroleum engineering topics that he covered. He had developed numerous set-ups for demonstrating the important concepts using experiments performed in the classroom and would roll these setups into class on a multipurpose rolling table equipped with timers, pressure-readouts, flow meters and various other devices needed for making basic measurements. He also believed in the importance of hands-on laboratory courses and also understood the student's need for seeing many example problems worked in class. LSU still had Saturday lectures followed by a three-hour laboratory class. I attribute many of the critical thinking skills that have helped me be a successful petroleum engineer to classes and labs taught by Professor Hawkins.

I was also greatly impressed by the hand-written congratulatory letters and notes sent to me by Professor Hawkins at important times in my life. For example, when Kathy and I were married in our senior year, when I received an NSF fellowship to continue my education at any school of my choice, and numerous other times, Professor Hawkins took the time to write me and offer encouragement and advice. I also learned the tradition of having occasional student social events at many events held by Murray and Julia.

I also have Murray Hawkins to thank for offering me a job as a tenure track professor of Petroleum Engineering and helping to guide me through the early years. By then I had learned to ask myself, “How would Murray do it?” when faced with a new task or opportunity. When I wrote my book, I looked to “Craft and Hawkins” as my model. When I taught class, I tried to emulate Murray’s teaching style. By then, there was much more emphasis on research and publications, so I never quite has enough time to fully reach this goal. When Murray retired as Head of the Department and I became Department Chairman, the job was easy. All I had to do was ask myself, “How would Murray do it?” I also continued the traditions established by Murray with periodic student socials held at my home and then the daily informal faculty meetings over lunch at the LSU Union or the Faculty Club. I was able to build on the strong undergraduate program foundation and the strong alumni relations that Bennie Craft and Murray Hawkins had built over many years to successfully move the department into more research and graduate level activities. I was also fortunate to convince Zaki Bassiouini, Andrew Wojtanowicz, and Julius Langlinais to join the department and help keep the department traditions alive. Come to think of it, Murray and Julia were also there to help us with the recruiting, although they were already enjoying retirement. Zaki tells me that Chantal had already decided they would move to LSU after talking to Julia and Murray while I was still discussing the opportunity with him.

I was pleased when the department advisory committee approved the idea of having a display in the Petroleum Engineering Lecture/Demonstration Lab room memorializing the Craft and Hawkins traditions with reflection quotes from successful alumni near bronze busts of Craft and Hawkins. As we move towards renovating the Patrick F. Taylor Hall Engineering facility, I recommend that we find a place to re-implement this idea in the department's renovation plans.

-Dr. Adam T. (Ted) Bourgoyne
VENERABLE SPACE FOR BREAKING NEW GROUND

Throughout the history of the petroleum engineering department, we have enjoyed many benefits that our friends and alumni have provided. Looking back to the ‘90s, our supporters, led by Dr. Harry J. Longwell and Dr. Zaki Bassiouni, sought to name the department after the beloved educators and mentors, Profs. Benjamin C. Craft and Murray F. Hawkins, Jr., who built the program. The department was humbled by the efforts of so many PetE Advisory Committee members and alumni as endowed scholarships, professorships, chairs, and a lab were established during the Craft & Hawkins groundbreaking ceremony. The Keller’s cumulative generous support has made possible many educational enhancements in PETE, including the Donald W. and Gayle A. Keller Distinguished Professorship. The naming of the Donald W. and Gayle A. Keller Well Facility Classroom honors their dedication and philanthropic legacy.

LSU is the only university where future petroleum engineers can gain hands-on well control training at an industrial-scale research and training facility with full-scale equipment and instrumentation related to borehole technology. Mr. Donald W. (B.S. 1957) and Mrs. Gayle A. Keller chose to enrich the facility by establishing the Keller Petroleum Engineering Building Fund through the LSU Foundation to fund the construction of a new classroom at the Petroleum Engineering Research Technology & Transfer Laboratory (PERTT Lab) and to support ongoing facility needs after the construction project was complete. On March 5, 2012 the department celebrated the milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony. The Keller’s investment strengthens the future of our flagship university,” said Rick Koubek, Dean, College of Engineering. “This groundbreaking marks an important commitment to helping LSU maintain its status as a highly competitive institution. This project is truly a partnership between the private sector and the public sector, and it demonstrates our shared vision of producing first-class engineers of the next generation right here in Louisiana.”

VENERABLE SPACE: ALUMNI, CORPORATE, AND ORGANIZATIONAL FRIENDS COMMINGLED

With construction complete, the College of Engineering hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the Donald W. and Gayle A. Keller Well Facility Classroom at the LSU PERTT Lab, commonly referred to as the Well Facility, on November 2, 2012. Supported by private donations through the LSU Foundation, the Kellers, Mrs. Eva Rodriguez, Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., and the American Association of Drilling Engineers – Lafayette Chapter all contributed to create the 4300 square foot state-of-the-art facility, which features a 60 student classroom and a separate computer lab that will have a significant impact on those who use the facility.

All LSU petroleum engineering students are exposed to well
control with real equipment and realistic situations, rather than relying on the use of simulators, during two laboratory courses taught at the PERTT Lab. Faculty also benefit from the ability to conduct and learn from research completed using the full-scale systems at the lab, and industry conducts a wide range of testing and training at the lab.

The Keller Classroom Building adds a touch of class and sophistication to the PERTT Lab and compliments the industrial setting in a very unique way. The Spanish tile roof and antique gas lamps are the perfect compliments to the architecture on LSU’s main campus approximately a mile away.

