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Lots of activity and lots of projects - that's the best description of what is happening at RPSEA. Projects are what it's all about, especially integrated projects in a well-planned portfolio. We have more than 50 projects underway, and that number is growing with many of our 2008 selections now under contract. We'll soon have 70 projects working across all three of our programs. Our program managers have done a fabulous job of building the research portfolios for the most relevant, timely and necessary topics.

With our increased activity, we've added several folks. Charlotte Schroeder has joined us through GTI as a project manager and James Pappas has joined RPSEA to enhance our Section 999 management.

Our 2009 RFPs are in the final stages of approval, and the 2010 FACA meetings are underway to prepare recommendations to the Secretary of Energy in anticipation of approval of the 2010 Annual Plan. The FACAs will hold their final public meeting in Los Angeles, October 14-15, 2009, and you are encouraged to attend if you're out that way.

Our projects are generating many opportunities to participate in and attend meetings to monitor research progress. Check out our calendar. And, along with numerous project activities and meetings, many of the professional societies are holding their annual meetings this fall. RPSEA will be exhibiting at many of these featuring a number of our researchers, who will be present with poster displays of their activities in our booth at SPE, GSA and SEG.

On another note, natural gas, especially unconventional natural gas and shales, is getting a lot of attention in the national energy debate. Much of this dialogue originated from the COGA conference in July in Denver. RPSEA was proud to have contributed a number of its members as speakers to this fine program, and the topics presented certainly elevated the important role of natural gas in future energy policy.

Finally, the legislative threats to natural gas and oil R&D funding continue, and many RPSEA members have been involved in presenting the important work RPSEA is doing to policy makers. You are encouraged to make your voice heard to advance the energy research necessary to improve efficiency, lower costs and protect the environment.



C. Michael Ming
President

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Want to Learn More About RPSEA One on One? Schedule a RPSEA Lunch & Learn

RPSEA's Director of Corporate Affairs Steve Beach is hosting RPSEA Lunch & Learn's for our members. If your organization would like to learn more about RPSEA, such as how to get more involved, how we award projects, who our members are, our relationship with the Department of Energy, how we determine our focus each year, etc., a RPSEA Lunch & Learn is a great opportunity in achieving this. Invite those in the organization who you wish and a meeting will be set at your location, in which you have the opportunity to ask the questions you would like in a one-on-one dialogue over lunch or breakfast if that suits you better.

RPSEA began these events recently to better inform our members and create an open dialogue on a more personal level for those within member organizations who may not know of RPSEA or would like to learn more. If you are interested in holding one of these events, please contact Steve at 281.690.5503 or sbeach@rpsea.org.

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Calendar of Events

10.4-6	IOGCC 2009 Annual Meeting, Biloxi, Mississippi
10.4-7	ATCE 2009 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition, New Orleans
10.13	Ultra-Deepwater Met-Ocean TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston
10.14-15	FACA Meetings, Los Angeles
10.18-21	2009 GSA Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon
10.22	Permian Basin Residual Oil Zone Symposium, Midland, Texas
10.22	The Role of Natural Gas in the Clean Energy Economy, Boulder, Colorado
10.25-30	SEG International Exposition and 79th Annual Meeting, Houston
10.28	Innovation Showcase, Houston
11.3-4	Geothermal Energy Utilization Associated with Oil and Gas Development, Dallas
11.3-5	16th International Petroleum and Biofuels Environmental Conference, Houston
11.4-6	IPAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans
11.19	Ultra-Deepwater Geoscience TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston
12.2	Ultra-Deepwater Drilling & Completion TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston
12.3	Ultra-Deepwater Systems Engineering TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston
12.7	Ultra-Deepwater Reservoir Engineering TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston
12.8	Ultra-Deepwater Floating Systems TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston
12.9	Ultra-Deepwater Subsea Facilities TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston
12.10	Ultra-Deepwater Flow Assurance TAC Quarterly Meeting, Houston

Click here for more information, to register and the [complete calendar](#).

