

Fasten Your Training Tool Belt: Advice for the Industry's Young Professionals

By Castlen Moore, Director of Young Professionals in Energy (YPE)

It wasn't long ago that the buzz in energy circles was the coming 'shift change' in the workforce, and efforts were made to excite and recruit young talent to the industry. Young entrants to energy had their pick of great jobs and benefits as companies competed with each other to win over the best talent. Interest in the industry and the excitement it promised climbed with the price of crude, and membership in groups such as Young Professionals in Energy (YPE) was growing exponentially. As we approach mid-2009, the realities of today's oil and gas industry have changed with the drop in commodity prices and the overall economic slowdown. It looks as if the industry's newest members are getting their first taste of the oil and gas industry's cyclical nature.

This cyclical nature should be no surprise to management, which is accustomed to the inevitable economic cycles. Companies are working to restructure, streamline, and enhance in an effort to ride out the storm and be well positioned for when the economy makes a comeback. Some companies have announced project delays and some have even trimmed staff. Yet, a recent article in the *Houston Chronicle* reported that ExxonMobil and Chevron plan to keep project spending on track. Given the uncertainty, what should a young professional in the industry expect?

Young professionals, and the highly experienced alike, should take this opportunity to focus on how to best position themselves by strengthening their resume and skill sets. The seasoned generation, having weathered the swings of the industry, exemplify the importance of training with numerous certifications, degrees, and experience in their respective fields. They are an indispensable resource for the industry's incoming professionals.

Now is the time to strap on your training tool belt and invest in additional training. The adage, 'luck is when preparation meets opportunity', holds a great deal of truth in times like these. With recent technological advances, there are numerous training options including



instructor-led classes, e-learning, correspondence courses, and supplemental materials to expand one's knowledge. Organizations such as PETEX offer classes on a variety of topics from introductory petroleum courses to specific technical certifications. Efforts will not only add value to a resume but cause management to take notice of an employee's initiative. Employers might even be willing to cover some of these costs.

In addition to self-education, it is also a great time to plug into industry conferences and seminars. Some groups are beginning to offer reduced rates for young professionals. The exposure is beneficial and provides a valuable networking opportunity, which leads to my next tip, and perhaps the most fun—to network.

A well-developed professional network can be a valuable asset. The great news is groups like YPE have chapters in almost every major energy city, so almost everyone can find a group of peers nearby. In addition, many networking groups like YPE offer educational and community outreach opportunities in addition to the networking events. Check out the YPE website at www.ypenenergy.org for info and upcoming events.



Castlen Moore, Director of Young Professionals in Energy (YPE), is a manager for governmental affairs with Apache Corporation in Houston. She holds a BBA degree in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin and is currently working on a Dual Master's Degree in Public Affairs and Energy & Earth Resources.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Rig School Reunion in London
- PETEX Training for 65 Years
- Offshore Courses Offered by CLEE at UT
- Meet the People of PETEX

PETEX PERSPECTIVES

From Director Greg McCormack



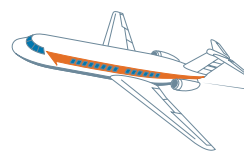
This year presents both economic and shift-change challenges for the industry, and PETEX is best positioned to ensure its continued value by providing the highest quality customer service and leading-edge training solutions to meet these challenges. PETEX has

an exceptionally high regard for customer service, a value woven into the very fabric of what the staff does and who we are. PETEX is dedicated to ensure clients receive the highest quality training solutions to meet the proliferation of training needs in the oil and gas industry, from the retirement of baby boomers to the influx of younger professionals newly entering the workforce.

The oil and gas industry is cyclical in nature, and despite current market challenges, history demonstrates that the importance of training for the future is now more imperative than ever. Now is the time to best position one's self by seeking self-education and capitalizing on training opportunities. It is equally important for

companies to continue to enhance staff performance and train in preparation for the predicted cyclical up-swings in the market.

Providing 65 years of training solutions, PETEX continuously evolves to provide up-to-date, quality courses and publications to meet clients' needs. Having trained over 200 client companies during the past year alone, PETEX, together with the guidance and support of its Advisory Board, serves as an ambassador for the industry and continues to deliver world-class training solutions. Despite the economic slowdown, PETEX is busy as ever, and we thank you for your continued support.



