

# SPE Mid-Continent Section Newsletter

December 2021 | Issue No. 470



Mid-Continent Section



# SPE Mid-Continent Section

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Voting members consist of the Executive Committee. The Chairman only votes in the event of a tie. A Motion can be voted upon with a Quorum of the Voting Members present. A Quorum consists of five Voting Members present. An affirmative vote will consist of 50% of the Quorum present. Committee Chairmen and in their absence, the Committee Vice Chairmen are encouraged to attend board meetings and provide representation and committee reports. The editor welcomes newsworthy items about SPE members or events. Please provide a **draft to the newsletter editor by the 25th of the month**. Change of contact information requests should be made to SPE in Richardson, TX, 1-800-456-6863, or [service@spe.org](mailto:service@spe.org).

# Chairman's Gavel

Mike Stafford, 2021-2022 Chairman

We had our first 2021 in-person Regular Meeting last month at the Tulsa Country Club. Almost 30 SPE Members were in attendance to hear Brian Ellithorp with Blackjack Production Tools discuss production optimization. Thank you, Brian!

There is no December Regular meeting however, we hope you can make it to the Wednesday, January 19th meeting at Tulsa Country Club from 11:30 to 1:00. Our speakers will be Joe Hickman and Rick Jacoby with Compressco CSI LP also discussing production optimization by back-pressure reduction, liquid unloading and annular injection.

With the current news out of the way... one thing that I wanted to accomplish as the 2021-2022 Chairman was to create a more active relationship between the Mid-Continent SPE Section members and the TU Student SPE Chapter members. And the reasons are simple: First, we all remember being an engineering student — being hungry for more information on the intricacies of this wide-open industry and what better place for them to learn than to sit in on our meetings. Second, we all have a story to tell our future colleagues that will make them a better engineer. And third, to provide our experienced Mid-Continent Section engineers the opportunity to be a mentor to our future colleagues — if by no other means than to make ourselves available.

With that said, I am sure you have noticed that our monthly newsletter has started to include a spotlight on an SPE Member and a Tulsa University Student SPE Member. Gage Bradford, a sophomore at TU, volunteered to take on this assignment and has really been doing an excellent job with it. So if Gage calls and asks you for an interview for the Member Spotlight... please say “yes” and let your future colleagues know your story and give them your insight as how to succeed in this industry we have all had a part in building.

So, until next month, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Holiday season.

Mike Stafford

2021-2022 Chairman

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# From Your Editor

Betty Felber, 2021-2022 Editor

December is here. In case you missed it, in November our section held the first in-person meeting since before COVID-19. Hope you were able to go to it. Before that we also had a November Distinguished Lecturer visit electronically. Hopefully you attended this meeting as well.

Keep watching the SPE Mid-Continent calendar for our other activities. Some are virtual and some are in-person. See if there isn't some information that could help give you another perspective.

Have a nice holiday season and a promising new year.

Betty Felber  
Editor

## Calendar of Events

### **Wednesday, January 19, 2022 - Luncheon Meeting - Tulsa Country Club**

- Joe Hickman and Rick Jacoby, CSI Compressco LP - Compression for Well Optimization – Utilizing Compression to Unload Liquids and Improve Production - *(to register see page 6)*

### **April 25-29, 2022, SPE Improved Oil Recovery Conference - Virtual**

- Technical Program Sessions, Mon. 25th - Wed. 27th, Short Courses Thursday and Friday April 28th & 29th - [www.speior.org](http://www.speior.org). Watch for details on registration opening December 2021

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*See p6 for more details*

# TU SPE Student Spotlight

by Gage Bradford, TU SPE Student Chapter Communications & PR Chair

**Kendall Sack** is a senior at the University of Tulsa studying petroleum engineering. Kendall is a great role model within the petroleum engineering department and is an active member of the TU SPE Chapter. Kendall is the Community Chairperson of TU SPE and fosters interaction between students by posting about their success on the petroleum engineering bulletin board. Her work is greatly appreciated by TU SPE and our chapter is proud to have her represent our December student spotlight.



