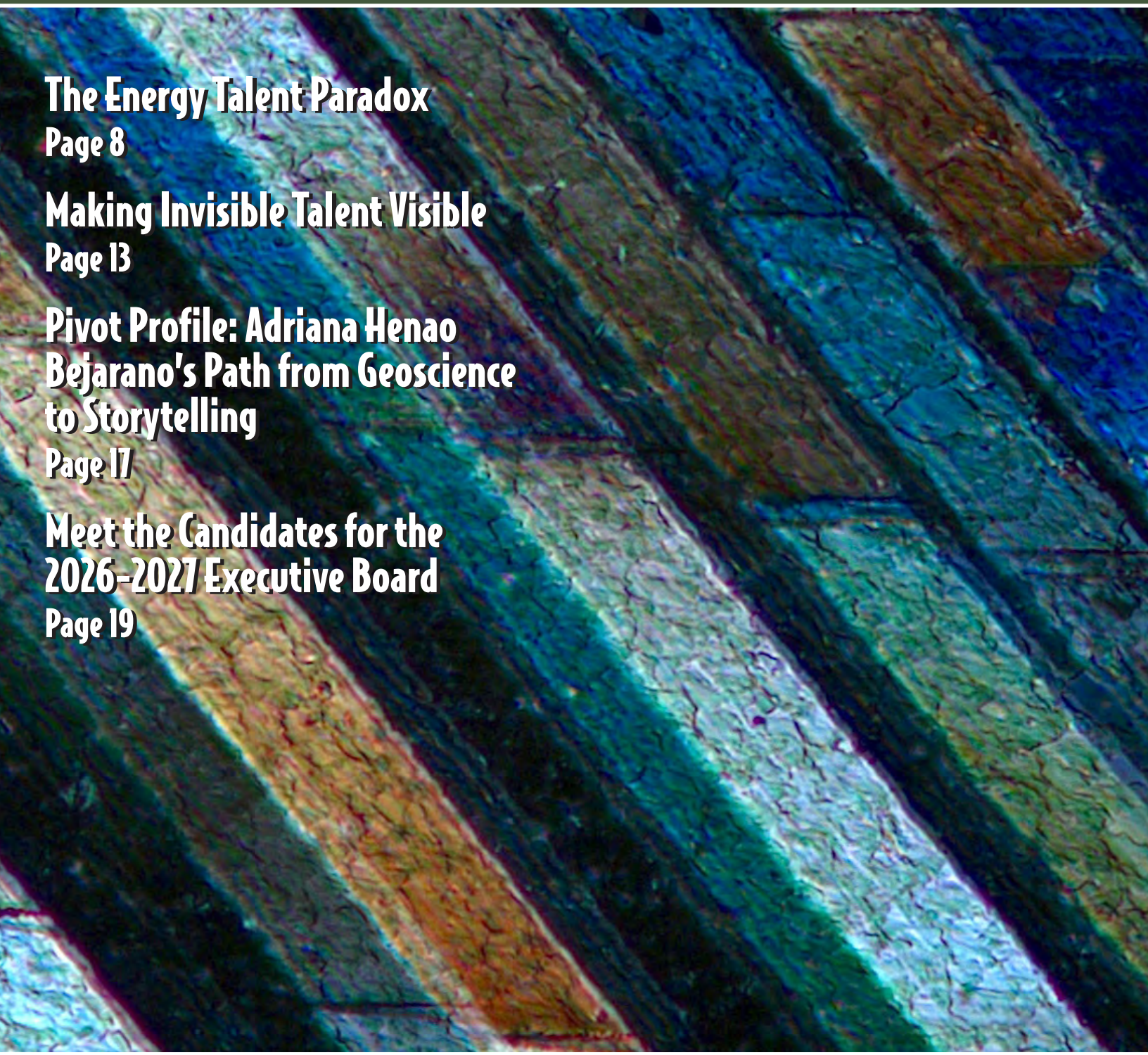
HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin

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Houston Geological Society
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About the Cover: *This month's cover features a photomicrograph of a thin section highlighting twinning within a calcite crystal in marble. The striking interference colors of the twinning under cross-polarized light (XPL) echo this month's GeoPicks. Image courtesy of MicROCKscopica.*

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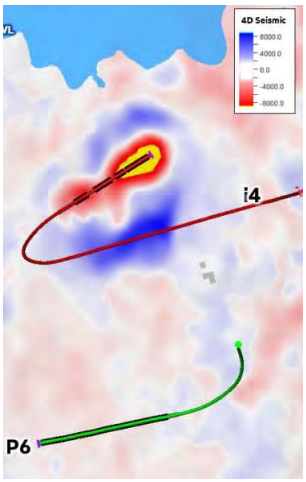
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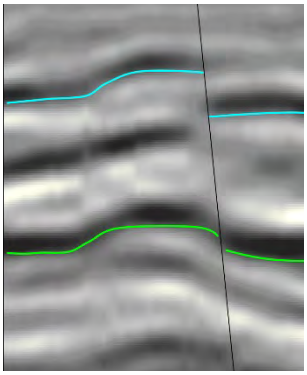
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Patty Walker, HGS President 2025-26
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Launching Our New Digital Front Door

DEAR HGS MEMBERS,

This redesign has been a long time coming—and now, we are here. I am proud to share the launch this month of the Houston Geological Society's newly redesigned website, a major step forward in how we connect, engage, and deliver value to our members, partners, and the broader geoscience community. This milestone reflects the commitment of two HGS Boards who recognized the need and worked together to bring this new website to its members.

This new website is more than a visual refresh. It represents a thoughtful investment in accessibility, functionality, and connection. As our profession continues to evolve, so too must the ways we engage, communicate, and provide value to our members. Our goal was simple: create a modern, intuitive platform that makes it easier for you to access the resources, programs, and opportunities that define HGS.

Whether you are registering for events, exploring technical content, connecting with committees, or learning about ways to get involved, the new site is designed with you in mind. We have streamlined navigation, improved mobile usability, and created clearer pathways for members, students, and prospective geoscientists to engage with our Society.

Importantly, the new website also strengthens how we tell our story. It highlights the depth of our technical programming, the impact of our outreach and scholarship efforts, and the vital role our volunteers play in sustaining this organization. It is a platform that better reflects who we are today—and where we are going.

This launch would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our website working group, volunteers, and staff who contributed their time, ideas, and expertise to bring this vision to life. Their work ensures that HGS remains a relevant, accessible, and valuable resource for our community.

Our new digital front door is opening. I invite you to step inside, explore what's new, and take full advantage of everything HGS has to offer.

Now, I encourage you to take the next step: visit the new website, explore its features, and make it part of your regular HGS experience. Register for an upcoming event, discover new resources, reconnect with committees, or find a new way to get involved. Your engagement is what brings this platform to life.

As with any new platform, this is just the beginning. We will continue to refine and expand the site's capabilities, and your feedback is essential. Let us know what works well and what potentially doesn't, what could be improved, and what you would like to see next. Your input will help us continue to improve and ensure the site meets the needs of our diverse membership.

Our new digital front door is opening. I invite you to step inside, explore what's new, and take full advantage of everything HGS has to offer.

In addition, the new website creates new opportunities for sponsorship and visibility. We invite companies and partners to showcase their organizations while supporting HGS programs, scholarships, and outreach efforts. If your organization is interested in being part of this next chapter, we encourage you to explore the sponsorship opportunities available on the site.. ■



Lucia Torrado, HGS editor 2025-26
editor@hgs.org

Breaking Barriers, Making Talent Visible

Ten years ago, while volunteering at the HGS booth at the GSA Annual Meeting, I found myself standing next to the International Association for Geoscience Diversity's booth. They had produced tactile 3D models of geologic blocks, designed so that geologists with visual impairments could explore fault and deformation styles by touch. Holding these blocks in my hands was a humbling reminder that accessibility in our field can take many forms: from how we visualize data to how we teach, communicate, and mentor. Whether through inclusive teaching tools or career support, the principle is the same—small, intentional actions can make talent and potential visible.

This idea of visibility and access also applies in the workplace. Companies often struggle to find talent while qualified professionals remain overlooked—a challenge called the "energy talent paradox." Adriana Henao's article, The Energy Talent Paradox, explores the barriers professionals face in finding opportunities. Building on that conversation, Julio Monsalve highlights a mentoring program that helps professionals translate skills into impact, build relationships, and navigate careers, showing how targeted, intentional interventions can make talent visible and opportunities more equitable.

Volunteering is a way to break barriers as well. Debbie Caperton recounts the creative ways HGS volunteers bring geoscience to K–12 students, inspiring curiosity and future careers. These hands-on outreach efforts demonstrate that even thoughtful interventions can leave a lasting impact—showing students, volunteers, and professionals alike that visibility and engagement matter.

Even the details we might take for granted can influence accessibility. This month's GeoPick explores color-blind–friendly palettes that make maps, seismic figures, and classroom materials more inclusive. Sometimes, the barriers in our profession are complex and systemic. Other times, they start with something as simple as the colors we choose—yet the effect is the same: small design choices can either open doors or create obstacles.

Finally, we're excited to announce the launch of our new HGS website, designed to be accessible and welcoming to all. From mentoring to outreach to inclusive visualization, the work we do as a community matter because it opens doors and makes geoscience more visible, understandable, and equitable.

As always, I invite the HGS community to share your thoughts, experiences, and feedback as we explore these topics together.

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

• **The Energy Talent Paradox**
In this feature article, Adriana Henao examines why the energy sector struggles to connect with the professionals it needs. Using real-world profiles, the article shows how diverse career paths and skills often go unrecognized, and highlights the need for communication, collaboration, and adaptability to make talent visible and actionable.

• **Pivot Profile: Adriana Henao Bejarano's Journey from Geology to Storytelling**
This month's Pivot Profile details how Adriana transitioned from a technical geoscience career to copywriting and strategic communication, showing how translating technical expertise into clear, audience-focused communication can expand professional identity and open new opportunities. .

• **GeoPick: Seeing Color Clearly in Geoscience**
This month's GeoPick explores how color choices in maps, seismic data, and figures can hide information for color-blind colleagues and highlights free online tools to make geoscience clearer and more inclusive.

• **How Outreach Volunteers are Making a Difference**
Debbie Caperton highlights the HGS Educational Outreach Committee's efforts to bring geoscience to life for K–12 students and the community through school visits, museum events, hands-on workshops, and STEM challenges. All of this is possible thanks to HGS volunteers who engage hundreds of students every year.

• **Meet the 20206-2027 Board Candidates**
In this issue, you'll find the candidates' profiles, statements, and information to help you make an informed choice. All members are encouraged to participate and cast their votes: your voice matters in shaping the future of the society. ■

Erratum In the March 2026 issue, three section headers in the article Scholarship Nights (pages 54–56) were inadvertently mixed with headers from the SEFH article. The online version has been corrected. We apologize for the error.



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The Energy Talent Paradox

Why Companies Cannot Find Talent while Talent Cannot Find Work

By Adriana Henao

7:47 IN THE MORNING.
The coffee is getting cold. Again.

You have been reviewing job postings for weeks. Today one makes you stop. They are asking for exactly what you know how to do: the tools you have mastered, the area where you have grown, the experience you have built. For the first time in a long time, you feel like you fit. You apply. You wait. Silence.

Does this sound familiar?

If you work in oil and gas or geosciences, you probably know this ritual. That feeling of sending your resume into a void. Of knowing you have the knowledge, the experience, the drive, and still not being seen.

Here is something no one tells you: the problem is not you. The problem is that no one can see you.

THE NUMBERS THAT DO NOT ADD UP
The energy sector is not empty of opportunities. It is full of filters.

The International Energy Agency's World Energy Employment 2025 report shows that global energy employment reached 76 million people in 2024, growing approximately 2.2%, nearly double the rate of the broader global economy. In the United States, the sector employs 8.5 million people, representing 5.4% of total national employment. And yet, the same reports describe a talent gap.

The American Geosciences Institute projects that between one quarter and one third of the current geoscience workforce will retire before 2030, potentially leaving a deficit of more than one hundred thousand full-time equivalent geoscientists. Enrollment in geoscience programs in the United States has fallen approximately 30 percent since its peak around 2015, according to data cited by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

The paradox is precise: a sector that says it cannot find the professionals it needs, while thousands of qualified professionals cannot find their way into it.

The disconnect does not happen because the talent is absent. It happens because the talent is invisible to the processes designed to find it. And that invisibility has a specific shape, one that shows up differently depending on where you are in your career.

THE PROFILES THE SYSTEM CANNOT PLACE
The following situations are not hypothetical. They represent real and recurring segments of the geoscience workforce in transition. Each one reveals a different layer of the same structural problem.

