

## Life as a Graduate Student in Qatar

By Ding Zhu

When Trevor Gibbs and Nathan Miller decided to move to petroleum engineering as graduate students, they might have expected to see the world through the industry. But they didn't expect their studies at Texas A&M to take them halfway around the world before they graduated. It did—and Trevor already has an offer from Maersk-Qatar to stay in Doha, Qatar, as a result of it.

Both Trevor and Nathan are taking advantage of continuing study for their master of science research projects at the Texas A&M–Qatar (TAMUQ) campus at Education City in Doha; both expect to graduate in December 2009. Because TAMUQ is a branch campus of the flagship university in College Station, their diplomas will be from the main campus. Their research into applications of intelligent completions in horizontal and multilateral gas wells is funded by the Qatar Foundation as part of its Qatar National Research Funding Program. The project is aimed at helping to efficiently develop the world's largest gas field.

After working together to set up a commercial reservoir simulator in the department, Trevor has developed genetic algorithms to optimize reservoir development in a defined reservoir; Nathan has focused on gas production, including the effects of well structure, non-Darcy flow, and reservoir properties on well performance.

"This project has helped me build a solid foundation in petroleum engineering fundamentals, and has helped me to improve my critical thinking. I consider myself lucky to have had an opportunity to work on a project funded by QNRF under the supervision of Dr. Nasrabadi and Dr. Zhu," said Nathan. "Dr. Nasrabadi has been extremely helpful with many of my questions on the research project throughout the year I have been in Doha."

In Qatar, they work in the beautiful, year-old Texas A&M building, which houses four TAMU engineering departments at Education City: petroleum, mechanical, chemical, and electrical and computer. They live in comfortable, furnished apartments provided by the university, with utilities including internet connections included. Meals in the Education City cafeteria are tasty and inexpensive, so Trevor eats there twice a day. In addition to a transportation allowance to ride the bus or call a cab to get to the campus, they receive paid vacation time and travel assistance to visit families in Texas over the winter break.

"One of my favorite things to do in Doha is to play golf on the Doha Championship Golf Course. The course is in great shape, and is challenging enough for professional tournaments to be held there each December," Nathan said.

The adventure hasn't been all just work, either. "Not only have we gotten to come halfway around the world to study, but we have also been presented with the opportunity to observe how the industry operates in the Middle East, we have gotten to experience a new culture, and we have been allowed to travel during holidays," Nathan said.

“One of my favorite things about being in Doha is that I have had the opportunity to travel to places I never would have had the chance to if I had stayed in College Station. Studying in Doha has given me the chance to expand my horizons both academically and socially.”

During school breaks, they have traveled to nearby countries including Oman, Turkey, Egypt and Jordan, where they helped 15 high school students from Doha distribute two goats and 31 boxes of food to local school children and helped paint a local school.

They were both key players on the Aggie basketball team, which won tournaments within Education City and at the regional level—an opportunity they recognize they would never have had on the big campus in College Station. Living, working, and volunteering in the Education City community has broadened their understanding of the cultures and traditions of the Middle East.

Recently, Nathan learned read and write Arabic. He wrote the Emir and Her Highness (The King and Queen of Qatar) a letter in Arabic to tell them how much he enjoys his stay in Doha. Her Highness wrote back to Nathan and expressed appreciation of him being a part of her vision and Education City (See attached).

Q NRF is continuing to support projects, and the faculties on both campuses are continuing to develop projects together, eventually to lead to full delivery of the MS degree in Qatar. Students interested in the graduate study-abroad opportunity can contact Dr. Holditch for additional information.



Welcome to Education City



Play Ball



Trevor with Drs. Hill, Zhu, Fahes and Nasrabadi



Nathan in his research office



Engineering Building



Recreation Center

حصونة صاحب السمو الشيخ حمد بن خليفة آل ثاني  
حضرة صاحبة السمو الشيخة موزة بنت ناصر السدي

تحية هنية ربه

اسمي نايشن هيلز عمري 24 عاماً وأنا أمريكي من بلدة صحير في تكساس ندمي اتيين. أتوجه إلى حضر تكم اليوم بهذه الكلمات كي اسير عن شكري وتقديري للفرصة التي منحونيها. فرصة ان اتي لدراسة الهندسة في جامعة A&M في قطر ضمن المدينة التعليمية. منذ ان وصلت إلى قطري شير أغسطس، وخلال اقامتي هناك لم اردد الا احراماً، اعجاباً بفيادتكم ووبيلدكم وتفانكم. حتى ان المر سألته التي اكتبها اليكم اليوم ثاني سيات حازلي الفسترة تنظم اللغة العربية أثناء وجودي في الدولة.

اسمحوا لي ان اشكر كم على وجاء الضو صر لنا شيلون في المجال التربوي في اتيادتكم في التعليم هي التي وفرت لي فرصة العمل على بحوث الهندسة النفطية. ومن خلال "الصدوق الخبري نر عالية البحت الفعلي" سرني ان احصر مشرو عابحياً بعنوان "استخدام البئر العامودية و المتعددة الا طراف مع عناصر الانعام الذكي لتطور بر حقول عار في قطر". ومن شأن هذا المنشور ع ان يو فر لقطر مكانة مضمرة في مجال المشورات البحتية كما و معرفة متوايدة لجهة كتيبة ادارتها لمواردنا الطبيعية المد هذا.