## **Why did you choose to pursue petroleum engineering?**

“I understand the important role that oil and gas plays in today’s global economy,” said Kendall. “Without oil and gas, billions of people would not enjoy many of the luxuries they have today.”

“I wanted my career to be a part of an industry that supports the high standard of living that people have created. I decided that becoming a petroleum engineer will fulfill this desire.”

## **What is your favorite part about studying petroleum engineering?**

“My favorite part about studying petroleum engineering is the connections I’ve made. I place great value on the petroleum engineering community at my university and on the friendships I have made during my internships.”

## **What has your industry experience looked like thus far?**

“I participated in the University of Tulsa externship program for two summers. In one project, I was partnered with Marjo Operating where I became familiar with IHS and used it to analyze wells in Oklahoma. Last summer, I was in Houston with Jura Energy LLC where I completed a project analyzing bottom hole pressures, productivity indexes, and production of a reservoir in one of the company’s leases. I was able to spend time on a rig and make some great connections. I am currently doing drilling research at the University of Tulsa.”

## **What are some of your aspirations after graduation?**

“After graduation, I want to work in an engineering role for either an operating or midstream company. Eventually, I would like to start an operating company with a great team of people,” said Kendall.

“I am still exploring my options for work after graduation and I am open to any opportunity. My email is [kendallsack@gmail.com](mailto:kendallsack@gmail.com). Feel free to reach out to me at anytime to get to know me better!”

# TU SPE Professional Spotlight

by Gage Bradford, TU SPE Student Chapter Communications & PR Chair

**Brian Flake** is from Mansfield, Texas who came to TU to study petroleum engineering. After Brian graduated in 2017, he went to for Calyx Energy III, LLC in Tulsa. He is currently employed at Calyx Energy III as a Senior Operations Engineer. Brian continues to be involved with TU and SPE Mid Con. Brian gave TU SPE is proud to have Brian represent this month's member spotlight.



## **What lead you to becoming a petroleum engineer?**

“Originally, when I was looking into careers as a high school student, I didn't have a great idea on what I should do. So, I started by taking an aptitude test that pointed me in the direction of engineering. From there I looked at several different engineering fields, but back in 2012 oil pricing was near an all-time high that was impossible to ignore. I decided to major in Petroleum Engineering and go to the University of Tulsa for my education.”

“While my decision to start my major in Petroleum Engineering was rather happenstance. There were several moments through my collegiate years where I had to decide to remain in the major. Oil crashed in 2015, internships in the industry dried up overnight and public attitude towards fossil fuels continued to become more negative from 2013 to 2017. But for better or for worse, I did end up enjoying all the material and I felt a drive to reach my goal. I stuck it out and was fortunate enough to start out as an engineering technician after college and work my way up to a full engineering position.”

## **What does the work of an operations engineer entail?**

“Operations engineers are responsible for all things post turn on of a well. I manage all facilities related to our production and processing of fluids along with our operations team, which are primarily well sites and produced water facilities. This means a lot of different things. It can mean accounting for lease operating expenditures, accounting for the economic performance of a well, scheduling a workover or managing an alarm system to help better direct our pumpers. I typically will take on any task that is related to the maximization of product and therefore profit from our producing wells, and if we fall short of our target numbers it's up to me to account for it and rectify it.”

“Fortunately, I am not working by myself and like many operations engineers I have a field manager that assists with executing work and directing maintenance or other well and facility work. Being able to effectively communicate and work within a team is just as valuable to me as the education I learned from TU.”

