Education

• We were very pleased that Santos Ltd supported a field trip for our students to the Premium Casing Services facility. The students learned a lot about the physical aspects of tools related to well completion, casing handling and oil & gas field operations generally. Many thanks in particular go to Philip Deshon of Santos who coordinated the visit, along with Darrell Mateljan of PCS, and the myriad of other PCS employees who were involved in the visit. If you are able to offer similar trips to our students, please contact Lisa Smith in the first instance.

• We have established a new SPE student chapter, under the guidance of Dr Mofazzal Hossain as SPE Faculty Advisor. We expect our Chapter and the B Eng undergraduate program to grow over the next few years. The President Winston Kosasih and VP Ellie Lock attended the last SPE WA Board meeting, and are developing a program of events for the future. Congratulations to them and we expect to hear a lot more about their activities soon.

• We have interviewed four potential candidates for the two new Faculty positions, and hope to make an announcement soon. The field was very strong with most candidates being from overseas. A major criterion was that the applicants should have some teaching and industrial experience, while having a reasonable research track record in an area of interest to the industry. We all know how hard that would be!

• We have developed an excellent relationship with the Petroleum Club of WA Schools Program, by providing them with support for teaching school children about the benefits and careers in the petroleum engineering industry. Lisa Smith is doing an outstanding job maintaining the link between the department and PCWA, with a number of schools passing through the department. Dr Rasouli and Dr Hossain have provided presentations to both school kids and the public about petroleum engineering. On a personal note, we congratulate Dr Rasouli on becoming an official Aussie!

Research Contacts

Fraccing studies contact Vamegh on v.rasouli@curtin.edu.au
Tight Gas studies contact Reza on r.rezaee@curtin.edu.au
Sanding/fracc stimulation studies Mofazzal on m.hossain2@curtin.edu.au
Core flooding studies contact Ali on saeedia@gmail.com

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Research

• The *Shale Gas Consortium* led by **Dr Reza Rezaee** continues to strengthen with another company joining. There are presently six companies and the Department of Minerals and Petroleum. This major Australian research group is mapping the geology of potential gas-shales in WA. For further information please call **Dr Rezaee**.

• The *Tight Gas Project* continues to gain momentum, as **Dr Rezaee** expands his research team. A half-day internal seminar during November will highlight the progress made so far on the Whicher Range study.

• The research link with **Colorado School of Mines** is developing. After the visit of SPE Distinguished Lecturer **Dr Jennifer Miskimmins** to Perth, **Dr Brian Evans** will be visiting CSM during November to activate the JV and while in the U.S. he will attend the *World Shale Gas Conference* in Dallas.

• Congratulations to PhD student **Mohammad Sarmadivaleh** who received a *MERIWA* scholarship valued at $10,000 for his work in fracture mechanics. Also, well done to PhD student **Amin Nabipour** who received a China/Australia award of $5,000 for his work on ultrasonics in borehole fracture analysis, and a *CRC DET* scholarship of $5,000 p.a. for applications of his work in hard rock fracture prediction.

Conference Papers

• *APOGCE* - We had three papers selected for presentation at the APOGCE Conference in Brisbane in October, with a slight bias towards *Discrete Element Modelling* of rock properties- in terms of fault reactivation as a function of injectivity, and also modelling perforation performance. Dr Brian Evans presented a paper written by a number of PhD students on how they handled the *DEM* method - thanks guys for the many weeks warning you gave!

• *AusGas*- **Dr Rezaee** presented a paper on Tight Gas at this conference, while **Dr Evans** gave a paper on the ‘7 wonders of Innovation’. This latter paper was based on the 5 areas of expertise within WA:ERA, plus the proposed National Geosequestration Lab and the Geothermal project.

• *APPEA 2011* - We are pleased that 10 papers have been selected for presentation at APPEA next year. We feel this is an outstanding achievement demonstrating our productive research results.

Expos in 2010

• We had booths at *APPEA, Good Oil Conference, the AOG Conference & Exhibition, and the Skills Expo* at the *Perth Exhibition Centre*. We feel that attending these conferences and Expos give invaluable linkages to both industry and schools. Thanks to **Lisa Smith** for all the effort she puts in and also to all our staff who man the booths outside of normal working hours. A feature of the *Good Oil and AOG Expos* was that the department had exhibition booths with the Curtin Institute for Minerals and Energy (CIME), and Curtin Graduate School of Business (CGSB). We also linked with WA School of Mines to present petroleum engineering education opportunities to school kids and the general public/industry at the Skills Expo.

• Curtin also sponsored the *Technical Sessions* at the *Good Oil Conference*, which received good feedback from delegates.