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Welcome RPSEA Team Members

RPSEA is happy to announce two new additions to our team. Our first addition is Charlotte Schroeder who works under the Gas Technology Institute that oversees our Unconventional Resources Program. Charlotte is the Manager of Unconventional Resources, in which her responsibilities are managing individual projects and working alongside those principal investigators.

Ms. Schroeder has worked as a petroleum engineer in the upstream E&P business for over 30 years. Her experience includes significant domestic US work both offshore Gulf of Mexico, as well as in many of the United States onshore. International experience includes work on oil fields in Trinidad.

Her expertise is in reservoir engineering, and she has spent the majority of her career as the reservoir engineer on multidisciplinary teams of engineers, geologists, geophysicists, field operators and technologists. Other experience is in field studies, acquisitions and divestments, reserves estimations and documentations, production engineering and facilities engineering. She has worked fields across the life cycle of producing fields, from exploration support and development planning, through the very mature fields.

Ms. Schroeder has experience with a variety of producing field types: low permeability and tight gas sands and coalbed methane, naturally fractured sandstone and carbonate reservoirs; oil fields, characterized by multihorizon pay, volumetric depletion with water flood; oil and gas fields, characterized by multihorizon pay, complex salt dome or tectonic geology, unconsolidated sands, normally pressured and overpressured reservoirs under volumetric and waterdrive depletion mechanisms; highly laminated, low resistivity pay reservoirs; conglomerate sandstone formations, high yield retrograde condensate production; deep, high pressure and temperature, and sour production.

Before joining RPSEA, Ms. Schroeder worked the coalbed methane and tight gas reservoirs in New Mexico's San Juan Basin for BP. Other tight gas experience includes fields in Texas, Wyoming and Michigan.

Ms. Schroeder earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. She is a registered professional petroleum engineer in the state of Texas and is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.



James Pappas is the latest addition as Vice President of Technical Programs. He will serve several important roles all focused on Section 999. Mr. Pappas previously held the positions of global technology coordinator, facilities engineer in the Deepwater & International Well Engineering & Facilities Division, and deepwater project coordinator for Devon Energy, as well as production engineer in the Gulf of Mexico Division for Devon and Santa Fe Snyder prior to their merger. He has also held drilling, completions, production, operations superintendent, reservoir, and A&D positions with Fina Oil and Chemical Company, UPRC and Amoco Production Company.

Mr. Pappas has been involved with the Society of Petroleum Engineers for 30 years. He is the SPE international production and operations technical director and chairs the SPE Technical Programs and Meetings Committee. He serves on several technical program committees for meetings including: OTC, SPE, ATCE, LACPEC, R&D and P&O conferences. He is also active in API, NSPE, TSPE and MTS, and he chairs The University of Texas Petroleum Engineering Advisory Council. Mr. Pappas has authored more than 40 papers or spoken at various conferences and interviews on various technical and professional topics.

He earned a bachelor of science in chemical engineering, as well as a bachelor of arts in chemistry with math and Spanish minors from The University of Texas at Austin. He graduated with a master of business administration with highest honors from The University of Texas at Tyler. He has earned numerous accolades including the SPE Gulf Coast Section and Gulf Coast Regional Service Awards, Houston Area Engineer of the Year, Texas Engineer of the Year by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and was selected Distinguished Engineer in Texas by the Texas Engineering Foundation. He has been a registered professional engineer in Texas since 1985.

