

gram. It is the only interactive computer-based program that has full IADC WellCAP approval, according to Ms Sauvage. The web-based version is in beta testing presently and the company hopes to launch the commercial version by the beginning of 2005.

"The student will be able to select the type of certification he wants to receive, for example, WellCAP training," Ms Sauvage said, "and the program will build the course based on the options he elected to take."

When he completes the course he takes a test that is processed at WCS's office, and if he passes he receives a certificate of successful completion. The test is also taken via the Internet. The student can take the course at his own pace. If they choose the full course covering drilling and well control, it generally takes five days with 8-hour days.

WCS has offered its System 21 interactive computer-based program for several years but this method forced the company to be in the hardware business as well, since it supplied the laptop computers that contained the preinstalled programs.

Being able to take well control courses via the Internet has several advantages, Ms Sauvage noted. The biggest value is the fact that crew change does not become an issue. The crew can complete their training while they are on the rig or platform, and at their own pace, and won't have to use some of their off time to train.

Another advantage, she said, is that companies won't have to fly the crew to the schools, which eliminates the expense of staying in a hotel, meals and other travel-related expenses during training.

Still another advantage is being able to continue the course at a later time if the student is called away to take care of other business.

For example, if a student is in the middle of the course and he is called away to take care of a situation he can continue the course where he left several days or weeks later.

The System 21 computer and web-based curriculum is offered in English and Spanish, with a Portuguese version possibly being offered in the future. ■

DRILLING CONTRACTOR



IADC CONNECTION

IADC Houston Chapter goes all out with engineering scholarships



Texas A&M IADC Houston Chapter scholarship recipients pictured with petroleum engineering department head Dr Stephen A Holditch (far left). Standing (from left) are Cecil Shipman, Mark Cooper, David Miertschin, Frank Belveal, Doug Dreher and Kristen Schrag. Shown seated are (from left) Paul Ryza and Payton Lumpkin.

THE IADC HOUSTON CHAPTER

distributed \$87,000 in scholarships to 27 petroleum engineering university students for the 2004-2005 school year, including 24 individual \$3,000 scholarships. For the first time, the chapter awarded \$5,000 grants to 3 universities for deserving freshmen interested in petroleum engineering. The 3 universities are Texas A&M, University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University.

The IADC Houston Chapter funds its annual scholarship program primarily from revenues generated by its annual golf tournament, typically held in mid-September. ■

IADC Houston Chapter dinner, dance and silent auction will benefit school for children with disabilities

THE ANNUAL IADC HOUSTON Chapter Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction will be held 4 Feb 2005 at the West-in Oaks Hotel in Houston. The Chapter is seeking support for the silent auction. The entire proceeds will once again benefit the **T H Rogers Middle School** for children with disabilities. Last year, IADC Houston Chapter was able to donate \$40,000 to the school. The Chapter will be contacting companies and

King, Ray receive 2004 IADC Distinguished Service Awards



From left are IADC President Lee Hunt, Charles H "Buddy" King and Donald Ray.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS of the IADC Distinguished Service Award are Charles H "Buddy" King, Vice President-Special Projects, Noble Drilling (retired), and Donald R Ray, Executive Vice President-QHSE, Transocean Inc (retired).

Mr Ray strongly supported and guided the IADC Offshore Operations Division for many years. He also represented IADC and the offshore drilling industry on the US Coast Guard's National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) from 1995 through 2002.

Mr King formed and managed Noble Engineering & Development as a fully owned division of Noble Drilling to develop drilling technology and technology products. He holds several drilling-related patents, and assisted in the formation of a tubular expansion Joint Industry Project (JIP). ■

vendors for donations to the silent auction. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the **Just Like Us Fund** that helps children at the TH Rogers Middle School.

For more information or to donate to the event and the silent auction, contact **Jim Nowotny**, Atwood Oceanics, at 281-749-7855, or **Paul Kessler**, Nabors Offshore, at 281-775-4837. ■