# COUBOYS OF PETROLEUM

NEWSLETTER





Joseph Leimkuhler honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by UW

This year, Homecoming was marked by a series of events for the students and alumni of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS) and, specifically, Energy & Petroleum Engineering. One of our own graduates and longtime Advisory Board member was honored by UW as a Distinguished Alumnus.



Joe Leimkuhler giving a talk in EERB

Joseph Leimkuhler, COO of Beacon Offshore Energy, was honored during Homecoming weekend events and also gave a public presentation in the EERB prior to the dinner and awards ceremony. Key points made by Joe on the current state and the future of the American oil and gas were that the U.S energy is still 85% hydrocarbon-based and the transition to renewables is yet to start, sustaining sufficient US oil and gas to enable any energy transition faces challenges in all sectors: upstream production, midstream transport, downstream refining, and distribution.

During his talk, Joe also announced the launch of his company's latest project in the Gulf of Mexico. The world's first 8<sup>th</sup> generation drillship, Deepwater Atlas, is now under contract with Beacon Offshore Energy and it successfully launched the week after this presentation. It is one of the two ultra-deepwater drill ships with a hook load capacity of 3 million pounds. The ship can operate at water depths of 12,000 feet, and drill to depths of 40,000 feet.

This year we welcomed 14 new members to our Industry Advisory Board, representing upstream and midstream companies. We also introduced a new format to our meetings that allowed for greater faculty and student involvement. The biggest change was the introduction of the Student & Industry Banquet. On September 30, 2022, we held the fall meeting of the Industry Advisory Board fall meeting and the inaugural Banquet. More than 20 industry representatives, attended this meeting. This was the most unique networking opportunity for our students in recent history. Key events at the banquet included:

- Richard Lynch, SVP from Hess and long-time Board member, as the keynote speaker.
- Dr. Rasouli, LeNorman Endowed Leadership Chair, introduced new Master's program options.
- Presentations from each of the RSO's (SPE, AADE, IADC, and the newly-founded SEG and ARMA).
- Awards ceremony recognizing student achievements & scholarships.



#### Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

From the faculty, staff, and students of Energy & Petroleum Engineering



### SPE ATCE 2022, Houston, TX. October 2022

October held another milestone for the department. For the first time, a group of staff and students from UW's Energy & Petroleum Engineering exhibited at the ATCE in Houston. Over the three days of the conference, they interacted with hundreds of attendees and were also sought out by many UW alumni as well. They generated quite a buzz about the new Master's program options that are specifically targeted towards industry professionals, providing them with the ability to take classes remotely and/or asynchronously, beginning this spring.

# Energy & Petroleum Engineering Master's degree program to incorporate Blockchain courses

A new Master's degree option will be the first to offer graduate courses in Blockchain, starting in Fall 2023, at the University of Wyoming. In addition, the department will introduce three other options for Master's program specialization. The options are: Data Analytics, Drilling, and Energy. If an applicant has an undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 and fulfills the admission requirements of UW, they are welcome to apply to our Master's program. In addition to these new study area options, students will also have the ability, in coordination with their advisor, to choose a more flexible list of courses to fulfill their graduate degree program. In conjunction with these changes, we are also converting all of our existing courses to digital formats to be made available via distance delivery as well as synchronously on campus.



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### IADC Conference, New Orleans, LA. November 2022

This semester, the UW International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) student chapter officers attended the IADC's Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is acknowledged as a keynote conference for the drilling industry. It provides an opportunity to network with the industry professionals from most major companies, such as BP, H&P, NOV, ConocoPhillips, Apache Corporation, Seadrill, and many more. The Chapter also hosted a student social this semester, giving students an opportunity to get together outside the classroom. Invited speakers gave presentations on ethics and insight in what their company does. Next semester, they plan to host many of the same type of events and others.



## Two student organizations have been established in the department



We are excited to announce the official reestablishment of the UW Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) student chapter. SEG is recognized as one of the most important scientific societies in the world. It is focused on the application of geophysics within the petroleum industry. We are currently working on registering the Chapter as an RSO and also planning the first event next semester. Stay tuned.



We have officially established the American **Rock Mechanics Association** (ARMA) student chapter this October. Dr. Han Gang, ARMA President, and the ARMA committee are excited to host the kickoff event late January and invite everyone to join and learn more about the importance of rock mechanics in petroleum engineering. Follow UW ARMA on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to stay up to date.









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