Competition, where they placed.

The team was one of 36 competing from a pool of 124 teams who tried out. The competition was in a quiz-bowl format and consisted of a series of rounds with various questions.

According to Como, the questions asked can be about anything related to the oil and gas industry.

"They can ask technical questions about drilling (and) technical questions about production," said Como. "They can ask questions about who's the CEO of oil at Shell, or when and where was the first oil well drilled."

Petroleum engineering students traveled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the PetroBowl Championship Competition, where they placed both nationally and internationally.

Stephen Au, senior; Benjamin Como, senior; Gordon Guillory, senior; Brandon Salazar, senior; and Nicholas Jarrett, a graduate student in geology, placed first in North America and second in the world.

"We have me, who is more of a technical person in reference to drilling, Nick who is really good at geology and history as well as Gordon, who is good at drilling and completions. "And Stephen is good at everything," he added jokingly.

Au, senior and team captain, also discussed the importance of the team having a wide range of knowledge for the competition. When talking about preparations for the competition, he explained the team members were each assigned a set of topics they considered specialties.

"We also made sure that any single person's specialties overlapped slightly, ensuring that multiple people knew some facets," Au said.

According to Au, the primary way the team prepared was by meeting up weekly to review and study material. The team mainly studied what Au created and called the "PetroBowl Bible," a compilation of hundreds of potential PetroBowl questions.

Como attributed the team's success to team members being knowledgeable in a variety of areas.

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Au said his most memorable experience in Dubai was meeting the president of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Nathan Meehan of Baker Hughes.

“I had the amazing opportunity to network and connect with some of the best and brightest in oil and gas,” said Au. “That privilege is absolutely priceless.”

Au and Como said the most rewarding part of being members of the PetroBowl team this year was being able to bring the prestigious title back to the university.

“You know UL is definitely not the biggest college in the U.S., but to beat, you know, some of the top petroleum schools in the world says a lot about UL and a lot about our team,” Como said.

Au agreed.

“To have such an amazing level of success is almost unprecedented at UL,” he said, “and it brings me much joy to bring it to the petroleum engineering department, as well.”

DEAN
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under James Henderson’s, Ph.D, provost leadership.

“The dean of the college at the time retired, and I was asked to serve as the interim dean of General Studies,” DeCuir said.

DeCuir took the position of interim dean in 2012. The University College has been without a dean for two years, so DeCuir, along with two other associate deans, Gail Bonhomme, Ph.D., and Ryan Teten, Ph.D., have collectively assisted in running the department.

“These associate dean positions were created to work under her for the good of the University College,” Teten said.

The associate dean positions are newly created positions as of August, after the dean position was filled. In the spring, the search for a dean was completed.

“July 1, I was offered the position of University College dean,” DeCuir said, “and it became official with the board’s approval.

“The decisions that I would make as dean would, in fact, impact students, and because I see this role as one that is student-centered, I want to be where I have the most impact.”