PETEX 2009 Conference Calendar

- 88th Annual Gas Processors Association Convention, March 8–11, San Antonio
- SPE/IADC Drilling Conference and Exhibition, March 17–19, The Netherlands
- 5th Annual Global Education and Training Event in Exploration and Production, March 23–25, London
- 7th Annual Canadian School of Hydrocarbon Measurement, March 31–April 1, Canada
- SPE Production and Operations Symposium, April 4–8, Oklahoma
- 84th International School of Hydrocarbon Measurement, May 12–14, Oklahoma
- IADC World Drilling Conference and Exhibition, June 17–18, Ireland
- SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition, October 4–7, Louisiana

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Director: Greg McCormack
 Assistant Directors: Fran Kennedy-Ellis,
 Peter Kosewicz
 Editor: Michelle Wernert
 Graphics Designer: Debbie Caples

Contributors: Castlen Moore, Greg McCormack, Peter Kosewicz, Fran Kennedy-Ellis, Scott Paull, Debby Denehy, Monica Moore, Dave Watson

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Upcoming PETEX Rig School Reunion in London!

Please join PETEX staff and your fellow Rig School Graduates for a reunion:

Thursday, March 26, from 6–8 p.m.

Corney & Barrow Wine Bar—Lime Street
23 Fenchurch Avenue, London EC3M 7DQ

We look forward to seeing you and all the Rig School Graduates for an evening of networking and fun.

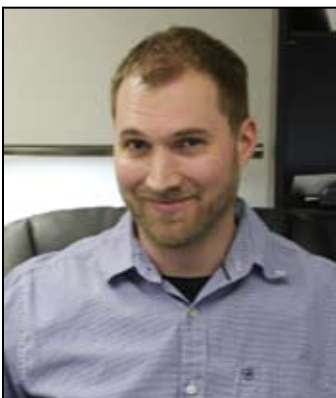
If your manager or supervisor has been unable to attend Rig School, please bring them along so we can meet and thank them for their continued support.

We hope to see you there!

To RSVP or for additional information, contact Michelle Wernert: 281.443.7144; mwernert@austin.utexas.edu.



WE ARE PETEX



Robert Streett, Editor, brings to PETEX all aspects of editorial expertise with research, writing, and editing experience as well as a degree in journalism and mass communications with an emphasis in public relations. As an instructional coordinator for the

New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum and reporter for The Las Cruces Sun-News, Streett developed and produced an assortment of materials from technical manuals to feature stories. He joins the publications team as an editor working on updating books, working with subject-matter experts, and preparing manuscripts for publication.

E. K. Weaver, Graphics Designer, has created award-winning work and has expertise as an illustrator and web designer. Her experience includes web graphics and code, creating logo artwork, as well as ads for catalogs, newsletters, and magazines. Additionally, she is skilled in a variety of software programs from Cascading Style Sheet coding to Photoshop. She has a painting showcased in the Santa Rita Room in The University of Texas at Austin Texas Union Center. With her talent and a degree in studio art and illustration, Weaver brings to PETEX a breadth of experience to assist her in designing graphical elements both for print and online content.



Focus on Education

PETEX Courses: 65 Years and Going Strong

PETEX strives to make certain our course materials and instructors are best-of-class. With over 600 PETEX instructors, their credentials range from Bachelor of Science degrees to Doctorate degrees covering virtually every aspect of the oil and gas industry. The training materials, coupled with the industry operations expertise of PETEX instructors, make our courses a *must-attend* for individuals needing both basic and advanced knowledge.

PETEX trains to industry standards, and in 2007-2008:

- Trained over 1,500 students
- Of which, over 500 of students were international
- Sold approximately 50,000 publications
- Held 93 training schools

PETEX continues expanding globally, offering customized courses, on-site training, and new courses and content to meet emerging client needs. In late 2009, PETEX will conduct additional courses at its West Texas Training Center in Odessa. With

customer service top of mind, PETEX's success demonstrates our commitment to such service, with over 200 client companies sending employees through our training schools.

Thank you for your continued support!



CALL FOR EXPERTS

PETEX has a global reputation for excellence in training. Backed by the solid reputation of The University of Texas at Austin, PETEX is uniquely qualified to support the industry with quality one-stop training solutions. Join our winning team by lending your expertise.

Share your knowledge to help others. Your expertise is needed. Consider these publishing and instruction opportunities:

Help Develop Publications

- Review content to determine updates to existing books.
- Write material for existing books and new titles.
- Peer-review books in development before printing.

Training Classroom Instructors

- Provide engaging classroom and hands-on instruction.
- Contribute your unique skills and specialized expertise to assist students.
- Exercise your desire to teach and to help others learn.