The department is privileged to have this cooperative support from both individuals and industry. We are fortunate to enjoy this level of support from our alumni and friends.

“After operating for more than 30 years, the Well Facility has become part of the DNA of the Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering,” said Karsten Thompson, Chair, LSU Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering. “The Keller Classroom building is the next evolutionary step: a state-of-the-art classroom and computer lab to complement the hands-on facility immediately adjacent. As we open the doors to this new facility, I am struck by the diversity of donors for the new building. Donald and Gayle Keller provided the vision and the bulk of the donation, but significant support was provided by a professional organization (the Lafayette chapter of the American Association of Drilling Engineers), a company (Diamond Offshore Drilling) and the widow of an alumnus (Eva Rodriguez). The passion of these diverse donors to support this project speaks to the impact that the well facility has had on our alumni and partners, and it sets a benchmark for how we expect the Keller Classroom to impact the next generations of LSU petroleum engineers.”

“The unwavering support of the College’s alumni and industry partners demonstrates our shared vision to produce the very best engineers for our economy’s growing workforce,” says Rick Koubek, dean, College of Engineering. “This strong investment from alumni and industry marks an important commitment to helping LSU maintain its status of a highly competitive institution.”

“Students stand in front of the Keller Classroom Building after a section of the Well Control and Blowout Prevention Lab course.”
The Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering continues to benefit from a state-of-the-art lab donated by Chevron Corporation. LSU’s College of Engineering and College of Science jointly held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 21, 2012 for the new Chevron Reservoir Characterization Lab in Patrick F. Taylor Hall, where students demonstrated new technologies for oil and gas research. This lab, for interdisciplinary research and teaching, features computers and software for visualization, with an emphasis on advancing the practice of oil and gas reservoir modeling. Funding for the renovation was donated by Chevron Corporation through the LSU Foundation. As renovations begin in Patrick F. Taylor Hall, resources will be moved to a larger space within the building so that students in the areas of engineering as well as geology and geophysics will continue to benefit from the facility.

From a student perspective, learning will shift from observation to exploration: prepared charts and pictures will be replaced by the ability for students to drive the software packages themselves and delve into any parts of the data they find interesting. Similarly, the lab gives research groups an opportunity to engage in collaborative exploration of data and results.

“Chevron’s investment ensures that there will be scientists and engineers who are well prepared to develop the innovations and technology that will address our future energy needs,” said Kevin Carman, Dean, LSU College of Science.

“During my first summer of work for Chevron, I began to realize that Chevron’s interest in the training and development of students, no matter what year in college, extends far past LSU to colleges worldwide,” said Jaime Glas (B.S. PETE & BADM 2012). “After three years of work for this notable company, it has been my experience that Chevron truly understands what we as students value in terms of a solid technical foundation coupled with real-life industry exposure. The Chevron Reservoir Characterization Laboratory is a perfect example of marrying these fundamental ideals.”
On April 20, 2013, the Breaking New Ground campaign was publicly launched and Mrs. Phyllis M. Taylor, campaign co-chair, displayed tremendous philanthropic spirit in announcing a $15 million gift commitment to honor the legacy of her husband Patrick F. Taylor (B.S. 1962). It is with great dedication to her husband’s legacy that she offers both her time and significant financial support to this campaign. The donation represents the largest private gift in the history of LSU’s College of Engineering.

The Breaking New Ground Campaign is part of a $100 million partnership to support the renovation of Patrick F. Taylor Hall (formerly CEBA) and the construction of a chemical engineering facility. The new and renovated complex will include expanded, modern laboratory space for teaching and research, enhanced and expanded space for student services, updated graduate student space, an academic support center, dedicated capstone project space, and further multi-disciplinary space for student projects. Additional private donations will combine with a $50 million state commitment in capital outlay funding that Gov. Bobby Jindal and his administration agreed to support on October 2, 2012. The College of Engineering will announce more details in due time. However, we can communicate that the direct impact to the departmental space comes in the form of a dedicated large auditorium classroom that will make Prof. Hawkins proud, a faculty conference room, upgraded teaching and research labs, expanded computer lab space, enhanced graduate student bull pens, and break-out areas for students to collaborate on projects together; representing a transformative gift that impacts all engineering disciplines.

Graduating from LSU with a petroleum engineering degree in 1959, Mr. Taylor founded the Taylor Energy Company in 1979, which became the only solely owned independent company to explore for and produce oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico. It was eventually named as one of the top 100 private employers in New Orleans, La., due to Taylor’s practice of hiring and contracting with Louisiana companies. Through their private foundation, the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, the Taylors have provided countless students with the opportunity to earn a college degree. Mr. Taylor was instrumental in establishing Louisiana’s Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, or TOPS. Similar programs have been introduced in 23 other states.

“From a very early age, Patrick was determined to become an ‘oil man,’” said Mrs. Taylor. “The College of Engineering at LSU provided him with the education to see that ambition become a reality. I can think of no more appropriate means of furthering his desires to help others and our society than by assisting in the funding of the much needed renovation of the building known as Patrick F. Taylor Hall.” Mr. Taylor once said, “The way I want to be remembered is by the young people of this nation and my ties to them. I tell them that, like me, they can dream. I talk about hard work, integrity and guts. I demand that of them and they respond.”

-Mimi LaValle and Andi Donmyer contributing