

## Second Virtual CiSoft Academy; A success!

The 2011 CiSoft Academy was a two day workshop from July 25 – 26 that provided selected Chevron interns from universities all over the United States with the opportunity to gain invaluable insight on Smart Oilfield Technologies (SOFT) for the digital oilfield. For the second year, the CiSoft Academy was conducted virtually, allowing the participating interns to attend the workshop without having to leave their offices and regular internship responsibilities.

Coordinated by Sam Chow in Bakersfield, Steve Tissue and Everyl-Ann Archibald in Gulf of Mexico, and Juli Legat at Chevron's research center at USC, CiSoft, the CiSoft Academy is a great way for participating interns to further improve their problem solving and presentation skills, while learning from some of the best USC researchers

and i-field specialists within Chevron Corporation. The 2011 CiSoft Academy consisted of nearly 50 Chevron interns from Bakersfield, Covington, and Lafayette locations. All participating interns began the first day of the workshop with an overview of SOFT concepts by Dr. Iraj Ershaghi, followed by an intense four hour application period, where they got the chance to hear cutting edge research from both USC professors and Chevron collaborators. Topics of the lectures included data management, seismic monitoring, immersive visualization, and sensor technology. Participating interns were then split into teams and given competition questions based on the information shared with them through the lectures. Each team was given just six hours to work together and come up with a comprehensive and innovative presentation on how to answer the problem that they were given. In this way, the participating interns were able to learn not only the material taught to them in the workshop through lectures, but also were able to apply what they learned to come up with their own solutions.

In addition to the priceless learning experience that the 2011 CiSoft Academy provided, another reason for the workshop's great success was the fact that it was completely virtual. All interactivity was conducted through video teleconferencing. This aspect of the CiSoft Academy allowed participants to continue performing their duties as Chevron interns while being able to attend the workshop, all from the comfort of their remote offices. "There are two aspects [of the 2011 CiSoft Academy] that I appreciate," states Sorin Marghitoiu, one of the judges at USC. "One, the successful usage of teleconference technologies in bringing everything together and second, the benefits of the team building process that will enhance the students' future interactions with the coworkers." Besides convenience, the virtual feature of the Academy



*Participating Chevron interns attended the 2 day workshop from the convenience of their offices, drastically cutting down travel expenses and time availability issues*

dramatically cuts down travel costs and also introduces Chevron interns to work collaboratively from many locations much like Chevron's engineers.



*Oilfield experts judge the presentations put together by participating Chevron interns while sharing their knowledge gained from researching in the Center for Interactive Smart Oilfield Technologies at USC.*

On the day of the presentations, each team presented their ideas to a panel of expert judges. Dr. Marghitoiu was also rather impressed with the level of professionalism and intelligence of the Chevron interns, stating that “the students’ ability to grasp new concepts in such a short time and be able to perform a fairly comprehensive research in only one day was very impressive.” In Dr. Marghitoiu’s eyes, the 2011 CiSoft Academy was a mutually beneficial program for both the Chevron interns and CiSoft itself, stating that the “CiSoft Academy was successful both in increasing CiSoft exposure in Chevron and bringing more [Smart Oilfield Technology] information to Chevron’s talent. It is certainly one of the most successful summer activities in the [CiSoft] lab.”

Out of the seven teams competing, this year’s first place went to a team in Lafayette. A team in Covington came in second, and a team in Bakersfield was awarded third place.