



## Ross B. Matthews Professorship in Petroleum Engineering

Dr. John Fanchi arrived at Texas Christian University this year with plans for achieving new things within the College of Science and Engineering. By becoming the inaugural holder of the Ross B. Matthews Professorship in Petroleum Engineering, he's already off to a good start.

Fanchi is an established scholar in the field of energy education. He has worked for Marathon Oil Company, Chevron Energy and the Colorado School of Mines, where he spent eight years teaching, researching and developing courses. He has also written eight books on such subjects as reservoir engineering, flow modeling and energy technologies. Now Fanchi looks forward to transferring his vast expertise to students with equally vast backgrounds and interests.

"The nice thing about TCU is that we have the ability to broaden the market and educate people from several disciplines," Fanchi said. "I think it certainly makes things better and more interesting when you can reach out to a larger group of students."

With that in mind, Fanchi is currently teaching a wide range of people. In addition to petroleum engineering, he teaches other energy-related courses for engineering students and those who minor in energy technology through the Energy Institute. He is also working with geology faculty to develop a new course for geology majors, which will be available in the 2010-2011 academic year. Included in these endeavors are plans to enhance all of his courses by involving guest speakers who can pass along first-hand knowledge and present networking opportunities.

Dr. Ken Morgan, director of the Energy Institute and associate dean of the College of Science and Engineering, fully recognizes the value of having Fanchi on the faculty and appreciates the ways in which he is collaborating with others to elevate the program.



*Office of Donor Relations*

“His willingness to work across departments and programs is proving to be a great asset as we continue to place new emphasis on petroleum and energy engineering,” Morgan said.

Fanchi also wants to work outside of the classroom to reach the rest of the TCU community, the general public and local energy companies. As he sees it, there is a demand among all affected constituents for improved energy education, and fulfilling that demand is a large part of why he was hired.

“Local industry, especially, wants people to be exposed to the field, and that’s part of what my work as the Matthews Professor represents,” Fanchi said. “There is a gap of understanding there that needs to be filled, and I’m looking forward to helping in that effort.”