*continued on page 8*

### JANUARY 2022

**WEDNESDAY, January 19 | Luncheon Meeting | 11:20 am - 1:00 pm**

**Location:** Tulsa Country Club, 701 North Union Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74127

**Speaker:** Joe Hickman and Rick Jacoby, CSI Compressco LP

**Topic:** "Compression for Well Optimization – Utilizing Compression to Unload Liquids and Improve Production"

**Register:** <https://spemc011922.eventbrite.com> (Registration deadline is Friday, January 14 at Noon)

#### Description

Apply the proper solutions:

- Casing Pressure Reduction
- Liquid Unloading - Velocity to achieve critical flow rates
- Backside Lift/Injection
- GAPL (Gas Assisted Plunger Lift)

A new/strong flowing well has the gas flow rate to lift liquids from the well bore up the tubing string on its own. Over time the well's flow rate will decline, as that occurs the well will stop lifting liquids. This Liquid Loading usually takes place at lower flow rates less than 300 MSCFD when wells are flowing into 100-200 psig pipelines. Well head compression will help improve production of wells at the initial loading stage.

#### Presenters

##### Joe Hickman

Joe Hickman has over 15 years of Production Enhancement in the Oil & Gas Industry. He has gained his experience in multiple positions such as Service Manager, International Trainer and Production Enhancement Specialist. Joe is currently an Account Manager for Western Oklahoma for CSI Compressco LP.

##### Rick Jacoby

Rick Jacoby has over 40 years in the Oil & Gas Industry and has experience applying compression to many needs in the Oil and Gas Industry in both small and large horsepower. He has an associates in Marketing from (Tulsa Community College) and is currently an Account Manager in Tulsa for CSI Compressco LP.

The safety of our members is our top priority so in-person scheduling for 2021-22 events is tentative based on health guidelines in our area as well as availability of meeting venues. Watch for announcements about future meetings and events in this newsletter or by email.

To register and pay by credit card, or make a reservation to pay by check or cash at the door, go to the corresponding link for a luncheon. In-person luncheon cost is \$25.00 for Professionals, \$10 for Retired/Unemployed/Graduate Students, and free for Undergraduate Students. Payment by credit card is for advanced registrations ONLY, no credit cards will be accepted at the meeting, only check or cash accepted at the door with a reservation. No walk-ins please.



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**What part of your work are you the most enthusiastic about?**

“It is always exciting to bring a new well online. Tracking a well in its early days and making sure the flowback maximizes the early performance is kind of like watching a spaceship take off. You have all the information from the reservoir analysis, you know what kind of drilling and completions operations went on to access and stimulate the rock as best as possible and all the production facilities have been designed to allow optimal performance, but there is always an element of the unknown that keeps you on your toes.”

“In addition to that, I have gotten to work on projects focused on sustainability that were new to me when I started working. These sustainability initiatives typically involve the cleaner operations in oil and gas and finding new ways to limit the carbon impact we have while still powering the world. A lot of this work in my company falls on my shoulders, and it has been very encouraging to be able to propose and work on projects that will leave the world cleaner than it was yesterday. We may have to continue relying on fossil fuels for years to come, but that also comes with the added responsibility of being better stewards.”

**What do you think the oil and gas industry will look like 20 years from now?**

“I think the oil and gas industry will continue to consolidate and tighten up its efficiencies while also making more room for clean power. In those past few years, it looks like we have moved to a cash-flow model which would limit boom-and-bust cycles but also probably lead to less growth domestically. However, while that may mean less positions than there were 10 years ago, there also seems to be fewer engineers entering the industry as more talent moves to clean energy generation. I believe it’s important for environmentally conscious people to remain in oil and gas as they are the ones that will be able to work their way up the chain to make lasting and impactful change.”

**Do you have any advice for current college students pursuing petroleum engineering?**

“Don’t neglect yourself in pursuit of your degree and later your job. I know many people that worked themselves to dust and became burnt out. They ended up leaving the industry and while they found other jobs just fine, I know it was a frustrating experience for them. Sometimes when you are starting out you may feel the need to work long hours to earn your spot, but you shouldn’t center your life fully on your work. You won’t be a great team member at your company if you are miserable! Try to pick up a hobby that you can maintain even if you have to move around and take good care of your health as well.”

*“To make a long story short, don’t tell it.”*

— **Anonymous**

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