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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

***SPECIAL EDITION***

## ***The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering***



On April 20, 1998, the Board of Regents granted approval of the request from LSU to change the name of this department to the Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering.

*Pipeline* is published annually by the Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering, Louisiana State University, CEBA 3516, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-6417. Telephone: (225) 388-5215, FAX: (225) 388-6039, e-mail: [pejde@lsu.edu](mailto:pejde@lsu.edu) Jan Easley, *Producer*.

# The History of Petroleum Engineering at LSU

A major part of the department's history is the story of the life's work of two remarkable men: Benjamin C. Craft and Murray F. Hawkins. These two men set the course of petroleum engineering, not only at LSU, but, in many ways, in the petroleum industry as a whole. Beyond sending competent engineers into the field, they helped their students develop as people, and their influence is still evident, both in the operation of the department and in the professional style of their former students.

Petroleum engineering began as an option of the geology curriculum in 1922. Temporary instructors taught petroleum geology, petroleum production methods, petroleum utilization, and petroleum cost accounting.

The first full-time petroleum engineering faculty member was Craft who came to LSU in 1929 at the age of 25 from Stanford's graduate program. Craft had a monumental task ahead of him when he arrived in Baton Rouge. He was responsible for creating a series of courses and for the corresponding class materials. As a matter of fact, few petroleum engineering courses existed anywhere at that time and no texts had yet been written. Nevertheless, in a short span of time the number of courses offered at LSU in petroleum engineering increased



dramatically—from four in 1927 to 11 in 1930. By 1939, the petroleum engineering program had become a department in the School of Geology and Craft was named department head. In 1956, the department was moved from the School of Geology to the College of Engineering.



Hawkins joined the department in 1946. His academic experience was not in engineering, but he had worked for Carter Oil Company Research and for the Ethyl Corporation in research. Hawkins very rapidly familiarized himself with petroleum engineering technology. He assisted Craft in teaching courses at every level of the program and developed his own area of expertise—reservoir engineering. Early in the 1950s, Hawkins redesigned the reservoir engineering courses that were offered in the department and put them at the edge of current technology. Even today, the basic design of these courses remains the same.

Craft and Hawkins co-authored the textbook *Applied Petroleum Reservoir Engineering* that became a standard text in petroleum engineering courses both in the United States and around the world. Published in 1959, the "Craft & Hawkins" textbook is still a best-seller.

Craft's death in 1964 was a heavy blow to everyone in the department. For nearly 35 years, he had led the department on its path toward professional excellence. Although "Benny" Craft would be a hard act to follow for even the most capable administrator, Murray Hawkins was up to the challenge. He led the department until his retirement in 1977.

Craft and Hawkins enabled the department to develop, to grow, and, finally, to remain strong by fighting for their convictions and the best interests of their students. They were highly respected by their colleagues in academia, by top managers in the industry, and by workers in the field. Of special importance, however, they were down-to-earth, dedicated teachers and friends to the hundreds of students who passed through the department. Benjamin C. Craft and Murray F. Hawkins created one of the top programs in the country from nothing and established the groundwork that kept the department on the leading edge of petroleum technology and education throughout the years. They built the strong foundation on which the department stands today.

# *Dedication Ceremony*

## *October 16, 1998*



Presentation to **Mrs. Bertha Craft** by  
Chancellor William L. Jenkins

**Mr. Benjamin C. Craft, Jr.**



**Mr. Harry J. Longwell**  
Leader of the Craft and Hawkins  
Department of Petroleum Engineering  
Campaign Team

# *Dedication Ceremony*

*October 16, 1998*

"The department is named after the beloved educators and mentors, **Bengamin C. Craft** and **Murray F. Hawkins, Jr.**, in recognition of their guidance, dedication, and efforts that enriched the lives of many alumni, and established the strong tradition the department maintains today."

Presentation to **Murray F. Hawkins**  
and **Julia Hawkins** by **Chancellor**  
**William L. Jenkins**



**Professor Emeritus Murray F.  
Hawkins**

**Mr. William H. Stone**

Past chairman of the department's  
Advisory Committee



# The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering Campaign

The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering Campaign is focused on establishing endowed funds in the LSU Foundation for the benefit of the department. The goal of the endowment was initially set at \$5 million, and all private contributions during the five-year period, 1998-2002, count toward the goal. The campaign is focused on four areas: endowed chairs, scholarships, laboratory renovation and maintenance, and unrestricted gifts.