• If you are just starting out.
You graduated with the most current skills. You are eager to prove what you can do. But every entry-level position asks for three to five years of experience. You apply anyway. The response arrives in seconds: "Thank you for your interest, but..." And you wonder whether your degree meant anything.

• If you chose to specialize.
You completed a doctorate. That means you managed complex projects almost independently: timelines, analysis, models, writing, presentations, and rigorous standards. It is real experience. But the response you hear is: "Your studies are impressive, but we are not sure whether you are junior, mid, or senior. If you fit somewhere, we will call." As if the knowledge that does not fit their categories simply does not count.

• If you became "too expensive."
Twenty-five years of experience. Teams across three continents. Projects worth hundreds of millions. And now? "We are looking for someone earlier in their career." Translation: someone who costs less. Suddenly you are too good for the positions that exist, and invisible to the ones you could transform.

• If you are trying to return.
You left the industry, not by choice: a layoff pushed you out. You tried to come back and could not. You ended up in another sector. In the meantime, you kept learning: AI, data science, programming. Skills the industry says it needs. You arrive at an interview with all of that, and they ask: "What happened during that time?" As if the pause erased you.

• If you stepped away to care for someone.
You paused your career for human reasons. Raising children. Accompanying a sick parent. No one asks how you managed three schedules, a tight budget, and a family crisis without losing your footing. They only ask why there is a gap in your timeline.

• If you arrived from another country.
You landed with a solid professional history. In your home country you had a clear role, responsibilities that matched your training. Here, that capital suddenly seems invisible. You start over. You go to events, join professional societies, attend talks, hand out cards. Time passes and nothing happens. And yet, when the right opportunity appears, you deliver. Because you are not learning from zero. You are reappearing in a new context.

• If you had to reinvent yourself.
A cut, a crisis, or a project closure pushed you out. You tried to return and could not. Instead of giving up, you started adding layers: automation, data science, programming. Or you discovered you are also good at selling, connecting, explaining. You became a consultant, a business developer, something else entirely. Reinventing yourself is not forgetting what you were. It is accepting that a career is not always a straight line.

• If you changed how you contribute without letting go of your technical core.
You did not abandon geology, engineering, or energy. You changed the angle from which you contribute. You moved toward technical communication, training, or strategic analysis. You still think like a geoscientist or engineer, but now you help others understand, decide, and act better. It is not a shortcut. It is another form of impact.

These eight profiles help explain why the paradox persists. It is not that talent is missing. It is that talent does not always fit the molds we are still using to measure it. Career trajectories became more diverse, more human, more complex. But hiring processes still expect straight lines.

WHAT THIS REVEALS ABOUT THE PROFESSION

Across all eight situations, one pattern holds: the professional's value exists. The mechanism for making it visible to the right audience does not.

Gonzales and Keane, writing in Geosphere in 2020, identified communication, collaboration, and adaptability as critical competencies for geoscientists, skills the discipline acknowledges as necessary but does not systematically develop. The IEA has similarly noted that the ability to attract and retain skilled workers will be a determining factor in the pace of the energy transition. The technical knowledge is not the limiting variable. The ability to translate that knowledge across organizational and disciplinary boundaries is.

The talent gap in geosciences is real. But it is being measured at the wrong level. What is missing is not only professionals. What is missing is the infrastructure, inside both individuals and organizations, to make existing expertise legible and actionable.

Addressing this requires the profession to reconsider what it recognizes as legitimate experience, how it evaluates nonlinear careers, and whether the tools it uses to identify talent are actually measuring what matters for performance. The energy transition will demand more geoscientists, not fewer. The question is whether the profession can close the gap between the talent it has and the talent it can see. ■

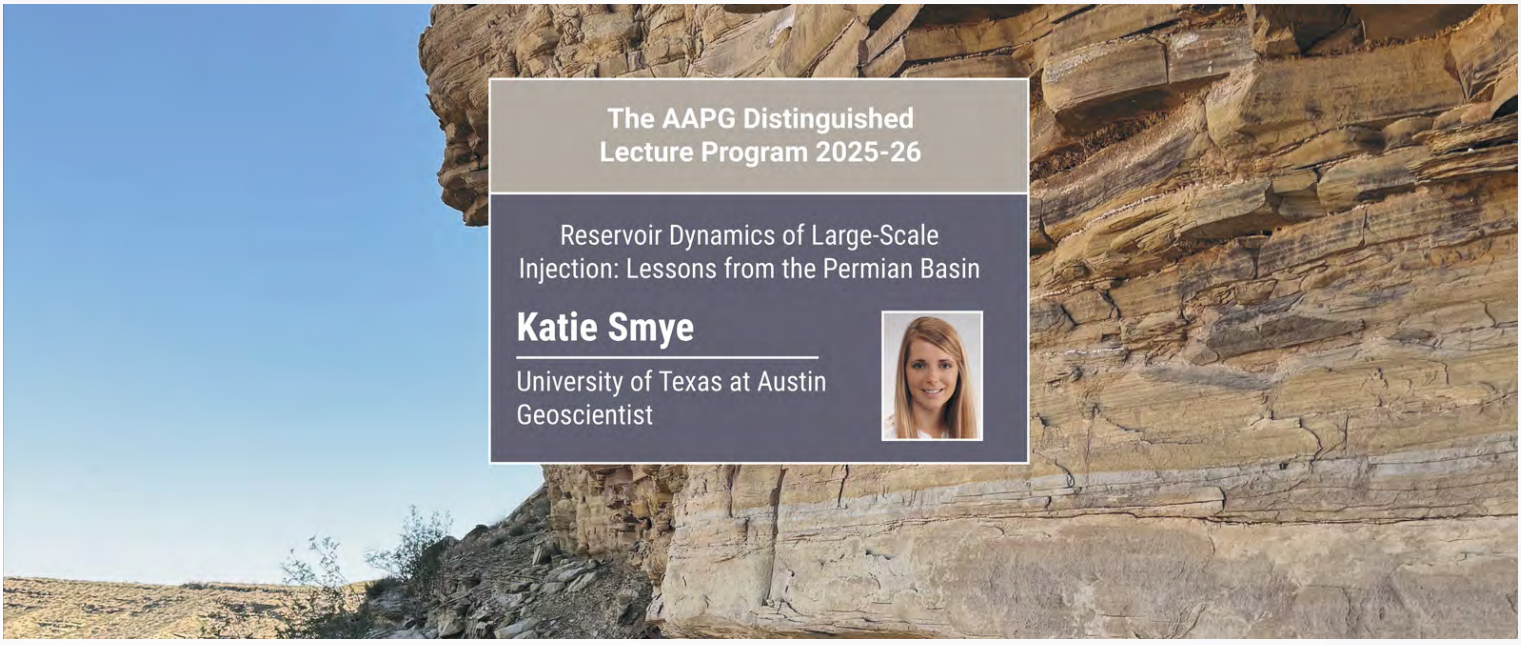
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Adriana Henao Bejarano holds a PhD in Sedimentology and Basin Analysis. Her technical background spans seismic interpretation, reservoir characterization, and stratigraphic modeling across offshore and onshore environments, including work with Petrobras in the Santos Basin. She also works as a technical copywriter, helping energy companies and geoscience professionals communicate complex knowledge with clarity and strategic intent. She is based in Missouri City, Texas. linkedin.com/in/adriana-henao-bejarano

HGS GENERAL DINNER

Reservoir Dynamics of Large-Scale Injection: Lessons from the Permian Basin

This lecture draws on integrated data and models spanning surface to basement, to examine how large-scale injection drives changes in pressure and stress, resulting in geomechanical challenges. We will explore the geologic controls on injection-induced hazards, highlight the importance of monitoring and data integration, and offer lessons for safely managing large-scale injections in other basins globally.



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HGS General Lunch

WAG'ing the dog: Engineered signals to calibrate 4D expectations at Liza, Offshore Guyana

The 2022-23 Stabroek OBN campaign included surveys over five development areas in offshore Guyana between October 2022 and November 2023, beginning and ending with surveys at the Liza field. The first survey denoted Liza node zero (N0) is intended as a seafloor 4D baseline, although at Liza, the only pre-production seismic data is from streamer surveys prior to the 2019 field startup. The second survey, Liza N1, provided our first look at seafloor 4D data in Guyana. Key objectives of N1 were focused on understanding the types and strengths of 4D signal available for interpretation and reservoir management - not only for Liza, but also for informing monitoring plans for the four other current Stabroek development areas. Understanding the detectability of 4D signals related to changes in pressure and fluid, especially water alternating gas (WAG) was an objective to inform monitoring frequency and data quality needs going forward.

April 22, 2026
11:30am - 1:00pm
Woodside Energy
1500 Post Oak Blvd.
Houston, TX 77056

Members: $30
Non-Members: $35
Students: $25

REGISTER NOW



Kirk Wagenvelt

HGS Virtual Talk

What's Next After the Permian: Time for Exploration Again?

Tight oil production accounted for 68 percent of the total 13.6 million barrels of oil per day produced in the U.S. during 2025. The Permian Basin is the leading tight oil producing region in the world with 6.5 million barrels a day produced in 2025. However, the Permian Basin is showing signs of declining production growth leading many to forecast peak oil rates within the next few years. Production from the other U.S. tight oil basins have not recovered from their pre-Covid peaks in 2019. Increased exploration investment will be required to bring on new supply with current world oil demand of 103 million barrels per day not expected to decline at least through 2050 based on multiple forecast scenarios. There are several tight oil and gas plays in the U.S. that have not been adequately explored and tested with modern horizontal drilling and multistage hydraulic fracture stimulation technology that could lead to new discoveries to help meet future projected oil demand. This review focuses on source rock reservoir and hybrid source rock play types that are characterized by proven source rocks in the Michigan Basin, Williston Basin, Green River Basin, and the Great Basin, and a pure frontier play in the South Georgia Basin.

April 29, 2026

11:30am - 12:30pm

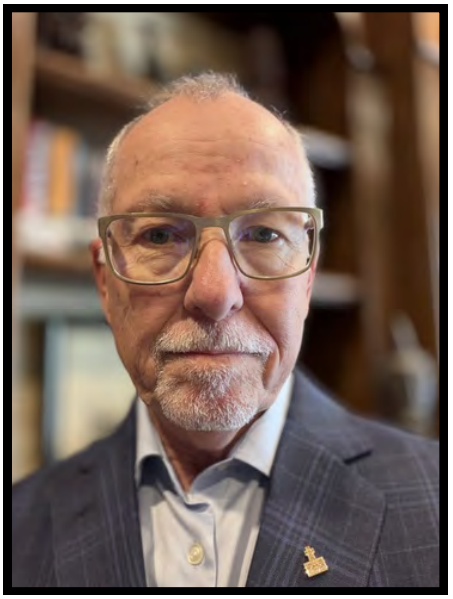
Zoom

Members: $20

Non-Members: $25

Students: $15

REGISTER NOW



Wayne Camp

Making Invisible Talent Visible: A Fresh Perspective

By Julio Monsalve

You enter the video call a few minutes early. The screen still shows your own face: a student in the last year of university, a migrant starting again, a professional trying to return after a layoff.

You have your questions ready, your personal logbook open, and the link to the next webinar bookmarked. On the other side of the call, a mentor is finishing their workday in a different time zone. For one hour every week, that distance shrinks to a conversation.

THE FAMILIAR EXPERIENCE

If you work in geosciences or energy, you may already know the feeling of sending applications into silence.

You see job descriptions asking for tools you know how to use, domains where you can contribute, and still, you are not called. You complete degrees, learn new software, keep up with the energy transition, and yet it seems no one can see you.

The paradox is cruel and familiar: companies say they cannot find talent, and at the same time, that talented people cannot find work.

FROM SHORTAGE TO INVISIBILITY

From the outside, it looks like a shortage. From the inside, it feels like invisibility.

The problem is rarely the absence of skill. It is the lack of a mechanism to translate that skill into stories, evidence, and relationships that organizations can recognize.

That mechanism does not appear automatically when you graduate or update your CV. It has to be built. Often in community. Through structured practice and honest feedback.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

What if that fresh perspective is a mentoring program that exists right where talent meets visibility?

What if, for several weeks, mentors and students or professionals meet at least one hour per week, document their conversations in a shared logbook, and work through a sequence of assignments that connect technical knowledge with skills that travel with you?

They revise CVs, map competencies, prepare webinar questions, and design career plans tailored to both their current needs and future goals. They envision a path forward, actively shaping the careers they hope to build.

WHO THIS IS FOR?

What if in a single cohort you can find many of the profiles described in the "talent paradox"? Imagine:

- The student who was told they need experience for an entry-level role.
- The PhD whose knowledge does not fit standard categories.
- The professional that is considered "too senior."
- The person returning after a pause for caregiving or migration.
- The one who had to reinvent themselves in another sector.

