



PETEX

TRAINING NEWSLETTER
NEWS FOR THE ENERGY INDUSTRY FROM PETROLEUM EXTENSION SERVICE

NO. 480

SPRING 2005

Petroleum Fundamentals and Intro to Offshore Operations are designed for professionals who are new to the industry

Most Popular PETEX Courses Focus on the Basics of Oil and Gas

By Susan Toalson

For workers who have been in the oil and gas industry for some time, terms such as “WOC,” “POOH,” “toolpusher,” “BOP,” and “monkeyboard” are part of their everyday language. But for workers new to the industry, they’re likely nothing more than nonsensical jargon.

If you’re an attorney, an insurance underwriter/investigator, an accountant, or a member of a front-office team that works with the industry, PETEX can help you enhance your confidence and increase the value you bring to your employer by teaching you how to communicate in industry terms and by helping you gain an understanding of daily rig operations by talking to the men and women who are in the field everyday.

Two PETEX training courses are designed specifically for you, *Introduction to Offshore Operations* and *Petroleum Fundamentals*, both of which now offer 32 CPEs for accountants. The courses help you learn the industry from how oil is found, to how various drilling methods bring it out of the earth, to how it’s transported, and to how it’s finally refined and processed.

Both courses are taught by a team of instructors who are industry experts bringing current knowledge and years of field experience to the classroom. Classes are informal and allow open discussion of topics and ample student access to instructors for questions during and after class.

In *Intro to Offshore Operations*, known as the “Rig School” to our friends in the UK who like to attend the course in the summer, a guided field trip to Galveston and to the *Ocean Star* helps you put what you learn into perspective as you tour the rig with one of your instructors. Evening social events sponsored by the industry provide networking opportunities with contacts you

will keep for the rest of your career. And materials include the PETEX all-time best seller, *A Primer of Oilwell Drilling*, an industry standard now in its sixth edition; and *A Dictionary for the Oil and Gas Industry*, first edition, with definitions in lay terms for more than 11,000 oil and gas terms and acronyms, including 500 entries in the “A” section alone!

In *Petroleum Fundamentals*, guided field trips to the Hall of Energy at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and a metallurgic forensics lab bring clarity and relevance to classroom lectures and discussion. Materials include *Fundamentals of Petroleum*, fourth edition, which is used in engineering classes at The University of Texas and other colleges and universities, and *A Dictionary for the Oil and Gas Industry*, first edition.

Class size is limited in both courses, and they are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so contact us soon about enrolling. You can telephone 281-443-7144 or send e-mail to rosiepetex@mail.utexas.edu.





A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We're Baaaaaack!

After almost a year, we're resurrecting the PETEX newsletter. I have no one to blame for the hiatus but myself.

Frankly, I didn't realize how well received it was, so it was one of the projects I inherited from the former administration that I felt I could let die a quiet death.

Soon after I came on board last February, I followed Ron Baker's custom of writing a couple of articles, and we managed to make the deadline for a Spring 2004 publication.

President Larry Faulkner had just appointed the first-ever PETEX Advisory Board, and Dean Tom Hatfield and I were preparing an agenda for their first meeting in February at the IADC headquarters in Houston. I was settling in my new office, meeting wonderful new people, and getting to know my staff.

It wasn't long before my work really began to take off. The Advisory Board had done a SWOT analysis in February, and we were able to design and begin to implement a short-term business plan based on their comments. I became involved with a number of professional organizations such as GPA, API, IADC, AESC, and ASGMT and attended meetings and met more wonderful people. I reorganized PETEX staff; brought on my assistant, **Nancy Hanson**, from my previous position in the Distance Education Center at the University; attended some PETEX courses in our Training Center on the North Harris College campus in Houston and an on-site course at Kinder-Morgan in Colorado; and began making regular trips to Houston. I also did several presentations, one with Advisory Board member **Rick Bobigian**, describing the benefits of PETEX courses. Staff reminded me about a looming deadline for a Summer newsletter edition, but I just couldn't find the time. We fell behind.

Then the Advisory Board met again in August at the Transocean office in Houston at which we welcomed two new Board members, **Dr. Douglas Elliot** of IPSE (an affiliate of Bechtel) and **John Lansing** of Daniel. Soon after, we hired two new employees, **Rick Garza** as financial analyst and **Angero Holt** as his assistant; we engaged a curriculum expert to evaluate one of our courses in Houston; I continued to give presentations and to make personal calls; and my visits to Houston became more and more frequent. By the time the Fall deadline came up, I was so busy that I could barely take the time to listen to **Debbie Caples** remind me that we were going to miss a second edition.

When the Winter deadline rolled around, Debbie didn't even mention it to me. And I didn't mention it to her. We had hired two fabulous staff members in the Houston office, Training Coordinator Brenda Kelly and Marketing Director Greg McCormack, and our momentum continued to build. Did it really make that much difference, after all, in terms of the work PETEX has been charged with? Did anyone really read the newsletter? Was it worth the time and other resources we spent in getting it out? My answer: No.

And then something happened just a few days ago that made me rethink the newsletter. Angero mentioned casually at a staff meeting that we had had several calls asking when we would be mailing the next edition. I couldn't have been more surprised, but the remark reminded me that several people I had met at professional gatherings knew who I was before I introduced myself because they had seen my picture in the newsletter. And several Advisory Board members had told me they had gotten calls and e-mail from colleagues saying they had read about their appointments in the newsletter. I'd also been asked about the progress of the Advisory Board by people in the industry who could only have known about it through—what else?—the newsletter.