PETEX has resources to provide support:

- Expert staff editors to guide you and help refine your material
- Writing assistance if needed
- Assistance with preparing training presentations, based on outlines/learning objectives
- Design resources to create or re-create graphics
- Searches to locate illustrations/photos and obtain third-party permissions

What's in it for you?

- Exposure for you/your company with printed acknowledgment of your help

- A chance to actively support your industry
- Help raise the level of technical expertise among today's industry participants
- Assist when you can—flexible hours determined by your availability

Note: A large number of the training courses are held at either the Houston Training Center or at client sites. PETEX holds courses globally for those interested in traveling. In late 2009, PETEX will also offer training at its West Texas Training Center in Odessa. Publications assistance can be done remotely. Many companies agree to offer employees' time as a community service.

If you are interested in assisting with publications or becoming a training instructor, please call:

Publications: 800.687.4132

Training: 800.687.7052



Pipeline Technology Students Pose with PETEX Training Specialist



Dirk Strack (left), a Manager of Technical Assets with TAL-OIL in Germany, and Deema Abdel-Hadi (center), a Civil Engineer with the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO) in the United Arab Emirates, recently attended Pipeline Technology training at the Houston Training Center. Also pictured is PETEX Training Specialist Dan Comstock (right).

Upcoming Courses Offered by The Center for Lifelong Engineering Education of The University of Texas at Austin

Fundamentals of Offshore Structures and Design of Fixed Offshore Platforms

Dates: April 13-24, 2009
CEUs: 5.6

Developed specifically for engineers, scientists, and technologists, this course reviews the fundamentals behind all types of offshore structures (fixed or floating) and applications of these principles with fixed platforms.

Design of Floating Production Systems

Dates: April 27- May 1, 2009
CEUs: 3.2

Developed for professionals seeking a full understanding of the design and construction of floating platforms. Attendees will gain insight into the fundamental design process and practices in the field of floating production systems.



For additional information visit:
<http://lifelong.engr.utexas.edu/petroleum>

New Courses and Publications

Several courses and books have been updated to better meet clients' needs. Find out what's new and check out the upcoming schedule of classes. It's easy to enroll in classes and order materials online. Visit www.utexas.edu/ce/petex and click on Courses or Publications.

NEW COURSE!

Economics of the Petroleum Industry—Risk and Uncertainty

Do you need a fundamental understanding of the financial and economic operations of the petroleum industry?

Get the answers to these questions:

- What does the future hold?
- How are decisions made?
- Who are the key players?
- How has the industry evolved over time?
- What are unconventional resources and what role will they play in the future?
- Is the price of oil too high?
- Will we run out of crude oil?
- Renewables—what are they and do they matter?

This course provides a comprehensive grounding in the economic dynamics of this changing industry.

Dates

July 20–24, 2009
October 12–16, 2009

Please call 281.443.7144 for further details.





SPRING TRAINING

For the complete 2009-2010 schedule, visit www.utexas.edu/ce/petex

School	CEUs	Length	Dates	Tuition
Advanced Petroleum Measurement	3.3	4½	April 13–17	\$1,710
Completion and Workover	7.1	9½	May 11–22	\$3,410
1st Week		5	May 11–15	\$1,800
2nd Week		4½	May 18–22	\$1,710
Valves and Actuators—Operation and Maintenance	3.3	4½	May 18–22	\$1,600
Petroleum Fundamentals	3.3	4½	June 1–5	\$1,750
Gauging, Testing, and Running of Lease Tanks	1.1	1½	June 4–5	\$575
Hydraulics for Pipeline Operators	1.9	2½	June 9–11	\$1,200
Natural Gas Measurement				
Fundamentals	2.3	3	June 8–10	\$1,120
Design/Application/Inspection	1.1	1½	June 11–12	\$735
Electronic Flow Measurement	2.3	3	June 15–17	\$1,120
Sampling and Analysis	1.1	1½	June 18–19	\$735
NEW! Economics of the Petroleum Industry	3.3	4½	July 20–24	\$2,500

Some courses have associated publications available by enrolling in the training class or by ordering from the *2009 Petroleum Extension Service Catalog*; call 800.687.4132.

All courses are held at the PETEX Houston Training Center, 2700 W.W. Thorne Blvd., Houston, TX 77073.

Training dates are subject to change.

To enroll, visit www.utexas.edu/ce/petex or call 800.687.7052; fax 281.443.8722; or email petexhtc@www.utexas.edu.

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