On paper, their paths look nonlinear, but in conversation, a clear pattern emerges: they reveal project management, resilience, intercultural communication, data expertise, and the ability to learn under pressure. In short, they possess exactly the skills that all the reports on about the energy transition say the sector will need.

THE SKILLS THAT MATTER MOST

Research in geoscience education has shown that communication, collaboration, and adaptability are essential to professional success. But they are often missing from formal training. And because of that, they remain hard to communicate with and hard to see.

The program takes this seriously. It treats these competences not as "extras" but as what the program is really about.

Each week, participants must put into words what they learned. Translate technical content from webinars into their own language. Connect it to their long-term goals.

What if mentors go beyond technical tutoring? What if they work as thinking partners, asking questions that help students name their strengths and see their weak spots differently?

THE STRUCTURE BEHIND THE PROCESS

The structure is simple but intentional.

The weekly live meeting forces both the mentor and the student to set aside time for professional growth, not just for urgent tasks. The personal logbook turns scattered conversations into a visible record of progress.

The assignment deadlines, though sometimes demanding, mirror real-world expectations and reinforce the importance of planning, communicating, and following through.

Beyond the individual level, the webinars and closing activities invite participants to see themselves as part of a larger community, thinking about the energy future and the role each one can play in a changing industry.

WHAT THIS CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE

This program does not claim to solve the structural mismatches of the energy labor market. It cannot change applicant tracking systems, compensation policies, or national regulations. What it can do is intervene where participants have the most control:

How they understand and present their own experience, how they make decisions about their next steps, and how they cultivate the relationships that open doors.

In this way, the program works as a laboratory for for clarifying and applying knowledge, starting with the individual whose career is at stake.

CLOSING THE GAP

The paradox of companies struggling to find talent while talent struggles to find work will not disappear overnight.

Yet, each time a student discovers how to tell their story more clearly.

Each time a mentor recognizes value in a nonlinear path.

And each time a professional translates technical skill into visible impact, that gap narrows.

In this sense, the program is more than mentoring—it is a shared practice of seeing, and helping others to be seen, within a profession that urgently needs all the talent it already has but has not yet fully recognized.

This perspective is grounded in VAPALinks, an active mentoring program connecting students and professionals with industry mentors across Latin America and the U.S. HGS professionals who are interested in supporting this mentorship program are encouraged to connect with Julio. Stay tuned for a follow-up on how to get involved and next steps for the program. ■

BIOGRAPHICAL. SKETCH

Julio Monsalve is a product and strategy leader in energy infrastructure with 15+ years of experience. He holds an Executive MBA and an MSc in Energy Futures. As a mentor and coordination member at VAPALinks, he helps students and professionals make their knowledge visible in a changing industry. Connect with him on LinkedIn.



HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

HGS MEMBERS $55
NON-MEMBERS $65
WALK UPS $70

Shrimp Peel AND Crawfish Boil

Friday,May 1, 2026
12:00pm - 5:00pm

NEW LOCATION! **Knights of Columbus**
607 E. Whitney St., Houston, TX 77022

REGISTER NOW

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Contact the HGS Office at
713-463-9476 OR office@hgs.org to learn more.



HGS General Lunch

Geological (White) Hydrogen: Is It Too Good to Be True?

Hydrogen production is a global market valued at approximately $150 billion and is projected to grow by more than 120% by 2030, requiring cumulative investments exceeding $300 billion. Although hydrogen is a carbon-free fuel at the point of use, most current production methods rely on fossil fuels and result in a substantial carbon footprint. In fact, the lifecycle emissions of conventional hydrogen production exceed those of natural gas and coal by approximately 20% and diesel by 60%. Green hydrogen, produced via water electrolysis using renewable energy, remains the only truly low-carbon option; however, limited renewable energy penetration and high costs constrain its scalability. Geological hydrogen - also referred to as white or gold hydrogen—has emerged as a potentially transformative energy resource.

May 20, 2026
11:30am - 1:00pm
Woodside Energy, 1500 Post Oak Blvd

Members: $30
Non-Members: $35
Students: $25

REGISTER NOW



Sharma Dronamraju
MS, MBA, PG

Pivot Profile
Beyond the Rocks: Adriana Henao Bejarano's Journey from Geology to Storytelling

By Lucia Torrado



I first reconnected with Adriana here in Houston years after we had gone to school together. Over lunch, I was equally surprised and fascinated when she told me she had transitioned from geology into copywriting and technical communication while keeping her geoscience expertise at the core. I shared my own experiences as the Bulletin editor, and we talked about the constant learning involved, a theme she echoed as a communications specialist. Adriana is such an engaging storyteller that when I looked at the clock, almost two hours had gone by and lunch had naturally turned into an early afternoon coffee. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing about her journey, and I hope you will too.

A FOUNDATION IN GEOLOGY

Adriana's journey began in a completely technical way. She started with an internship at a services company, where she learned to work with some of the most important software tools in oil and gas. That experience gave her a real sense of what geology means in exploration, working in basins Latin America, and offshore Colombia, especially in the Magdalena fan. "I still remember the seafloor map of that fan, perfectly interpreted. It was one of the most striking images of my career," she says. Projects in Brazil, including the Santos Basin and the Atapu field, followed, providing enormous technical growth.

A PIVOTING POINT IN THE CLASSROOM

At the same time, Adriana became a professor, teaching petroleum geology, structural geology, and sedimentology. It was here that a shift began. She became almost obsessed with helping students not just understand the theory but connect with it. "I kept asking myself: how do I make them love geology, not just pass the exam?" This key question turned into her "a-ha moment." She realized that translating complexity excited her as much as interpreting it. She noticed she was spending more time thinking about how to structure a message than simply transmitting data.

INTEGRATING GEOSCIENCE AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Storytelling, she emphasizes, is inherent in all human communication, yet its impact in technical fields is often underestimated. Adriana's interest deepened while working with Petrobras in the Santos Basin," I watched well-constructed models lose traction in interdisciplinary meetings because the message did not cross between disciplines," she recalls. "The geologist knew exactly what they were seeing. The reservoir engineer did not. And that gap had real consequences on drilling decisions".

After moving to Houston, Adriana trained formally in communication, UX (User Experience), and strategic writing. What began as curiosity became a conscious decision. At Imaged Reality, she worked with Claudia Ruiz, a geologist and ex-BP professional, and learned the importance of perspective in communication. "Talking about how great a brand is does not connect. What connects is understanding what the client needs, what they want, and how you can show them you have the solution to their specific problem," she says. Psychology and UX training helped her understand that perception deeply influences how people receive technical information: not only what you say, but how you organize it, prioritize it, and address the problems that matter to your audience.

Storytelling is inherent in all human communication, yet its impact in technical fields is often underestimated.

Adriana's focus on psychology may seem unconventional for a geologist, but she argues it is essential for understanding how people make decisions under uncertainty. "People are not primarily interested in who you are. They are interested in whether you can help them solve the problem they are facing within their role," she notes. Her work today reflects this philosophy, combining technical credibility with audience-centered messaging, whether writing newsletters for the energy sector or advising colleagues on professional visibility.

In an industry where personal branding has historically been undervalued, Adriana sees an opportunity for change. She has guided peers in articulating their professional narratives, helping them bridge the gap between technical expertise and strategic communication. "A LinkedIn clear profile, a description that

explains what problem you solve and not just what tools you use, can open conversations that a CV alone does not generate," she observes.

EXPANDING THE IDENTITY OF A GEOSCIENTIST

Today, Adriana combines her geoscience expertise with storytelling and communication. Balancing two professional tracks -geology and communication- has been both challenging and rewarding. She writes newsletters and develops content for the energy industry, maintaining her technical depth while making complex ideas accessible. "Translating complexity into simple and digestible concepts, without losing rigor, requires that you deeply understand both sides," she explains. For Adriana, the most satisfying part is discovering skills she always had but had yet to fully develop. She continues to integrate geology and storytelling seamlessly, evolving her career into a narrative that inspires others to expand their professional identities.

Looking back on her career pivot, Adriana sees it as an expansion rather than a departure from her identity as a geologist. "A pivot does not mean abandoning your technical identity. It means expanding it," she says. "It is not about changing who you are. It is about allowing yourself to become a wider version of yourself."



Adriana at Mastercard's NYC Tech Hub, New York - March 2026. Invitations extended to women entrepreneurs in celebration of International Women's Day.



Adriana at the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters in New York - MArch 2026. Adriana was invited on behalf of the "She Is Foundation", where its mission is to empower girls from underserved communities through education, leadership, and STEM opportunities.

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board

Houston Geological Society Officer Election

THE CANDIDATES PUT FORTH BY THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE ARE:

President-Elect: Ceri Davies, Troy W. Meinen

Vice President: Allison Barbato, Jonathan R. Rotzien

Secretary: Michael Nieto, Carl Steffensen

Treasurer-Elect: John Bishop

Editor-Elect: Matthew R. Cowan

Directors (2 positions):
Magly Cabrera, Xiuju Liu, Ana Vielma, Alan Ma Wong

Instructions: HGS Members will be able to vote online via the HGS website. You must be logged into your account to cast your vote. Ballots will be online only - no mailed ballots! Please check the HGS website in the coming weeks for updates and announcements.

Remember: Every vote helps shape the leadership that will guide our organization's direction and decisions: **your voice truly matters** in ensuring our community's goals and values are represented.

THE VOTING PERIOD OPENS APRIL 10, 2026 AND CONTINUES TO MAY 10, 2026.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING IN THE NEW HGS WEBSITE

We have successfully migrated the events database and member profiles from the previous website. In line with current standards, your username is now the email address associated with your prior account.

For security reasons, passwords could not be transferred, as they are not accessible from the previous system. To access your account, you will need to create a new password.

To log in and update your profile, please follow these steps:

1. Click the "Login" link in the top-left corner of the website.

2. On the login page, select the "Reset Password" option near the top of the form.

3. Enter the email address associated with your member profile.

4. Check your email for a password reset link, and follow the instructions provided.

If you do not see the email in your inbox, please check your spam or junk folder.

Once completed, you will have full access to your account and can proceed as usual.

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

President-Elect (two candidates)



Ceri Davies

Education

MSc, Geophysics with Geology, University of Liverpool, 2001 - 2005
PhD, Paleomagnetism, University of Liverpool, 2005 - 2009

Experience

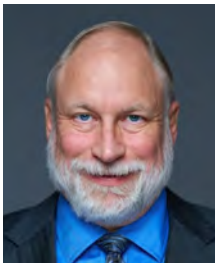
Summers 2005-2007: Camp Counsellor – Camp Lee Mar, Pennsylvania.
2010 – present: Viridien (CGG, Fugro Robertson); various roles from individual contributor to team leader, in a sales, business development and project manager capacity.
2017 – present: Houston Geological Society; various roles: Editor of the *Bulletin*, Chair of Latin America Conference, Co-Chair of North American Explorationists.
2021 – present: Head of Youth Rugby at Cypress Warriors.

Statement

I am honored and delighted to be nominated for the position of President-Elect with the Houston Geological Society. Throughout my time in Houston, I have always enjoyed my involvement with the Society and I would be full of pride if elected to this position.

Houston is the energy capital of the world, and that status is driven by the collection of geoscientists we have across this town, continually investigating and advancing our knowledge of the subsurface. I am lucky to call Houston home, and I am privileged to interact with this community daily. Out of my Houston office, I have worked with dozens of nationalities on projects from West Texas to the Great South Basin of New Zealand.

In the capacity of President, I will focus on supporting the great initiatives already in place whilst trying to promote some new ideas to develop the community of geoscientists across the Society. The world has never been more accessible and through the interaction of the Society members we can continue to lead the understanding of the world's subsurface from Houston. ■



Troy W. Meinen

Education

- MS Geology, Baylor University, 1996
- BS Geology, Baylor University, 1993

Professional Affiliations and Registrations

- Registered Professional Geologist in the States of Texas and Tennessee
- Certified Safety Professional (CSP-38937)
- American Society of Safety Engineers
- Houston Geological Society

Relevant Experience

- Co-Chair, Environmental and Engineering Geology Committee, Houston Geological Society
- Director, Houston Geological Society
- President, University of Houston Parent Organization
- Chair, Thunder Wolf District, Scouting America

Biography

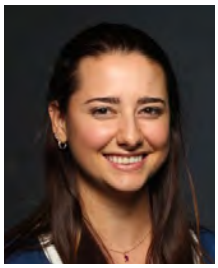
I am a Technical Director and Global Health and Safety Advisor with Environmental Resources Management (ERM) in Houston. Over my 29-year career, I have served as an environmental and health and safety consultant servicing global oil and gas, chemical, manufacturing, and mining companies. I have utilized my geological expertise to assist global oil and gas companies to understand and address contaminated ground water, soil and sediment issues. My background includes managing investigation and remediation of upstream oil and gas sites and assisting with due diligence for large oil and gas acreage position transactions for major oil and gas clients, which includes assessment of water use and protection, property transaction support, environmental impact assessment, environmental permitting and management, and Stakeholder concerns. I currently utilize my field experience to support teams globally in improving health and safety performance primarily within Global oil and gas companies.