The campaign already received two \$600,000 pledges toward endowed chairs. When matched with state funds, we'll be able to establish the Craft and Hawkins chairs in petroleum engineering, one in the name of Ocean Energy, the other in honor of Roy S. Sullins, thanks to a gift from Lucy Sullins.

Seed funds for a third professorship—the Alumni Craft and Hawkins chair—has also been pledged. Five \$50,000 scholarships have been endowed. This is an encouraging beginning, but more needs to be accomplished in this area. Scholarships are a critical part of the alumni support for the department. They allow entry into the program for interested and capable students who may have the skills and interest but not the resources. And they provide a means of rewarding and attracting students of academic excellence and professional promise.

Burlington Resources has pledged \$250,000 toward a reservoir mechanics laboratory and Lucy Sullins is giving \$400,000 for the *R.S. Sullins Deepwater Technology Center*. The Shell Foundation has pledged more than \$500,000 toward upgrading and maintaining computer facilities.

Significant "in-kind" contributions were received. Merak Projects has donated more than \$735,000 in computer software dealing with petroleum economics, risk analysis, and wellbore schematics. And GeoQuest has contributed Eclipse software valued at \$220,000. Schlumberger refurbished and equipped an offshore well logging unit at a cost of \$168,000.

The last category of unrestricted gifts serves two purposes. It allows alumni and friends to demonstrate their caring through a broader range of monetary gifts, and it gives the department access to money for unforeseen needs. Thirty-five individuals chose to contribute in this way, with gifts ranging from under \$100 to a \$100,000 donation from Richard O'Shields. The total is more than \$278,000. To each of you who gave, we offer our heartfelt appreciation.

We should all take pride in what has been accomplished in this campaign. Just as important, we've established the momentum needed to enhance the growth and quality of this department in the future.

We are pleased, of course with the current results of the campaign, but we believe there is still some work to be done, and the enthusiasm we encountered in conducting this campaign makes us confident we can accomplish more. We urge you to use the attached form in sending in your contributions and pledges to the unrestricted endowment fund.

The form may also be used to obtain additional information on the other contribution opportunities: endowed scholarships, endowed chairs, and undergraduate laboratory renovation and maintenance.

LSU Foundation

The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering

Campaign

STATEMENT OF INTENT

In consideration of the thoughtful gifts of others, I/we want to help LSU's Petroleum Engineering Department raise funds to establish a permanent unrestricted endowment fund. I understand my/our gift to this fund will be counted in The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering Campaign and the LSU comprehensive campaign.

While this statement is not legally binding, I/we pledge, in good faith, to support the LSU Department of Petroleum Engineering in reaching the comprehensive campaign goal of \$5,000,000. It is my/our intention to make the following charitable gift over the period designed:

The amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in \_\_\_\_\_ (Monthly/annual) installments over the next  one  three  five years

My first gift will be made \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/year).

Please make your check payable to:

Craft & Hawkins Dept. of Petroleum Engineering

Mail to:

Craft & Hawkins Dept. of Petroleum Engineering

Louisiana State University

3523 CEBA Bldg.

Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6417

Please send additional information on:  Endowed Scholarships in Petroleum Engineering

Endowed Chairs in Petroleum Engineering

Undergraduate Laboratory Renovation and Maintenance

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Matching Gift Co.  Yes  No

Company Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

THANK YOU!

The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering Leadership Team

Facsimile of the Board of Regents' letter granting approval for the renaming of the department.



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April 14, 1998

Dr. Allen Copping  
President  
LSU System Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 16070  
Baton Rouge, LA 70893

Dear Dr. Copping:

In accordance with the explanations provided in a letter from Dr. H. Douglas Braymer dated April 20, 1998, administrative approval is hereby granted for the request from Louisiana State University and A&M College to change the name of the Department of Petroleum Engineering to The Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Gerard Killebrew or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Hargrave".

Carolyn Hargrave  
Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs