



**Kermit E. Brown**, a noted authority on artificial lift and a recent recipient of the *JPT* Legends of Production and Operations award, died 10 December 2009.

Brown spent many years in teaching and mentored numerous students and colleagues. During his teaching career, Brown's positions ranged from assistant professor and later associate professor in the Petroleum Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Austin beginning in 1955 to his retirement as professor in the Petroleum Engineering Department at the University of Tulsa in 1990.

Brown began teaching petroleum engineering courses in the mid-1950s at the University of Texas at Austin at the same time he began work on his MS degree. He also had experience in the oil and gas industry. Brown worked as a petroleum engineer for Stanolind Oil and Gas Company and Garrett Oil Tools. He also worked for the US Atomic Energy Commission as a research engineer. In 1956, when he was a gas-lift engineering consultant, he began writing portions of the *Gas Lift Manual*, a publication that would change how the industry viewed that technology. He also worked as a research consultant in the areas of gas lift and multiphase flow for Otis Engineering during the 1950s and 1960s.

Brown joined the University of Tulsa's faculty in 1966 as professor and head of the Petroleum Engineering Department as well as associate dean of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. He later became vice president of Research and chairman of the Resources Engineering Division. Brown was responsible for creating a PhD program in petroleum engineering at the university. He also developed the idea of a consortium in which oil companies contributed small amounts of money every year to the university and the faculty and students con-

ducted research of interest to the industry. The university started its first research program, the Tulsa University Drilling Research Projects, in 1966.

Brown wrote numerous books on artificial-lift methods as well as many technical papers that were published in SPE journals. He viewed the books that he published as his major accomplishment. Among them are *Gas Lift Theory and Practice* and *The Technology of Artificial Lift Methods*.

Brown was soon viewed as the gas-lift authority in the industry, and he credited his book *The Technology of Artificial Lift Methods—Volume 4: Production Optimization of Oil and Gas Wells by Nodal Systems Analysis* as one of the most important efforts in which he was involved.

In addition to his publications, Brown created the Hagedorn-Brown vertical flow correlation, which is still used today. He also introduced the concept of nodal analysis in the 1980s and initiated a research model. Last October, Brown was honored as one of eight recipients of the *JPT* Legends of Production and Operations award at the 2009 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans.

Brown had been an active SPE member since 1948, serving on numerous committees and guiding several SPE sections. He was chairman of the Balcones Section during 1965–66, an executive committee member of the Mid-Continent Section in 1968, and served on the SPE Board of Directors during 1970–71.

Among Brown's many honors and awards was the SPE John Franklin Carll Award that he received in 1983. Brown also became an SPE Distinguished Member in 1983 and an Honorary Member in 1990. He became a member of the US National Academy of Engineering in 1987.

Brown earned a BS degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University and a PhD degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Between his studies, he served as a World War II pilot.