In my personal life I have served for more than 20 years as a mentor of students through my church and Scouting. Most recently, I have expanded my leadership experience through my service as the Chairman of a local Houston District of the Boy Scouts of America.

Troy W. Meinen *continued on page 27*

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

Vice President (two candidates)



Allison Barbato

Biography

Dr. Allison Barbato is an exploration geologist with a diverse international background and a passion for inspiring others to succeed in the petroleum industry. Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, she spent 15 years abroad in Indonesia, Brazil, the Netherlands, and Egypt, an experience that shaped her global perspective and deep appreciation for geology. Inspired by her father's career as a petroleum engineer, she developed a strong enthusiasm for the earth sciences and a commitment to bringing people together within the industry. Dr. Barbato earned her B.S. in Geology from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2018, where she continued her academic journey, completing her Ph.D. in 2024. Her doctoral research integrated biostratigraphy, geochemistry, and organic petrography to reconstruct the paleoenvironments of Eocene-aged deltaic systems in Coos Bay, Oregon, while assessing their hydrocarbon potential.

During her time at LSU, Dr. Barbato served as President of the LSU AAPG student chapter, where she successfully increased membership by 400% during the COVID-19 pandemic and mentored students toward career opportunities in the petroleum industry. She was an eight-time recipient of the Houston Geological Society (HGS) Calvert Memorial Scholarship and gained industry experience through internships with Hess and Chevron. Upon completing her PhD in 2024, Dr. Barbato joined Chevron in Houston, Texas, as an exploration geologist working in the Gulf of Mexico. She remains actively involved in the geological community, serving as an Associate Editor for the *AAPG Bulletin* and as the 2025 co-chair, and 2026 Chair, for the HGS Scholarship Night.

Interest in Serving on the HGS Board

I am honored to be considered for the role of Vice President of the Houston Geological Society (HGS), an organization that has been instrumental in my personal and professional growth. As an eight-time recipient of HGS Calvert Memorial scholarship during my undergraduate and graduate studies, I have experienced firsthand the society's dedication to supporting geoscience students and fostering industry excellence. Now, as an exploration geologist at Chevron and the HGS Scholarship Night Chair, I am eager to give back to this community that has played such a significant role in my development. HGS unites a diverse geoscience community through high-quality technical talks, educational initiatives, a

Allison Barbato *continued on page 27*



Jonathan R. Rotzien

Statement of Interest

Thank you for the opportunity to run for Vice President. I've observed the outstanding work of the past Vice Presidents, and I have some ideas on how to provide valuable content for the membership of the Houston Geological Society. Thank you to the HGS Nomination Committee for this nomination, and I hope to have the opportunity to serve the Houston Geological Society membership in 2026-2027.

Biography

Jonathan R. Rotzien is President of Basin Dynamics. He has worked in most of the world's petroleum producing regions and specializes in leading corporate projects, research programs and professional training courses pertaining to oil and gas exploration and production. In addition to his business, he serves in faculty and research roles at University of Houston, University of Texas at Austin, South Dakota Mines and The Drifters Research Group with the Andalusian Earth Sciences Institute. He currently holds industry appointments with Subsurface Consultants & Associates (Houston, USA) and HOT Energy Group (Leoben, Austria). With over 100 publications including industry short courses, his most recent public works include *Deepwater Sedimentary Systems: Science, Discovery and Application* (Elsevier, 2022), written by 62 authors from 20 countries, and the 2nd edition of *The Explorer's Mindset: Lessons in Leadership in Applied Geoscience and the Energy Industry* (Amazon, 2025), now featured in *AAPG Explorer*. He holds a BA from Colorado College and a PhD from Stanford University. ■

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

Secretary (two candidates)



Michael Nieto

Education
BS, Geology – The University of Texas at Austin, 2012
MS, Geological Sciences – The University of Texas at Austin, 2016
Thesis: Chemostratigraphic and Tephrochronologic Record of the Cenomanian–Turonian Eagle Ford, South Texas, USA
Advisor: Harry Rowe

Professional Experience
Jun 2013 – Sep 2014 | Geochemistry Consultant – EOG Resources
May 2013 – Dec 2016 | Graduate Research Assistant – UT Bureau of Economic Geology, Austin, TX
May 2015 – Aug 2015 | Geology Intern – EOG Resources
May 2017 – Nov 2019 | Geologist – Premier Oilfield Group, Houston, TX
Nov 2019 – Aug 2020 | Senior Geologist | Senior Project Manager – Premier Oilfield Group, Houston, TX
Aug 2020 – Aug 2022 | Director, Project Management – Premier Oilfield Group, Houston, TX
Oct 2022 – Present | Director of Operations – RohmTek, Houston, TX

Professional Affiliations
- Houston Geological Society (HGS)
- American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)
- Geological Society of America (GSA)
- Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS)
- South Texas Geological Society (STGS)

Professional Activities & Speaking Engagements
- 2014 – Presenter, High-Resolution Chemostratigraphic Record of Cenomanian–Turonian Strata, GSA Annual Convention & Expo, Vancouver, BC
- 2014 – Co-author, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Characterization of Shallow Marine Sediments, Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth
- 2016 – Presenter, Geochronologic and Chemostratigraphic Record of the Eagle Ford Shale, AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition, Calgary, AB
- 2019 – Presenter and Co-author, Geochemical Characterization of Drill Cuttings, AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition, San Antonio, TX

Michael Nieto *continued on page 27*



Carl Steffensen

Education & Certifications
MS Geology, Texas A&M University
BS Geology University of Illinois
AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist No. 5168
Texas Licensed Geologist No. 3825

Employment History
Strategic Advisor/program Manager, Switch Energy Alliance, 2022-Present
President & Chief Geologist, Viking GeoSolutions LLC, 2016-Present
Team Leader – Exploration, Equinor, 2017-2020
Senior Applied Geologist, BP, 2000-2016
Senior Exploration Geologist, Vastar Resources, 1995-2000
Staff Geologist, ARCO, 1982-1995

HGS Service
North American Exploration Group - Chairman, 1998-2000, Co-chairman, 1996-1998, Arrangements Chairman, 1991-1993
Member, 1982-Present

Candidate Statement
I am honored to be invited to stand for election as Secretary for the HGS Board and serve the Society once again. While my service to professional societies throughout my career has been focused mainly on the national level, I have been an ardent supporter and member of the HGS throughout, and represented our local geoscience community as a HoD Delegate for more than 15 years. On a personal level, I have served on the Boards of several cultural and philanthropic organizations, in a variety of positions including Secretary, so I am confident that I can satisfactorily perform the duties of HGS Secretary.

Although I still consider myself a petroleum geologist, my recent focus on addressing global energy poverty by providing educational experiences to university students has broadened my appreciation for the impact that we geologists can have within our communities. I have also seen firsthand the talent and passion that exists within geoscience and engineering students, particularly those internationally, to address energy access and availability issues in their communities regardless of source – hydrocarbons, coal, LNG, geothermal, and other alternatives. It gives me great hope for the future of our profession and

Carl Steffensen *continued on page 27*

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

Treasurer-Elect (one candidate)



John Bishop

Education
MBA, University of Texas
MS Geology, University of South Carolina
BA Geology, Colgate University

Professional Affiliations
Energy: Exxon USA, GFI Oil and Gas, Salamander Energy
Energy Finance: CS First Boston, Bear Stearns, Wachovia Securities, Ironman Energy Capital, BTM / KingsRock Advisors

Biography
Mr. Bishop has spent his entire career in the energy industry. After earning a BA Geology from Colgate University and a MS Geology from the University of South Carolina he joined Exxon USA's Gulf of Mexico exploration division. At Exxon, Mr. Bishop developed numerous exploration prospects in the Gulf of Mexico and supervised critical offshore drilling and evaluation procedures. He was a member of Exxon teams that made several significant discoveries including the 250 MMBOE Ram/Powell field.

After earning an MBA Finance at the University of Texas, Mr. Bishop went to Wall Street where he was a member of CS First Boston's and Bear Stearns energy teams which transacted international and domestic mergers and acquisitions and brought several emerging energy companies public. Mr. Bishop then returned to Houston where he continued to raise capital and facilitate mergers, and asset acquisitions and sales for numerous exploration and production companies under the First Union - Wachovia brand. He then joined a Houston and later London-based independent and successfully raised private equity capital and a development facility for projects offshore Thailand and Indonesia from a consortium of international banks. With those projects completed he then helped manage a family of energy private equity and hedge funds. In recent years, Mr. Bishop has been providing independent advisory services to energy clients.

Why I Want to Serve the HGS
I am honored to be considered for the role of Treasurer of the HGS. I am a fifteen-year member of the HGS and have been involved in committees and active in various talks, events, seminars and representing the HGS at conferences. I am eager to give back to the Society and members and to contribute to a vibrant professional environment for geoscientists in Houston. I have the skills and capabilities to excel at the Treasurer role.

Besides my involvement with the HGS, I am active in many geology and energy related organizations including the AAPG, SIPES, TIPRO, Houston Producers Forum, Houston Energy Finance Group, and Energy Prospectus Group.

In my spare time I enjoy skiing, ski racing (when available), biking, hiking and golf. ■

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

Director – Two-year term *Vote for two candidates*



Magly Cabrera

Professional Summary

Geoscience-trained business development and industry engagement professional with over two decades of experience working alongside geologists, engineers, and laboratory teams across the energy industry. Formally trained and certified in mudlogging, with hands-on field experience in Venezuela and the United States, including the Eagle Ford Basin with ConocoPhillips. Brings a strong understanding of surface geology, subsurface data interpretation, and industry collaboration—bridging geology, technology, and commercial strategy.

Statement of Interest – Houston Geological Society

I am honored to be considered for the opportunity to serve as a Director for the Houston Geological Society. Through volunteering, conference support, registration coordination, booth setup assistance, supporting the Sporting Clays event, writing event articles, and documenting activities through event photography, I have seen firsthand the dedication required to serve our geoscience community. I am passionate about strengthening community engagement, supporting students, and building bridges between geoscience, business development, and industry collaboration. I would be proud to continue giving back to an organization that works tirelessly to provide education, networking, and professional development opportunities.

Professional Experience

- Exlog – Geoscience Support & Client Development
- SOS Sand Technology – Technical & Geological Business Development
- Diversified (SMWD) – Geological Data, Technology & Business Development
- ZoneVu – Subsurface Data Integration & Geoscience Strategy
- Petricore Laboratory – Laboratory Analysis, Geoscience Support & Business Development

Geological Foundation & Field Experience

- Geoservices (Schlumberger Group) – Completed formal mudlogging training and certification
- Worked as Sample Catcher and Mudlogger in Maturín, Venezuela (1-year rotation)
- Worked in Eagle Ford Basin with ConocoPhillips as Sample Catcher and Mudlogger

Magly Cabrera *continued on page 27*



Xiuju Liu, PhD

Short Bio

Xiuju Liu is a geoscientist and energy-industry marketer with 10+ years of experience in formation evaluation, reservoir characterization, geochemistry, and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) commercial development. She currently works as Business Development Manager at Ellington Geological Services, leading advanced rock analysis projects, contributing to innovative analytical technologies, and interacting closely with clients to ensure technical understanding informs strategic decision-making.

Her background further includes leadership roles in LNG marketing and commercial development with Grand Isle LNG, where she supported its offshore LNG export project and played a key role in long-term LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement negotiations—allowing her to bridge upstream technical expertise with broader energy-market strategy.

Earlier in her career, Xiuju gained extensive experience across both conventional and unconventional reservoirs through technical and marketing roles at ALS Oil & Gas. She also completed a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Toledo, conducting research while teaching geology courses, mentoring students, and managing laboratory operations.

Xiuju holds a PhD in Geology from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and MS & BS from Lanzhou University. She remains active in the geoscience community through professional societies, publications, conferences, and science outreach.

Statement of Interest

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Director of the Houston Geological Society (HGS) to deepen my engagement with the geoscience community. If elected, I will focus on strengthening member engagement, advancing technical excellence, and supporting the next generation of geoscience professionals.

My service record includes the Board of the North American Micropaleontology Section (NAMS) of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM), reviewing abstracts for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), developing digital resources for the Engelhardt–Moore Lecture

Xiuju Liu, PhD *continued on page 28*

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

Director – Two-year term *Vote for two candidates*



Ana Vielma

Statement

The Houston Geological Society has been an important part of my professional journey, offering a platform for technical exchange, mentorship, and meaningful connections within the geoscience community. Through participation in technical talks, student-focused initiatives, and conference presentations, I have come to value the Society not only as a forum for knowledge, but as a community that shapes careers and long-term growth.