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Ultra-Deepwater Project Highlight

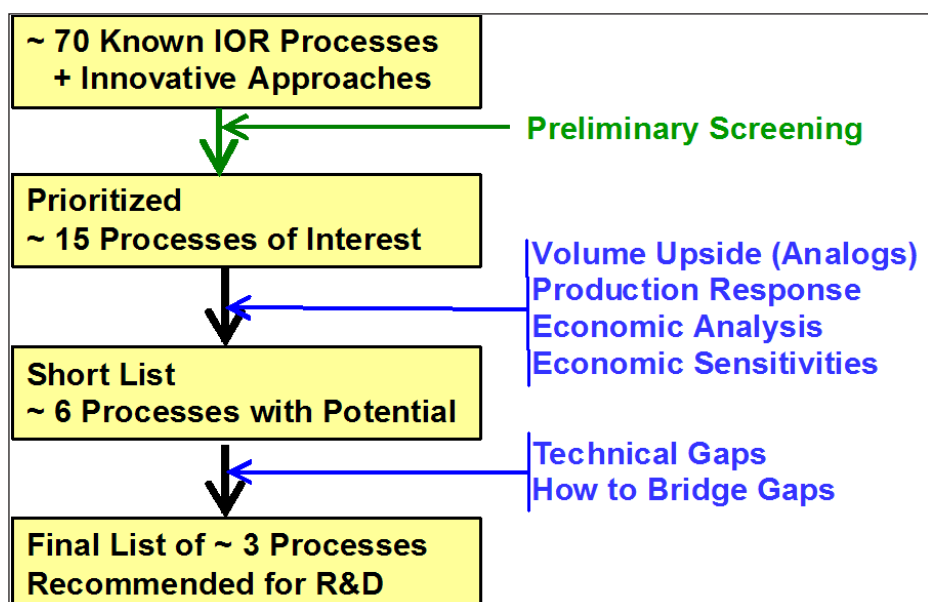
Improved Recovery

Principal Investigator: Dave Crossley, Knowledge Reservoir, LLC

Partner: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

RPSEA's Improved Recovery award is aimed at setting out the business case for future RPSEA-supported research and development work on improved oil recovery (IOR) processes intended for implementation in deepwater and ultra-deepwater in the Gulf of Mexico. The project will provide RPSEA with concrete recommendations on where to invest its research and development funds.

Oil producers who spend tens or hundreds of millions of dollars to develop fields in deepwater Gulf of Mexico (DWGoM) already have a great incentive to maximize the volume of oil they recover. Nevertheless, some 40 billion barrels of discovered oil will be left behind in DWGoM by current development practices. To recover more oil from this huge target, IOR processes, which are currently uneconomic, will have to be made more effective.



The first stage in the project has been the identification of IOR techniques, which could be of interest in DWGoM. These are processes which (a) have the potential to add substantial incremental reserves and (b) are relatively close to being economically viable. More than 70 known IOR processes have been examined, and the top 15 have been selected. The next step is to identify the specific "technical gaps," which are preventing those IOR processes from being economic today. Finally, with input from appropriate experts, the project will develop proposed research and development pathways to bridge those technical gaps and will identify potential industry partners to join with RPSEA in implementing the recommended R&D.

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Fellowship/Scholarship Program Recipient Spotlight

RPSEA created the Fellowship/Scholarship Program to establish long-term, industry/education partnerships. RPSEA members Schlumberger and Strata Production Company designate financial resources through RPSEA to award multiple scholarships to the following member universities: Colorado School of Mines, Louisiana State University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Stanford University, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Oklahoma and West Virginia University. The most promising students with studies relevant to the oil and gas industry are awarded fellowships to help with their education and/or research activities. Through private funding from these two members, \$240,000 is established for these member universities to provide much needed support for 16 students per year for three years.



The University of Texas at Austin graduate student Kyle Tipley was awarded a fellowship through the Fellowship/Scholarship Program for the 2008-09 school year. RPSEA spotlights Mr. Tipley this month in the following interview, while wishing him success in his last year at UT.