So we're back in the newsletter business. We're on a quarterly publication schedule again, and I've given Debbie full access to my calendar to ensure we don't miss any more deadlines. We want to keep our friends informed about what we're doing, and the newsletter is evidently a great way to do that!

Guess I'd better keep that picture updated.



New Training Coordinator in Houston

By Greg McCormack

It is my pleasure to be able to interview Dr. Brenda Kelly, Training Coordinator at PETEX's training facility in Houston.

Dr. Kelly has a B.S. in Education from the University of Tennessee, an M.S. in Water Resources Engineering from Clemson University and a Doctorate in Engineering Science from Louisiana State University.

Q. Dr. Kelly, may I call you Brenda?

A. I would appreciate it if you would.

Q. What are your interests apart from training?

A. I am extremely motivated to impact people's lives in positive ways. I believe in assisting them to reach their goals and fulfill their ambitions.

Q. It sounds like you are very people oriented. What are some of your other activities?

A. I am fascinated by nature and the earth. I garden with some success but I am also interested in what's below the ground surface. It's a living and very active world beneath my feet. I am particularly in awe of geologic processes.

Q. PETEX seems to be the ideal opportunity for you with the convergence of technology and people. Let me switch focus and ask you what you see as the greatest training challenges this energy industry is facing now.

A. I believe it is the challenge to find "common ground." With the vast turnover in the industry underway, it is imperative that the industry and its training partners achieve a shared understanding of the levels of competence required for each position within the industry. This common ground would enable both entities to reposition themselves for the very large task ahead of improving the skills of the new workforce. I would also like to add that we must find a way to attract new workers to the industry. It's an exciting and challenging industry, and more people need to be introduced to the career possibilities within this industry.

Q. It looks like the industry and its partners have a tremendous challenge and opportunity ahead. What is PETEX doing to meet this challenge?

A. Being good ambassadors for the industry and providing relevant, timely, and up-to-date training.

PETEX's training is organized in three levels: fundamental understanding, advanced knowledge, and subject mastery. This structure enables companies and individuals to select an appropriate training path that leads to the degree of knowledge desired. PETEX is an industry resource whose aim is to fill in the knowledge gaps for the industry.

In our efforts to ensure that PETEX courses are up-to-date with industry practices and responsive to industry training needs, we are creating course advisory teams to review existing courses and to propose, design, and implement new courses. We are also refreshing the PETEX training support materials, which are used as basic texts for both PETEX training courses and for company-offered courses.

We should not forget that the PETEX training facility was founded by the industry for the industry. Since its dedication in March 1979, the facility has



hosted people from nearly every culture and corner of the world.

Q. Brenda, what advice would you give to people wishing to advance their career?

A. Let me turn that question around to tell you what advice I have been giving lately. I have had a number of phone calls recently asking how to obtain a position in the industry. My advice is to attend one of many industry meetings that are open to the public. In this way the individual can get a sense of the industry, make good contacts, and understand the educational and training requirements to hold a position in the industry. I usually ask the person why they are considering employment in this energy industry. Some suggest it is the challenge of working in a technologically advanced industry. Others are looking for the higher income that this industry pays for talented people. A third group is looking for current employment.

Q. What do you see the training industry looking like in 10 years?

A. A difficult question but I believe that, in the future, training will be very customized...both to the individual's learning abilities and to the technical needs of the job. Everyone has a different learning style, whether visual, reading, hands-on, or a blend of styles. And every job has a specific set of required skills. Training programs that assess the individual's learning styles and then delivers a blended training format that satisfies the technical needs of the job and utilizes the individual's learning styles will be the norm.

I wish to thank you, Brenda, for your time and insight.

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PETEX Training Schedule

School	Location	Length	2005	Tuition
Completion and Workover	Houston	9½ days	May 16–27	\$1,700
Electrical Maintenance— Fundamentals	Houston	5 days	June 6–10	\$800
Petroleum Fundamentals	Houston	4½ days	June 6–10	\$950
Natural Gas Measurement [formerly Gas (Fluid) Measurement]	Houston	4½ days	June 13–17	\$900
Introduction to Electronic Flow Measurement	Houston	4½ days	June 20–24	\$900
Engine and Compressor Operations	Houston	4½ days	June 20–24	\$900
Field Handling and Plant Processing of Natural Gas [formerly Gas Technology]	Houston	4½ days	July 11–15	\$1,000
Introduction to Offshore Operations	Houston	4½ days	July 18–22 Aug. 15–19	\$1,000
Internal Corrosion Control	Houston	4½ days	Aug. 8–12	\$850
Instruments and Controls	Houston	4½ days	Aug. 15–19	\$800
Production Technology (First week—Subsurface)	Houston	9½ days 5 days	Sept. 19–30* Sept. 19–23*	\$1,700 \$850
(Second week—Surface)		4½ days	Sept. 26–30*	\$850

For more information about course schedules and availability, please call the Houston Training Center at 1-800-687-7052 or 281-443-7144

**These dates have changed (all prices and dates are subject to change without notice).*

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