I envision an HGS that continues to uphold its technical excellence while also evolving in how we prepare and involve the next generation of geoscientists. As our profession integrates new technologies, digital tools, and interdisciplinary approaches, HGS can build upon its strong foundation by further supporting the development of transferable skills that are not always explicitly taught in university curricula. Equally important to me is strengthening leadership development at early stages, creating clear opportunities for students and early-career professionals to take on meaningful responsibilities within the Society. These efforts together, combined with active collaboration between experienced members and newer professionals, will help ensure that HGS remains relevant, dynamic, and forward-looking.

My professional path reflects a consistent commitment to service and mentorship driven by collaboration. From serving as an elected student representative early in my academic career to mentoring university students and early-career professionals, I have always sought opportunities to contribute beyond my primary role. Through this journey, I have gained awareness of the operational effort and financial challenges required to sustain meaningful programming. Having seen this firsthand, I look forward to bringing that perspective to help the Society continue growing through creative thinking and a financially smart approach to sustaining our programs.

It would be an honor to serve as a Director of the Houston Geological Society and to contribute responsibly and actively to its continued growth.

Education

• PhD in Geology – University of Houston (UH, 2025)

Ana Vielma *continued on page 28*



Alan Ma Wong

Biography:

I am a Houston native so it's not too surprising that I got drawn into the oil business. While still an Aldine High School student, I managed to get a job working in the computer room at SeisData Services, a small acquisition and processing company in the Greenspoint area. I was pretty intrigued by everything that I was learning about the O&G business, but after just one day walking around my first OTC and I was hooked! All the cool hardware, the technology, people from all over the world in attendance…

I've been fortunate to have a satisfying career in this business and a lot of that has been due to the great work by all of the past volunteers at HGS. And now I'd like to return the favor and give back to the Society by serving as a Director on the Board. This will be a chance for me to continue paying back and paying forward. Up to now, most of my volunteer work has been related to the University of Houston Geoscience department where I received my degrees. After graduation, I was active in the U of H Geoscience Alumni Association (UHGAA) helping to organize our monthly lunches, guest speakers and Happy Hours. Over the years on the academic side, I served as a poster judge at the annual Robert E. Sheriff Lecture event recognizing outstanding student research work. More recently I was invited to serve three terms on the College of Natural Science's Dean's Advisory Board where members met with students, faculty and the Administration to discuss the workforce needs of the Energy industry and how the university could maximize student readiness to meet those needs. Meeting and mentoring the students was such a positive experience that my wife and I decided to endow the Leslie and Alan Wong Scholarship to support geoscience students.

Now I would like to apply my volunteer efforts to the HGS. Our industry is facing a critical time that is affecting those in all phases of their careers. Experienced workers, those newer in their careers and students hoping to join the industry are all facing a rapidly evolving, yet simultaneously contracting, industry. But we don't have to face the challenges alone and that's where I believe HGS can play a part. There is so much that we can do to support the industry and each other by maintaining an active and engaged Society. Personally, I have been a member since 2003 and participation has helped my career tremendously. HGS has helped me build a professional network through educational

Alan Ma Wong *continued on page 29*

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

Editor-Elect (one candidate)



Matthew R. Cowan

Education
MS Geology, Texas A&M – Kingsville - 2000
BS Geology with a minor in Mathematics, Texas A&I University – 1993

Licensure
Texas Licensed Geoscientist – Geology 2003 to Present
Louisiana Licensed Geologist – Geology – 2013 to Present.
Mississippi Licensed Geologist – Geology – 2025 to Present
TCEQ Corrective Action Project Manager – 2005 to Present

Employment
Senior Project Manager – LJA Environmental Services 2025 - Present
Chief Geologist Terrain Solutions Inc 2010-2025
Chief Geologist Lone Star Environmental 1997-2010
Staff Geologist LSI Environmental 1996-1997

Houston Geological Society Officers or Committees Activities
Houston Geological Society Environmental and Engineering Committee – Chair 2007-Present
Houston Geological Society Groundwater Hydrogeology Short Course – Committee Member 2019
Houston Geological Society Big Bend State Ranch Field Trip – Co-Chair 2019
Houston Geological Society Surface Faults of West Houston Field Trip - Committee Member 2019
Houston Geological Society Flooding in Southeast Texas: The Science Behind the Floods Conference – Committee Member 2018
Houston Geological Society (HGS) – Secretary 2011-2012
Houston Geological Society Environmental and Engineering Committee – Treasurer 2006-2007
Houston Geological Society Coastal Subsidence Conference – Committee Member 2005

Other Geological Society Associations or Committees
American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) – Board of Director 2016 to Present
Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) – Secretary 2021-2023
Texas Association of Professional Geologists – President 2006-2018
Geo-Gulf – Session Chair - 2015
Geo-Gulf – Session Presenter – 2014

Candidate Statement
I have been a member of the Houston Geological Society since the Late 1990's as I was finishing up college. In 2005, I got involved volunteering with several committees; Environmental and Engineering Group and Continuing Education. Through that time, I got to meet a lot of people who expanded my knowledge of not only my specific field of geology but the greater world of geology. I understood the value of being involved in a Professional Society. I have served on statewide organizations relating to professional licensure, continuing education and being involved with hosting conferences for the geological profession. That experience will help me be a part of the Board for the Houston Geological Society. It was a privilege to see the HGS turn 100.

I am running to be Editor-Elect of the Houston Geological Society to serve this professional community. Throughout my years of service and leadership, I have valued professionalism, and collaboration—qualities that are critical in producing a publication that reflects the technical excellence and integrity of our members. As Editor-Elect, I will work to highlight meaningful geological work and encourage member contributions. We need contributions from all sectors of the profession so that the HGS *Bulletin* can be the premier publication of a local geological society. Also I want to ensure our publication remains a trusted and engaging resource for geoscientists across the Houston region and beyond. During the time as Editor-Elect, I will be engaging and learning what it is needed to be Editor of the Houston Geological Society *Bulletin*. While this is a position that is held by an individual, I will view it as a position in which it is a team effort to make it happen. I ask for your support. ■

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

continued from page 20

Troy W. Meinen—*Candidate for President-Elect*

Why I want to continue to serve the HGS

I am honored to be invited to stand for election as president elect for HGS. My current positions as treasurer and now co-chair of the Environmental and Engineering committee in HGS and past position as a Director have been most rewarding to me and I welcome the opportunity to further serve my fellow Members should I be elected.

We are living in exciting but challenging times when our collective expertise as Geologists is more valuable than ever. Who better than Geologists to help todays leaders understand the complex nature of energy, the carbon cycle, natural disasters, and the impact of each on our world. My hope is that organizations like HGS will bring wisdom and sound scientific reasoning to decision makers in the many public arenas where we serve.

I believe my technical experience in the oil and gas industry combined with my experience and leadership in HGS and other organizations has prepared me to help lead HGS as we continue in these exciting times. ■

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Allison Barbato—*Candidate for Vice-President*

nd scholarships. I aim to leverage leadership experience as LSU AAPG Student Chapter President to keep HGS relevant and engaging for geoscientists at all career stages. By strengthening connections between students, early-career professionals, and industry leaders, I hope to enhance HGS's role as a hub for knowledge-sharing and professional growth. It would be an honor to serve the geologic community as Vice President of HGS. ■

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Michael Nieto—*Candidate for Secretary*

- 2024 – Presenter, Adaptive analytical techniques and workflows for cutting samples, utilizing geochemistry, mineralogy, petrography and water immersion porosity: an aid to petrophysical characterization & exploration in the Delaware Basin, SPWLA, Midland, TX

Statement

While my involvement with the Houston Geological Society has been more limited to date, I have long valued the role the organization plays in supporting the geoscience community. As my professional responsibilities have evolved, I am now in a position to dedicate meaningful time and energy toward active service and contribution.

My professional background spans applied geoscience, project management, and operations leadership, with a strong emphasis on organization, communication, and accountability. These experiences have required careful coordination, accurate documentation, and collaboration across multidisciplinary teams.

I view this opportunity as a springboard to become more engaged with the society's members and committees, while contributing consistently in a role that supports effective communication and continuity. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as Secretary and support the Houston Geological Society in carrying out its mission for the benefit of its members. ■

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Carl Steffensen—*Candidate for Secretary*

reinforces my desire to grow HGS student and young professional membership.

I joined the HGS when I began my career in Houston, recognizing the value that HGS membership provides – exposure to the learnings shared by experienced members, learning about the geology and economic potential of basins around the world, the opportunity to build a network across the industry, and now, as an Emeritus member, mentoring and encouraging our young professionals to become active members of the HGS. As a member of the HGS I have had the opportunity to meet many industry legends and gained many friendships over the years, and I would welcome the opportunity to again serve my fellow Members as HGS Secretary. ■

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Magly Cabrera—*Candidate for Director*

- Supported wellsite geologists through lithological description, cuttings analysis, gas monitoring, drilling parameter interpretation, and real-time geological reporting

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Business – Major in Business, Minor in Management University of Nueva Esparta – Caracas, Venezuela

Leadership & Volunteer Engagement – Houston Geological Society (HGS)

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

- Volunteer support for annual conferences and industry events
- Registration coordination and booth setup assistance
- Contributor to the HGS Sporting Clays event organization
- Author of event-related articles and community communications
- Event photography documentation for conferences and networking activities
- Active supporter of student-focused initiatives and professional networking events
- Advocate for strengthening collaboration between geoscience professionals and service companies

Core Competencies
- Surface Geology & Mudlogging
- Lithological Description & Sample Analysis
- Subsurface Data Integration
- Laboratory Analysis & Data Validation
- Geoscience-Focused Business Development
- Strategic Partnerships & Industry Engagement
- Community Engagement & Event Documentation
- Bilingual Communication (English / Spanish) ■

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continued from page 24

Xiuju Liu, PhD—*Candidate for Director*

Series, and volunteering at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. These activities have inspired me to participate in archaeological excavations and give educational talks. In addition, I create acrylic paintings and design handcrafted necklaces with ancient beads reflecting my interest in art and ancient cultures. ■

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continued from page 25

Ana Vielma—*Candidate for Director*
- MS in Geological Sciences – Central University of Venezuela (UCV, 2014)
- BS in Geological Engineering – Los Andes University (ULA, 2009)

Professional Experience
- Business Development Manager – Petricore North America 2025 – Present *Technical sales and client development for laboratory analysis*
- Industry Internships: 2021 – 2025 *Diamondback Energy, Chevron, OXY, Aramco*
- Doctoral Researcher & Teaching Assistant – University of Houston 2019 – 2025 *Petroleum geochemistry and data sciences research*
- Youth Care Worker – Southwest Key Programs 2018 *Vocational instruction and structured mentorship for youth*
- Geologist – Ministry of Oil & Gas (Venezuela) 2010 – 2016 *Exploration review and regulatory oversight*

Professional Affiliations
- Houston Geological Society (HGS)
- Geophysical Society of Houston (GSH)
- American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)
- Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts (SPWLA)
- Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM)Geological Society of America (GSA)
- American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)

Leadership & Professional Service
- Elected Student Representative, Engineering College Council, ULA, 2007-2009.
- Member, Student Research Conference Committee, UH, 2022.
- Member, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Student Committee, UH, 2021-2022.
- First intern member of Chevron's professional society network, SOMOS LatinX, 2023.
- Panelist, GSA Sedimentary Geology Division Careers Webinar, 2026.
- Panelist, HGS Student Expo Fireside Chat, 2023.
- Judge, Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH) and Dobrin Lecture GSH/UH.
- Session Chair, IMAGE 2025.
- HGS and AIPG booth volunteer.
- Speaker and presenter at national and international conferences (e.g IMAGE, GSA).
- Active participant in monthly technical talks and professional networking events.
- Teaching Assistant, teaching, assisting, and mentoring undergraduate students, UH.
- Recorder, Gulf Coast Hydrogen Ecosystem Conference, UH Energy.