يا صاحب السمو، شكراً لفيادتكم التي لادو ذوي التميز في قطر والعالم أجمع؛  
و يا صاحبة السمو، شكراً لاندو ميين نده من خلال ششنتك مصنعتي رئيسر  
مجلس ادار، سو مسرة قطر للتربية و التطور و نتيجة المجتمع و نائب رئيسر  
المجلس الاعلى للتعليم.

من خلال دراستي في جامعة A&M قطر، فحضر، و عدت علاقتي  
بالطلاب القطريين الذين تعرفت اليهم و احببتهم، و فهمت عمق الرؤيا  
التي تحملونها لجهة تعزيز التعليم في بلدكم و العالم. و بات ذلك من  
بين الاسباب التي سددت عني الي ابناء مشروعي السخفي هذا الصيف ثم  
الاسفال السنة المقبلة من هنا عد الطلبة الي صفوف المدرسين هذا في قطر  
السنة المقبلة، سوف ابدأ بالتدريس في مختبرات الهندسة النفطية في  
المدينة التعليمية.

لهذا كله، اكرر لكم احر عبارات الشكر. لكم انا مدين ببدء الشرح و بملأ  
في الامم و الحداثة بأن اسهم بدوري في مسيرة تعلم انفسنا و الاممات في  
قطر، كي ينصروا في المنفصل الشريب الي ركب القادة الامميين في هياكل  
الدراسة و الصناعة.

و بفضلوا بقبول، فأسو الاحترام،

تايفن سبتر

معلمة



His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani  
Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned

My name is Nathan Miller and I am a 24 year old American from a small town in Texas called Abilene. My purpose for writing you today is to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to come study engineering at Texas A&M University Qatar in Education City. I have been living in Qatar since August and during the course of my stay here in Doha I have come to respect and admire many things about your leadership, your country, and your culture here in Qatar. In fact, the letter I write you today, is a continuous pursuit of mine to try to learn the Arabic language during my stay in Doha.

I want to thank you for your leadership in education. Your leadership in education has allowed me to come work on research in petroleum engineering. Through the Qatar National Research Fund, I have had the pleasure of working on a research project entitled, "Using Horizontal and Multilateral Well with Intelligent Completion to Develop Gas Fields in Qatar." This project has the ability to provide great value to Qatar in research publications and increased knowledge of how to handle Qatar's wonderful supply of natural resources.

His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, thank you for pursuing excellence in your leadership over Qatar and throughout the entire world. Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, thank you for serving as the Chairperson of Qatar Foundation and for serving as Vice Chair of the Supreme Education Council.

As a graduate student at Texas A&M Qatar, I have come to love many of the Qatari students I have come into contact with. I have also come to respect the vision you both have for educating your country and the world. It is partly due to these two reasons, that I will finish up my research this summer, and transition from a student in education to a teacher in education next year in Qatar. Next year I will begin teaching students in petroleum engineering laboratories here in Education City.

So for all of this, I want to say thank you. I am grateful to have experienced this amazing opportunity, and I look forward to helping teach young Qatari men and women how to become great leaders in education and industry in the near future.

Nathan Miller



HH Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Mised  
رئيسة مجلس الإدارة  
The Chairperson

القوس في لندن من أغسطس ٢٠٠٩ م

المختبر،

السيد / نايف ميلر

الطالب بجامعة تكساس بي أند أم في قطر

تحية طيبة وبعد،،

لقد أسعنتني بحضرتكم كثيراً، وزاد سعادي صدور هذا الخطاب من شاب طموح لم تعد المسافة البعيدة التي تفصل وطنه عن قطر لإختيار الدراسة والتعلم بالبراعة. إن مشروع المدينة التعليمية يردد قوة وقيمة بثقة الشباب المتميز فيه، ذلك الشباب الذي يضيء بحبرته وثقافته وقناعاته بعداً كونياً عن هذا المشروع ويضعه في سياق الإنساني العابر للثقافات.

أجند لكم حائض الشكر متمنية لكم التوفيق والنجاح في دراستكم وفي تعلمكم اللغة العربية.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير،،

هودة بنت ناصر المستند

رئيس مجلس الإدارة



مكتب مجلس الإدارة Board Management Office

الطبعة في السابع عشر من اكتوبر 2009

المحترم،

السيد/ فاين ميلر

الطالب بجامعة تكساس إي أند أم في قطر

تحية طيبة وبعد،،،

عطفًا على رسالتكم الموجهة لصاحبة السمو الشريفة موزة بنت ناصر المسند، رئيس مجلس الإدارة،  
-يحفظها الله- مرفق بكم خطاب شكر ردًا على رسالتكم المعبرة لسموها.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير،،،

شعب سعاد الكواري  
مكروير مجلس الإدارة بالإنابة