



CENTER FOR MIDSTREAM  
MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE  
**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

The Texas State University System

**NEWSLETTER #3**

March 26, 2021

- **Senator Robert Nichols was named *Profiles in Midstream* Honoree**



The Center for Midstream Management and Science has named Senator Robert Nichols a “Profiles in Midstream” honoree. The CMMS honors those who are doing good work for the midstream industry and Nichols is recognized as one of the founders of the Center.

“It is strategic thinking of leaders like Senator Nichols who enable us in our effort to build the Midstream Center into a problem-solving member of the midstream industry, clearing house and developer of innovative midstream technologies, and ultimately a thought leader in the midstream sector,” said Thomas Kalb, director of the CMMS. “We are proud to have him on our team at Lamar University and to name him as the Center for Midstream Management and Science’s *Profiles in Midstream* honoree.

Nichols, a 1968 graduate of Lamar University, was first elected to the Texas Senate in 2007 and represents District 3, including 19 counties covering the greater part of East Texas and Montgomery County. Prior to his election as a Texas state senator, he served as Texas transportation commissioner for eight years.

- **Midstream Center funds NGL fractionation value optimization project**



The Midstream Center is funding research led by Dr. Daniel Chen, professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at LU. Dr. Chen is leading in a joint effort with a midstream company to develop a natural gas liquids fractionation optimization program to link facility operations to real-time commodity pricing to maximize facility profits. Completion of the research project is targeted for mid-2022.

- **Midstream Center organizes faculty field trip to Energy Transfer's NGL fractionation facilities in Mont Belvieu**



Dr. Brian Craig, Dean of the College of Engineering, along with five faculty members of the College of Engineering, were given a tour of Energy Transfer's NGL fractionation facilities in Mont Belvieu, TX. LU's Center for Midstream Management and Science arranged the trip to learn about Energy Transfer's operational issues in their NGL fractionation systems and to complement CMMS funded research and development for an NGL fractionation optimization program.

- **Grace Belaire joins Midstream Center as Program Coordinator**



The Midstream Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Grace Belaire to the newly created position of Program Coordinator. Grace will work closely with Thomas Kalb and Dr. Helen Lou in pursuit of the Midstream Center's mission. Grace is a 2020 graduate of Lamar University where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (Cum Laude). "Grace's energy and discipline are reflected by her efforts to graduate with honors from LU in 3.5 years while working multiple jobs to pay her way through school. We were fortunate to have her to join us" said Thomas Kalb, Direct of the Midstream Center.

- **Midstream Center maps out the 2021 New, Emerging, and Interesting Technology Webinar Series**

**Tuesday, March 16th** at 10 a.m. CST - Rapid DNA field testing using man portable equipment to identify and manage corrosion causing microbes in midstream systems.

**Tuesday, May 11th** at 10 a.m. CST - Digital web-based platform that collects and manages pipeline and facility data that provides consolidated, accurate, and accessible manufacturing and construction data for energy infrastructure.

**Tuesday, July 13th** at 10 a.m. CST - 3D web-based platform that, via 360-degree photos, digitally maps complex facilities and enables enhanced communications between plant work crews, optimization of logistics planning for maintenance operations, and improves leak detection and repair dynamics to greatly reduce man-hours and cost of operations.

**Tuesday, September 14th** at 10 a.m. CST - Distributed Fiber Optic Sensing using fiber optic cable designed to measure and record temperature, noise, and vibration to identify and locate leaks.

**Tuesday, November 16th** at 10 a.m. CST - SmartBall multi-sensor inline inspection platform that collects a variety of pipeline data to help integrity departments find the smallest leaks, measure continuous pressure and temperature, and map pipelines.

- **Midstream Center hosts webinar on newly developed Rapid DNA field testing for corrosion causing microbes in midstream systems**

This webinar, held March 16<sup>th</sup>, was the first in a New and Emerging Technology 2021 Series sponsored by the Midstream Center. Distinguished speakers included:

**John Mork**  
**CEO**  
**EnerG-ID Solutions**

**Dirk van Oostendorp**  
**Director, Engineering & Technical Services**  
**CorrPro-Aegion**

**Ajey Chandra**  
**Managing Partner and Director**  
**Muse, Stancil & Co.**

This webinar was recorded and can be watched by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/3nXnKCgAnoc>

- **GPA Midstream Association (Houston Chapter) invites LU to participate in new Scholarship Program**

The GPA Midstream Association (Houston Chapter) is soliciting scholarship applications undergraduate students in Lamar University's College of Engineering and College of Business in a new annual, competitive scholarship program aimed at students who are pursuing degrees that would enable them to be employed in the Midstream Industry. The scholarship program is targeting students considering careers in the midstream sector, including majors in engineering, finance/accounting, and construction science. Scholarships amounts will be determined by the number of qualified applicants, academic credentials, applicant's interest in participating in the industry after graduation, and other criteria as determined by the final selections of the Scholarship Committee. The scholarship program, funded by the activities of the Houston GPA Midstream Association and its member companies, is offered primarily to students who graduated from high schools in the Houston region and those that have demonstrated a desire to work in the Midstream Industry through the completion of one or more internships in companies within the industry or those having family members who have or are currently working in the industry.

- **Enterprise Products Training Center hosts Midstream Center Leadership**



Enterprise Products recently hosted Thomas Kalb, Director of the Midstream Center, and Dr. Helen Lou, Associate Director – Research, at their Mont Belvieu training center where Kalb and Lou sat in on course segments focusing on corrosion and processing. “We were told by highly regarded midstream sector consulting friends that Enterprise ran the best midstream training program in the industry and we wanted to take a look. Enterprise’s leadership was very welcoming” said Thomas Kalb. “We are frankly interested in enhancing our faculty’s knowledge of midstream operations and gaining insight related to operational issues that we may be able to help solve via R&D.”

- **Midstream Center organizes faculty field trip to Energy Transfer’s Terminal Facility in Nederland, TX**



Dr. Seokyon Hwang, Dr. Berna Tokgoz, Dr. Jing Zhang, and Dr. Zhe Luo, along with Thomas Kalb, were recently given a tour of Energy Transfer’s terminal facility in Nederland, TX. Energy Transfer is supporting the LU faculty team’s DARTS (“Drone and Artificial Intelligence Reconsolidated Technological Solution”) research project that is funded by the Midstream Center. The DARTS project is expected to develop robust methods for detecting and monitoring critical operating problems that can affect the resilience of pipeline systems by mid-2022.

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