Awards & Recognition
- Best Poster Innovation Award, HGS Student Expo, 2025.
- 2nd Place, Best Poster Presentation (Sr. Geologist Category), HGS Sheriff Lecture, 2024.
- National Professional Society Travel Grants, Geological Society of America and Society for Sedimentary Geology, 2024–2025.
- Scholarship for Outstanding Graduate Work in Geology, University of Houston, 2020.
- Cum laude, BS in Geological Engineering, Universidad de Los Andes (ULA), 2009.
- Outstanding Student Award, College of Engineering, Universidad de Los Andes, 2008.
- Order "Luis María Rivas Dávila" – Best Student, Geological Engineering Program, Universidad de Los Andes, 2004–2008. ■

Candidates for the 2026–2027 Executive Board *(continued)*

continued from page 25

Alan Ma Wong—*Candidate for Director*

events, technical talks and trade shows that have made me a better geoscientist. The camaraderie of the social events has helped me endure some of the tougher times over the years because of the support and encouragement from other members, honestly some of the nicest and smartest people that you'd ever want to meet, many who have become real friends. So I would like to offer my service to keep the HGS the vibrant, professional and cultural center of our profession. The Society has done a lot for me and I want to contribute to making sure that HGS continues to provide that same support for coming generations of leaders and students of the geosciences. And I want to make sure that Houston remains the center of the geoscience world.

Background:

I got my BS and MS in Geology-Geophysics from the University of Houston and was lucky to start work right away at The Woodlands Geophysical Group, which later became part of PGS. There I spent time working in Data Management and Multi-Client Data Sales for over 20 years and where I was lucky to gain international experience in South America, Europe and Asia. Since PGS, I have worked in Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) with Kore-Optics, the mid-Stream sector with Rosen, back to multi-client data with Tobin and Wood Mackenzie, and most recently returned to data management with Viridien.

When I'm not trying to save the world from badly managed G&G data, you can find me playing with my dog Kimi Räi-canine, doing DIY renovation projects fixing up my 85 year-old house in the Heights or in my workshop where I'm restoring a race car from the Indy 500. ■

2026 HGS-GESGB Africa Conference

Unlocking Africa's Future: Sustainable Energy Exploration

SAVE THE DATE!

October 26-27, 2026

Norris Conference Center,Houston, TX

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AFRICA CONFERENCE

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Unlocking Africa's Future: Sustainable Energy Exploration

October 26 - 27, 2026 | Norris Conference Center, Houston, TX

CALL FOR PAPERS

AWARDS FOR:

- Best Abstract
- Best Oral Presentation (Danforth-Bate Award)
- Best Poster (Hybrid - Student Option)
- People's Choice Award

Abstracts (up to 4 pages) are due by June 30, 2026: *Email* **AfricaConference2026_Abstracts@hgs.org**

Questions and more: *Email* **AfricaConference2026_Info@hgs.org**

AFRICA CONFERENCE

Africa Conference: Unlocking Africa's Future - Sustainable Energy Exploration

October 26 - 27, 2026

Norris Conference Center, Houston, TX

- Active Exploration Areas
- Development and Commercialization of Gas
- Environmental Concerns
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- Solutions for Reducing Carbon Emissions
- Research in Academia and Technology
- Business and Industry Topics

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call +1 713-463-9476 or email
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www.hgs.org

AFRICA CONFERENCE

HGS/GESGB Africa Conference 2026: Overview

Houston will again host the (25th) HGS-GESGB Africa Conference, October 26-27 at the Norris Center. See (https://www.hgs.org/hgs-gesgb-africa-conference-speaker-agenda) for full information. The Call for Papers (CFP) will issue in January so get working now on your abstract. As always, two member-led international professional organizations, namely the Houston Geologic Society (HGS) and the Geoscience Energy Society of Great Britain (GESGB), bring their individual advantages to this trans-Atlantic cooperation.

The conference theme of Unlocking Africa's Future: Sustainable Energy Exploration points both to the desire to continue to explore for the continent's (and world's) energy needs, and in ways that combine local skills to address uneven access to, and distribution of, energy resources. To that end, we are including a session featuring the best Africa-focused presentations from the 2025 Switch Energy Competition. We also plan a related Thematic Issue of the HGS Bulletin so prepare for the possibility of being invited to publish your talk or poster. HGS initiated the practice in 2024 with three conference presentations (including a keynote and the Danforth-Bate Best Talk). Check them out in the December 2024 issue of the HGS Bulletin which, with another 60-odd geotechnical societies' publications is available online at AAPG's DataPages (https://www.datapages.com/content-partners).

Conference Objectives

We offer a platform for stakeholders from diverse backgrounds - industry experts, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange insights, share best practices, and forge collaborations aimed at driving positive change. We intend that conference participants will share their broad and varied perspectives and experiences to enrich discussions and trigger ongoing initiatives. For sponsors, this conference presents a valuable opportunity to support a local society (particularly one with global involvement by its members) and showcase your expertise in the energy sector. Let our Sponsorship team provide more information to illustrate the possibilities and related benefits.

The conference date offers fair weather and the venue sits next to the inviting outdoor bars and restaurants of City Centre and the adjacent Town and Country Village. Hoisting a pint at the Yard House or sharing a cuppa joe at a coffee house with other attendees may provide greater benefits than what you learn in the official talks. Come take advantage of the networking possibilities, both casual and programmed.

See you in October. As they say in Texas (although I still can't get the accent right) Y'All Come!

William Dickson
Chair, 2026 Africa Conference Committee

AFRICA CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 26-27, 2026

NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER, HOUSTON, TX

AFRICA 2026 THEME: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S FUTURE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EXPLORATION

SPONSORSHIP FORM

$10,000 Platinum Event Sponsor

- Opportunity to introduce the keynote speaker
- Sponsor of one Technical Session
- 4 Complimentary Conference registrations
- 8 Drink tickets for Icebreaker reception
- 2 Exhibit Tables
- Formal recognition at the event
- Company name & logo listed as sponsor at the conference, on HGS website, social media sites and in related articles

$7,500 Gold Event Sponsor

- 2 complimentary conference registrations
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- 1 Exhibit Table
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$5,000 Silver Event Sponsor

- 1 complimentary conference registration
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$2,500 Bronze Event Sponsor

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AFRICA CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 26-27, 2026

NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER, HOUSTON, TX

AFRICA 2026 THEME: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S FUTURE - SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EXPLORATION

SPECIALITY SPONSORSHIP FORM

$3,000 Lunch Sponsor Day 1

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$3,000 Lunch Sponsor Day 2

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- Formal recognition at the event
- Company name & logo listed as sponsor at the conference, on HGS website, social media sites and in related articles

$1,500 All Day Beverage

- Formal recognition at the event
- Company name & logo listed as sponsor at the conference, on HGS website, social media sites and in related articles

$5,000 Poster Session Sponsor

- Formal recognition at the event
- Company name & logo listed as sponsor at the conference, on HGS website, social media sites and in related articles

$2,000 Happy Hour Sponsor

- Formal recognition at the event
- Company name & logo listed as sponsor at the conference, on HGS website, social media sites and in related articles

$1,500 International Dinner Sponsor

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AFRICA CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 26-27, 2026

NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER, HOUSTON, TX

AFRICA 2026 THEME: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S FUTURE - SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EXPLORATION

EXHIBITOR FORM

$1,250 **Africa 2026 Exhibitor**

1. **One Complimentary Conference registration**
2. **Formal recognition at the event**
3. **Company name & logo listed as sponsor at the conference, on HGS website, social media sites and in related articles**
4. **All Conference breaks will be in the Exhibitor Hall**
5. **10" x 10" Pipe and Drape Booth (full back drape, ½ side drape)**

Company Name: _____

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City: _____State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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Monday, April 13, 2026

5:30 –8:30 p.m.

HGS Members/Emeritus/Honorary Life $65
Students $40 • Non-Members & Walkups $75
Location: Guadalajara Hacienda, 9799 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77024
https://www.hgs.org/civicrm/event/info?id=2681

Katie Smye

Reservoir Dynamics of Large-Scale Injection: Lessons from the Permian Basin

Over the past decade, the Permian Basin region has served as a natural laboratory for understanding the reservoir dynamics and impacts of fluid injection at the basin scale. The ongoing need to dispose of tens of millions of barrels of produced water daily in the region has driven the evolution of injection practices across a range of geologic and operational settings. Injection in the Permian Basin occurs across distinct geologic systems: in shallow and deep reservoirs in the Midland and Delaware Basins, and in the Central Basin Platform. Deep injection targeting carbonate units overlying crystalline basement is comparable to injection settings in the Fort Worth Basin and midcontinent regions such as Oklahoma and Kansas, and is associated with historically high rates of seismicity on faults extending from basement into the injection strata. Operational changes including reductions in deep injection volumes have coincided with a ~50% decrease in $M \geq 3.0$ earthquakes over the past year. Shallow injection is associated with seismicity to a lesser degree, but increasing reliance on these strata is causing surface uplift, up to tens of centimeters in places, well control issues in overpressured intervals, and localized surface flows from legacy vertical wellbores.

This lecture draws on integrated data and models spanning surface to basement, to examine how large-scale injection drives changes in pressure and stress, resulting in geomechanical challenges. We will explore the geologic controls on injection-induced hazards, highlight the importance of monitoring and data integration, and offer lessons for safely managing large-scale injections in other basins globally. ■

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Katie Smye is a Research Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Austin and Principal Investigator of the Center for Injection and Seismicity Research (CISR), an industry-funded research consortium focused on water injection capacity and seismic hazard mitigation, particularly in the Permian Basin. Dr. Smye is known for leading multidisciplinary efforts integrating geologic, geophysical, and reservoir engineering data and models to assess the response of subsurface systems to large-scale fluid injection.

She holds a PhD in Earth Sciences from the University of Cambridge, where she was a Gates Cambridge Scholar, and dual bachelor's degrees in Geology and Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Smye has authored or co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed publications and serves as an Associate Editor for the *AAPG Bulletin*. She is an active contributor to technical conferences as a session convener and speaker, and frequently communicates scientific findings to public and media audiences on topics related to induced seismicity and sustainable reservoir management.

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The University of Texas at Austin
Jackson School of Geosciences

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

HGS Members/Emeritus/Honorary Life $30
Students $25 • Non-Members & Walkups $35
Woodside Energy, 1500 Post Oak Blvd, Houston, TX 77056
Directions: Park in visitor parking and take a ticket; parking will be validated
https://www.hgs.org/civicrm/event/info?id=2682
Event Contact: Andrea Peoples

HGS General Luncheon Meeting

Kirk Wagenvelt

WAG'ing the Dog: Engineered Signals to Calibrate 4D Expectations at Liza, Offshore Guyana

The 2022-23 Stabroek OBN campaign included surveys over five development areas in offshore Guyana between October 2022 and November 2023, beginning and ending with surveys at the Liza field. The first survey denoted Liza node zero (N0) is intended as a seafloor 4D baseline, although at Liza, the only pre-production seismic data is from streamer surveys prior to the 2019 field startup. The second survey, Liza N1, provided our first look at seafloor 4D data in Guyana. Key objectives of N1 were focused on understanding the types and strengths of 4D signal available for interpretation and reservoir management—not only for Liza, but also for informing monitoring plans for the four other current Stabroek development areas.

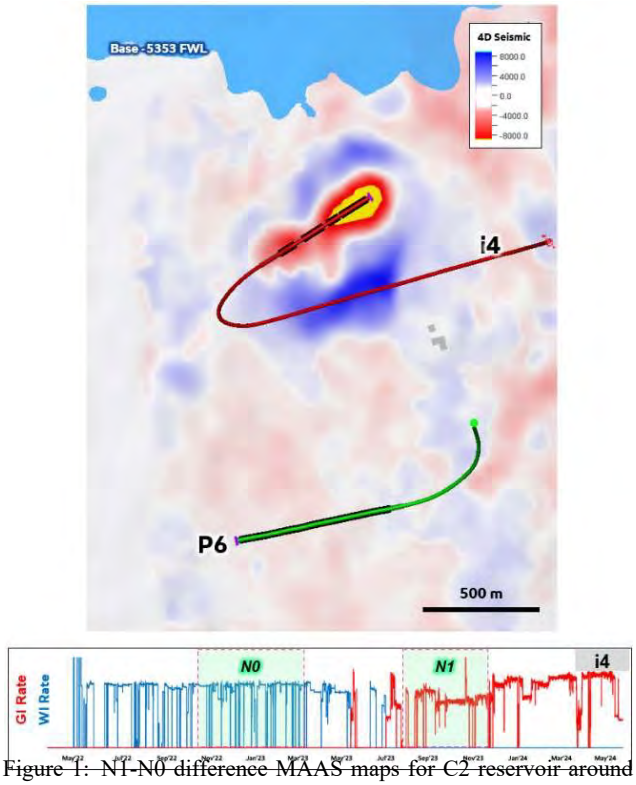


Figure 1: N1-N0 difference MAAS maps for C2 reservoir around the i4 WAG injection well. The free water level (FWL) is included to showthe aquifer level. The pressure sink for this injector is the P6 well.