1. What was the title of your dissertation?

Alkaline-Surfactant-Polymer (ASP) Flooding for Enhanced Oil Recovery

2. Where did your project take place?

Austin, Texas

3. What school were you attending during the fellowship?

The University of Texas at Austin

4. What was your degree and major while working on the fellowship?

Masters of Science in Petroleum Engineering
Prospective Graduation: May 2010

5. What was the time frame spent on the entire project?

I started in August 2008, and it will complete in May 2010 if all goes according to plan.

6. Why did you pick this focus for your project?

I got involved in this research as an undergrad for an extracurricular activity and decided to stay to work on my master's in this area as a result.

7. What were the major accomplishments of your project?

~98% oil recovery in a 1-D sandstone core flood

8. How did RPSEA help you achieve your project goals?

By providing funds so that I can pursue this research at a prestigious university without having to submit myself to additional student loans.

9. How have you grown both personally and professionally from your fellowship with RPSEA?

Being able to pursue this research topic has provided me with invaluable experience in handling diverse and challenging problems while also furthering my education in an increasingly competitive industry.

10. What is your role today?

I am a graduate research assistant at The University of Texas at Austin; I'm continuing my study on the effects of ASP flooding on difficult reservoirs.

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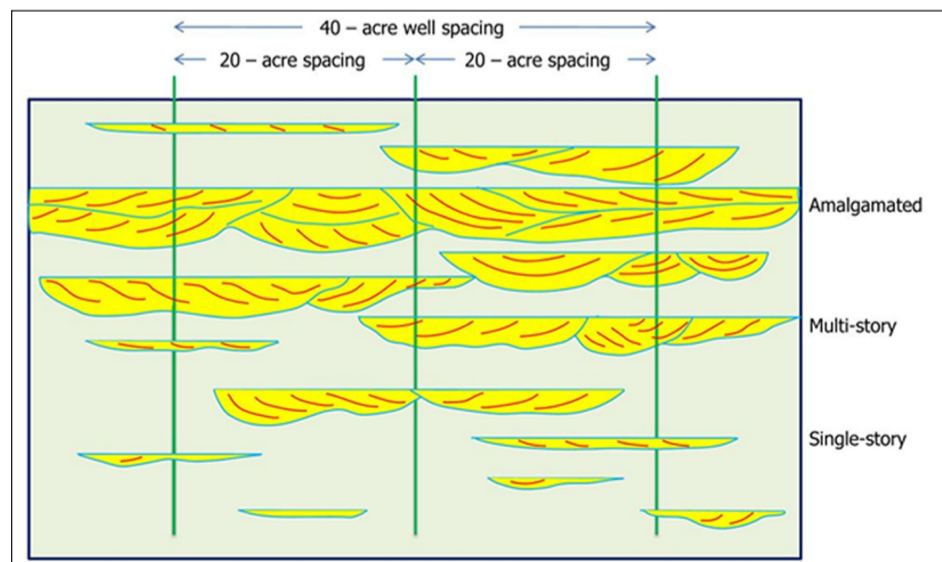
Unconventional Resources Project Highlight

Gas Production Forecasting from Tight Gas Reservoirs: Integrating Natural Fracture Networks and Hydraulic Fractures
Principal Investigator: Deo Milind, The University of Utah
Partners: Utah Geological Survey, Golder Associates, Utah State University, HC Itasca, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and Wind River Resources Corporation

The University of Utah is investigating the connectivity of sand bodies within the Natural Buttes Gas Field in eastern Utah to determine the required well spacing for adequate drainage. The project will:

1. Integrate geologic information
 - a. Natural fracture characterization
 - b. Natural fracture representation
2. Predict hydraulic fracture generation and propagation within the context of the natural fracture network
3. Model the reservoir and generate production forecasts

The Natural Buttes Gas field has produced over 1.8 tcf of gas from the Mesaverde formation, a low permeability tight gas sand. This work will serve as a model for gas recovery strategies within the Cretaceous low k sands throughout the Rockies.



Connectivity of Sand Bodies in the Mesaverde Formation from Outcrop Studies, White et.al.

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