Understanding the detectability of 4D signals related to changes in pressure and fluid, especially water alternating gas (WAG) was an objective to inform monitoring frequency and data quality needs going forward. Modeling predicted moderate signals from both water and gas sweep. However, the detectability resulting from a combination of water plus gas sweep (or vice versa) was not yet established, and the extent to which injected gas would enter a miscible phase, versus a more readily detectable free phase was uncertain. Reservoir pressure maintenance is also part of the injection strategy ensuring pressure maintenance. Modeling showed weaker 4D signal from changes in reservoir pressure given Liza rock physics and reservoir simulation results. Under normal field operating conditions, and given the survey timings, the results of the 4D difference would continue to leave these questions unanswered.

To increase the value of our early monitor, our subsurface geoscience and engineering teams coordinated with field operations and our geophysical operations team to deliberately induce WAG and pressure signals between N0 and N1.

Two examples are shown here, where we timed WAG fluid switches, and an injection pressure increase specifically to appear on our 4D seismic monitor. By performing these tests relatively early in the life of Stabroek fields, we have begun quantitatively calibrating our 4D modeling and have informed the interpretability of these signals. We believe that having this information will better inform our 4D seismic monitoring decisions for years to come.

A WAG injection switch at well 4i helped confirm modeling expected 4D signals with field observations (Figure 1). A pressure increase at another injector i8 was performed to understand reservoir compartmentalization in a particular reservoir segment. A pressure increase of ~1000 psi was achieved at the well during N1 and illuminated compartment boundaries. ■

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank all involved in the OBN campaign, with particular thanks to Matt Stone, Joy Grey, Pengbo Lu, Jo Molyneux, Eric Hogan, Sam Wiley, Yaxun Tang, Feng Lin, David Solorio, Jose

Otero, Brian DeMartin, Adam Bucki, and Mike McGlashan. We thank TGS for executing the acquisition program and CGG for processing. We thank ExxonMobil and coventurers, as well as the Government of Guyana for permission to publish.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Kirk A. Wagenvelt is a Geoscientist at ExxonMobil with more than 15 years of experience spanning oil and gas exploration, production, development, and environmental remediation. He holds a BS in Geochemistry and an MS in Geology from Western Michigan University. Since joining ExxonMobil in 2015, Kirk has worked across numerous basins worldwide, with a strong focus on South America. Over the past five years, he has been a leading voice in advancing 4D seismic integration for opportunity generation and reservoir management in the Liza and Payara developments offshore Guyana. His work has significantly contributed to improving subsurface understanding and optimizing field performance by pushing the limits of proactive 4D seismic applications. In his current role as an Advisor on the Guyana Blockwide Value Team, Kirk delivers subsurface solutions across the Stabroek Block, helping shape current and future developments with a focus on maximizing recovery through 4D seismic interpretation and production data integration workflows. Kirk has been recognized both within ExxonMobil and by the broader geoscience community for his technical leadership and innovation. His notable contributions include the talk "WAG'ing the Dog: Engineered signals to calibrate 4D expectations at Liza, Offshore Guyana," presented at the SEG 4D Forum and IMAGE.



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WORD BRECCIA – A GEOLOGY WORD JUMBLE

Unscramble the words below and rearrange the circled letters to find the answer to the clue.

ALSEC ◯ _ _ _ _

NGELED _ ◯ _ _ ◯ ◯

SALEBL _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _

RHONT RROAW _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _ _ ◯ _

OOCRL TTLAEPE

_ ◯ _ _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _ ◯ _

HINT: _ _ _ _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _ are one of six elements commonly found in clear and effective geoscience figures.

Unscrambled Word Breccia (March issue):
Magnets, Data Centers, Hard Drives, Batteries, Semiconductors and Infrastructure.

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

HGS Members/Emeritus/Honorary Life $20
Students $15 • Non-Members $25
Location: Zoom (virtual only)
https://www.hgs.org/civicrm/event/info?id=2717
Event Contact: Andrea Peoples

HGS General Virtual Luncheon Meeting

Wayne Camp

What's Next After the Permian: Time for Exploration Again?

Tight oil production accounted for 68 percent of the total 13.6 million barrels of oil per day produced in the U.S. during 2025. The Permian Basin is the leading tight oil producing region in the world with 6.5 million barrels a day produced in 2025. However, the Permian Basin is showing signs of declining production growth leading many to forecast peak oil rates within the next few years. Production from the other U.S. tight oil basins have not recovered from their pre-Covid peaks in 2019. Increased exploration investment will be required to bring on new supply with current world oil demand of 103 million barrels per day not expected to decline at least through 2050 based on multiple forecast scenarios. There are several tight oil and gas plays in the U.S. that have not been adequately explored and tested with modern horizontal drilling and multistage hydraulic fracture stimulation technology that could lead to new discoveries to help meet future projected oil demand. This review focuses on source rock reservoir and hybrid source rock play types that are characterized by proven source rocks in the Michigan Basin, Williston Basin, Green River Basin, and the Great Basin, and a pure frontier play in the South Georgia Basin. ■

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Wayne K. Camp is a retired Distinguished Geologic Advisor who worked for Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (now Occidental) for 40 years where he worked and supervised various exploration and development projects concentrated in multiple basins onshore U.S., the Gulf of Mexico, and Indonesia. His work with unconventional reservoirs includes tight gas sands, coalbed methane and source rock "shale" reservoirs. Wayne has presented and published numerous papers, including three AAPG Memoirs that he co-edited, two of which received the R. S. Dott Memorial Award for Best AAPG Special Publication. Prior to working for Anadarko, he worked for Phillips Petroleum for two years. He received his BA degree in geology from State University College at Oneonta, New York, and his MS degree in geology from Colorado State University. Wayne is Geological Society of America Fellow and currently serves as an elected delegate on the AAPG House of Delegates and is a Sr. Associate Editor for the *AAPG Bulletin*. Wayne is married, has two daughters and four granddaughters. Following retirement, he splits his time between living on Lake Conroe and Santa Fe, New Mexico, and cruising the world with his wife of 50 years.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 2026

ACTIVE MEMBER

Tesfa Gere

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

HGS Members/Emeritus/Honorary Life $30
Students $25 • Non-Members & Walkups $35
Location: Woodside Energy, 1500 Post Oak Blvd, Houston, TX 77056
Directions: Park in visitor parking and take a ticket; parking will be validated
https://www.hgs.org/civicrm/event/info?id=2684
Event Contact: Andrea Peoples

HGS General Luncheon Meeting

Sharma Dronamraju, MS, MBA, PG

Geological (White) Hydrogen: Is It Too Good to Be True?

Hydrogen production is a global market valued at approximately $150 billion and is projected to grow by more than 120% by 2030, requiring cumulative investments exceeding $300 billion. Although hydrogen is a carbon-free fuel at the point of use, most current production methods rely on fossil fuels and result in a substantial carbon footprint. In fact, the lifecycle emissions of conventional hydrogen production exceed those of natural gas and coal by approximately 20% and diesel by 60%. Green hydrogen, produced via water electrolysis using renewable energy, remains the only truly low-carbon option; however, limited renewable energy penetration and high costs constrain its scalability.

Geological hydrogen—also referred to as white or gold hydrogen—has emerged as a potentially transformative energy resource. First identified in 2012 during water well drilling in Mali, naturally occurring hydrogen with concentrations as high as 98% has since demonstrated its viability by supplying energy to local communities and industries. Ongoing exploration in the US, Australia, France, and Oman targets hydrogen accumulations associated with igneous and ultramafic rocks, including mantle-derived lithologies, dikes, and sills. Unlike hydrocarbons, geological hydrogen may be continuously generated through natural processes, offering a fundamentally different energy system.

The origin of geological hydrogen remains under active investigation, with leading hypotheses including radiolysis, serpentinization of iron-rich rocks, and the migration of primordial hydrogen along deep crustal structures. Preliminary estimates suggest wellhead production costs between $0.5 and $1.5 per kilogram, though current volumes are insufficient to meet global demand. Nevertheless, existing expertise and infrastructure from the oil and gas industry could be leveraged to accelerate exploration and development. Geological hydrogen represents a promising complement to the energy transition and may play a meaningful role in achieving global Net Zero objectives, with geoscientists positioned at the forefront of this emerging opportunity in the energy transition. ■

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Sharma Dronamraju is a Geoscientist and Director, AKD Professional Solutions in Houston, Texas, USA. He worked for operators Petrobras USA, Shell, Marathon Oil, and ONGC, and the service industry for over 30 years in upstream oil and gas. His expertise lies in geomodeling and rejuvenating mature oil & gas fields. He was associated with several field developments and exploration appraisals in the Gulf of Mexico (Stones, Lucius, Shanondoah, K2), deep-water Nigeria (Bonga, Usan, Agmbami, Bobo), Equatorial Guinea, and the South China Sea. Sharma's recent work includes geomodeling for EOR in mature oil fields in Miocene Syn-rift clastics and carbonates and regional prospectively of Gulf of Suez, Egypt, heavy oil development in Powder River Basin in Lower Cretaceous incised valley fills (Newcastle Fm.), addressing subsurface heterogeneity of Mishrif Carbonates in Southern Iraq and reservoir modeling of HPHT fields in offshore East Malaysia and Borneo, remapping and modeling of mature Bombay high satellite fields, and revisiting missed exploration opportunities in offshore Mozambique and offshore Sabah. His recent interests include geological hydrogen and earth observation.

Sharma earned his Master's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Texas A&M University, and his MBA from Rice University. Sharma is a Professional Geologist licensed in Texas. He serves on the Executive Board of the Houston Geological Society and has been a Member of the AAPG House of Delegates. He has offered several training courses for clients including Mature Fields Revitalization, Deepwater Depositional Systems and Analogs, Unitization of Oil & Gas fields, and Geomodeling for Oil Field Life Cycle.

HGS General Lunch

Geological (White) Hydrogen: Is It Too Good to Be True?

Hydrogen production is a global market valued at approximately $150 billion and is projected to grow by more than 120% by 2030, requiring cumulative investments exceeding $300 billion. Although hydrogen is a carbon-free fuel at the point of use, most current production methods rely on fossil fuels and result in a substantial carbon footprint. In fact, the lifecycle emissions of conventional hydrogen production exceed those of natural gas and coal by approximately 20% and diesel by 60%. Green hydrogen, produced via water electrolysis using renewable energy, remains the only truly low-carbon option; however, limited renewable energy penetration and high costs constrain its scalability. Geological hydrogen - also referred to as white or gold hydrogen—has emerged as a potentially transformative energy resource.

May 20, 2026
11:30am - 1:00pm
Woodside Energy, 1500 Post Oak Blvd

Members: $30
Non-Members: $35
Students: $25

REGISTER NOW



Sharma Dronamraju
MS, MBA, PG

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

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Stadium Garage*
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Houston, Texas 77004

**The Stadium Garage, a pay-by-the-hour garage, is the closest parking option.*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kunxiaojia (Tammy) Yuan
University of Houston
Assistant Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Topic:
"Global Wetland Methane Emissions: From Science to Solutions"

VOLUNTEER JUDGES NEEDED

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Regards,
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HGS President 2024-2025

Patty Walker
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Payment by credit card or check. Please make checks payable to: **Houston Geological Society**.

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Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVC: _____

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APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
RESERVATIONS The HGS prefers that you make your reservations online through the HGS website at WWW.HGS.ORG. If you have no internet access, you can e-mail OFFICE@HGS.ORG, or call the office at 713-463-9476. **Reservations for HGS meetings must be made or cancelled by the date shown on the HGS website calendar, normally that is 24 hours before hand or on the last business day before the event**. If you make your reservation on the website or by email, an email confirmation will be sent to you. If you do not receive a confirmation, contact the HGS office at OFFICE@HGS.ORG. Once the meals are ordered and name tags and lists are prepared, no more reservations can be added even if they are sent. **No-shows will be billed.**				2	3	4 Make your reservations online at hgs.org
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 **HGS General Dinner Meeting** *Reservoir Dynamics of Large-Scale Injection: Lessons from the Permian Basin* *Page 37*	14	15 **HGS E&E Dinner Meeting** *TBD*	16 **HGS NeoGeos Happy Hour**	17	18
19	20	21	22 **HGS General Luncheon Meeting** *WAG'ing the Dog: Engineered Signals to Calibrate 4D Expectations at Liza, Offshore Guyana* *Page 38*	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 **HGS General Virtual Luncheon Meeting** *What's Next After the Permian: Time for Exploration Again?* *Page 40*	30	**HGS Annual Shrimp Peel & Crawfish Boil**	

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Materials are due by the first of the month for consideration to appear in the next month's publication. Submissions should be emailed to editor@hgs.org. The Editor reserves the right to reject submissions or defer submissions for future editions.

Text should be submitted as a Word file. Figures or photos may be embedded in the document or submitted separately. The following image formats are accepted: tif, .jpg, .png, .psd, .pdf.

Feature submissions, e.g., GeoPicks, should be approximately 600 words. Technical papers should be approximately 2000 words or less (excluding references).

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The HGS Weekly Newsletter is published digitally every week, and reaches a global community of 8,000+ people. HGS will promote your business with an ad of your design or your logo and a link to your website or social media.

To learn more about advertising rates and how you can promote your business with us, visit our website or contact the HGS Office at 713-463-9476 or office@hgs.org.

How Outreach Volunteers are Making a Difference

By Debbie Caperton



Beverly Dejarnette at the 2025 HMNS Scout STEM day.

GROWING OUTREACH EFFORTS

The HGS Educational Outreach Committee has substantially increased school visits and community events in recent years, with 20 activities since last fall and four more currently scheduled. Preparations for many of these events began with a "Salt Party" hosted by Janet Combes at her home, where eight volunteers gathered to break apart large clumps of salt donated in 50-lb bags by the United Salt mine in Hockley, about 30 miles west of Houston.



Debbie Caperton at the 2025 HMNS Scout STEM day.

The group sorted the pieces, selecting display-size salt crystals and packaging them with an explanatory insert to distribute to hundreds of students. Larger crystals were set aside and boxed as display specimens to be awarded to HGS scholarship recipients.

MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY STEM EVENTS

Building on these preparations, outreach events began with Scout STEM Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on October 5, 2025. The museum reported attendance of 2,046 scouts. Sarah Garcia, a graduate student at the University of Houston, led the event, assisted by other UH graduate students and several HGS members.

With an attractive layout of rock samples, minerals, and fossils, the group took shifts throughout the day showing scouts how many materials used in everyday life come from the Earth, and how life itself has changed over geologic time. Similar displays were later organized by Barbara Hill and Janet Combes, along with other volunteers, for Girls Engaged in Math and Science (GEMS), again at HMNS.

Sarah Heinlein also arranged presentations at the Houston Gem and Mineral Society Show at the Humble Civic Center, assisted by Phil Caggiano and additional volunteers.

HANDS-ON LEARNING: GEOSCIENCE IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Building on these public events, Outreach Committee volunteers also coordinated with local K–12 teachers to arrange nine visits to schools across several Houston-area districts, presenting on topics that highlight the importance of geoscience in everyday life. Of particular note, the committee has for several years participated in the Young Women's College Prep Institute (HISD) STEAM Family Night. There, HGS volunteers led by Jim Tucker



Chuck Caughey with teacher Ritu Gandhi at Smith Elementary.

How Outreach Volunteers are Making a Difference



Ifeyinwa Jude-Ofa quizzing students on where items in everyday life come from.



Barbara Hill at the 2025 HGMS Gems and Mineral Show.

highlighted careers in geoscience alongside tables hosted by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Rice University, and several other groups. Ken Thies, Debbie Caperton, and Letha Slagle also organized additional campus presentations with the help of Outreach volunteers.

In December 2025, Letha Slagle taught approximately 50 geology college credit students at HISD Westside High School how to read geologic maps and explore the geologic history of Texas. Most of these students are part of the Westside Engineering and Geoscience Academy, a rigorous four-year program designed to prepare them for college and careers in the energy fields. The students' geoscience teacher received geologic maps, mammoth fossils, the Bones in Schools poster, and other teaching materials to support future lessons.

Debbie Caperton recently reflected on her experiences with families attending STEM Night at Smith Elementary (Alief ISD) and Science Knight at Nottingham Elementary (Spring Branch ISD):

"*Some of the kids approached us tentatively, curious about what we had on display. Others ran up with such enthusiasm that the display tables required a quick realignment! Regardless, the response was one of wide-eyed delight and curiosity as they explored the thoughtfully selected rocks, minerals, and fossils shared by HGS*



Jumoke Akinpelu telling about rocks and minerals.

How Outreach Volunteers are Making a Difference



From left to right: Ifeyinwa Jude Ofia, Ebele Oraghalum, Debbie Caperton and Jumoke Akinpelu at Nottingham Elementary.

Educational Outreach volunteers. Over one hundred middle school children—and their family members—had a chance to be wowed by the samples. With input from the schools' science teachers, our displays focused on three topics: volcanoes and associated igneous rocks; minerals used to make everyday items in your home; and the ever-favorite paleontological display. The kids were so excited to pick up, examine, and compare the samples. HGS volunteers were peppered with questions and shared fun facts about the rocks, where they are found, and how they are formed."

Who knows, perhaps one or two future geologists were inspired. What is certain is that these events nurtured in many children a respect for nature and an appreciation for the wonders of our Earth. Time well spent!

HIGH SCHOOL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMS AT THE BEG

In addition to these school visits, Chuck Caughey worked with Sarah Castro of the Dale Carnegie Success Skills Center to organize a full-day event for high school students at the Bureau of Economic Geology's Houston Research Center. This program has been a cornerstone of the Outreach effort for several years. Beverly Dejarnette, BEG manager and HGS member, arranged the use of the facility, which includes a large conference room as well as a laboratory equipped with tables and microscopes for examining cores.

Together with other Outreach volunteers, the group organized four hands-on stations introducing students to identifying fossils, recognizing minerals and rock types in hand samples and under the microscope, and describing core. Students were divided into four teams that rotated through the stations, building their skills throughout the day.

The program concluded with friendly competitions. First came a Jeopardy-style session answering geoscience questions, followed by team presentations responding to the prompt: "Using what you have learned today, what would you do as geologists to improve people's lives?"

The result was a highly rewarding experience for the 40 participating high school students—and for all of the Outreach volunteers who helped make the day possible.

EXPLORING ENERGY STEM CHALLENGE

Chuck Caughey and Sarah Castro also collaborated on the second annual Exploring Energy STEM Challenge, presented virtually, with Outreach judges viewing the competition from the HGS office. Eight teams of three to five high school students researched the challenge: "Develop an innovative solution to meet the growing demand for critical minerals and rare earth elements needed in batteries, EVs, and data centers."

The students also evaluated one another's projects, and their scores were remarkably close to those of the HGS judges. The event proved both challenging and rewarding, expanding the students' knowledge while strengthening their teamwork, time management, and presentation skills, providing a stimulating experience for the HGS judges as well.

Beyond K-12 activities, Steve Johansen presented a condensed short course on the geology of the Texas Coastal Plain as part of Master Naturalist training in the fall, and again this spring on March 3, 2026, to a very appreciative group of adult wildlife and natural resource volunteers.

Overall, the 2025–2026 Outreach program has included 20 events to date, reaching more than 900 participants, most of them K-12 students. Several additional campus visits and other events are already scheduled for the spring and summer.

RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEERS

A sincere thank you to the many HGS volunteers whose enthusiasm and dedication made these events such a success. Special recognition goes to Steven Johansen, who quickly became our resident volcano expert (supported by the wonderful samples and photo books contributed by Barbara Faulkner), along with Chuck Caughey, Nancy Engelhart-Moore, Bob Moore, Jumoke Akinpelu, Ebele Oraghalum, Ifeyinwa Jude-Offia, and Debbie Caperton.

We are equally grateful to the many volunteers who supported additional school visits and outreach activities, including Ken Thies, Janet Combes, and Letha Slagle, as well as University of Houston students Sarah Garcia, Kennedy Potter, and Makenna Harris. Their time, expertise, and enthusiasm help bring geoscience to life for students across the Houston area.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Outreach is pleased to welcome several new volunteers, including MS and PhD students in geoscience from University of Houston. Inspiring students and enlightening their parents is very satisfying work, and we have more ahead in the spring and summer. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Outreach Committee Chair Chuck Caughey at pak.chuck@gmail.com or HGS Office Manager Andrea Peoples at andrea@hgs.org ■

Beneath Our City: Beaumont Formation Insights at HGS

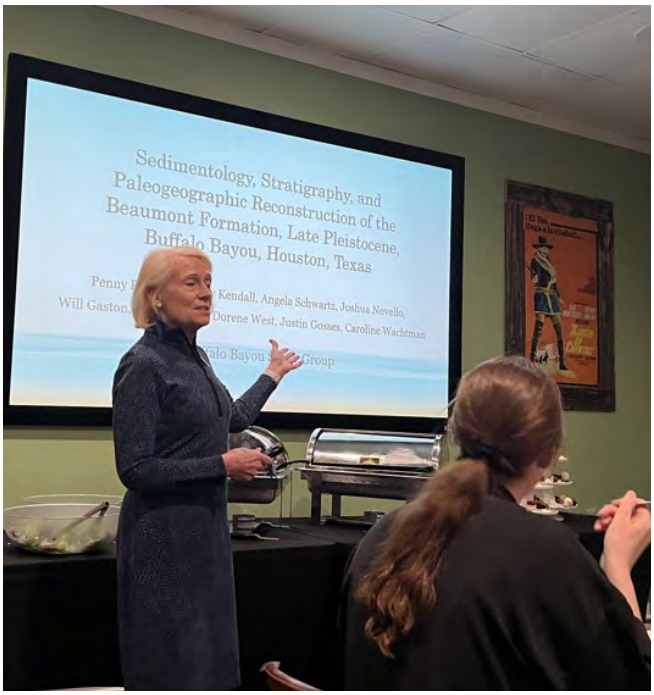
Attendees at the March 2nd general dinner enjoyed quite an engaging evening with Penny Patterson and Jerry Kendal, who delivered an insightful presentation on the sedimentology, stratigraphy, and paleogeographic reconstruction of the Beaumont Formation along Buffalo Bayou. The talk offered valuable perspectives on the processes that have shaped the Houston area, and the fascinating geologic history right beneath our city.

HGS members are encouraged to join us for upcoming events, including the April General Dinner, luncheon, and virtual technical talk—excellent opportunities to continue learning, connecting, and engaging with the geoscience community.

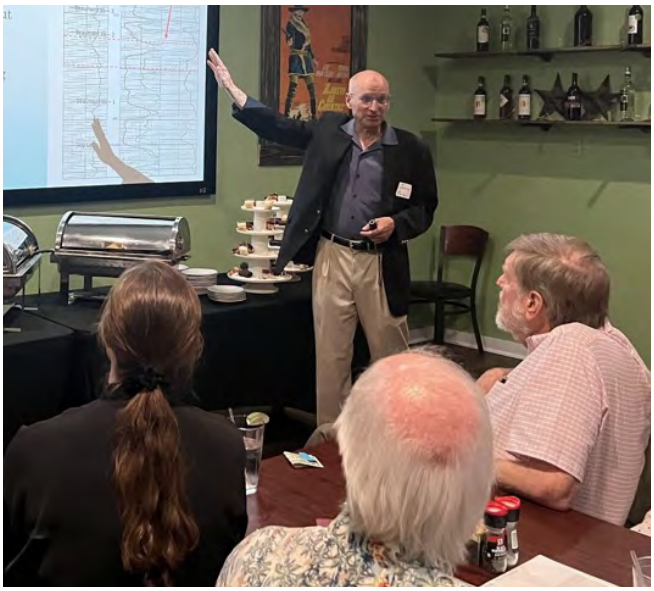
Thanks to Magly Cabrera (Ubiterra) for the photographs. ■



From left to right: Caroline Wachtman (HGS VicePresident), Jim Campbell and Magly Cabrera.



Penny Patterson.



Jerry Kendall

Victoria Kerr Receives First-Ever "Inspirational Youth" Award at GeoGulf 2026

By Dorene West and Lucia Torrado

Victoria Kerr, a 7th grader in the Science Magnet Program at Seabrook Intermediate in Seabrook, Texas, has earned the inaugural "Inspirational Youth" award at GeoGulf 2026. This new award was created by James Willis, longtime GCAGS Editor.

Dorene West, a Trustee for the GCSSEPM Foundation, assists with editing papers for GCAGS/GeoGulf and helps rank top publications for the GCSSEPM Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Awards. Her reports on the 2026 SEFH highlighting the creativity and enthusiasm of young students working on Earth science projects, inspired Willis to propose recognizing "inspirational youth" at GeoGulf alongside the conference's traditional student awards.

EXPLORING STORM SURGE AND LEVEE STABILITY

Victoria's project, "Katrina Levee 2.0," explored levee stability and storm surge impacts using a mock-up built inside a large aquarium, where different ground composition materials were tested to evaluate levee wall stability. The topic held personal significance: both of Victoria's parents are from the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas and remember the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Researching the event and learning how marshland composition and barrier design influence storm protection gave the project special meaning.

FROM SEFH RECOGNITION TO A MEMORABLE GEOGULF EXPERIENCE

After placing in the top three at both her school and district science fairs, Victoria presented her project at SEFH, where she received First Place in the Junior Division Special Awards for Earth Science–related projects, presented by members of the Houston Geological Society.

Victoria also had the opportunity to attend part of GeoGulf 2026, where she got the chance to attend a real-world conference with professional geologists in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Her mom Vanessa Kerr proudly shares: "Victoria met people from many disciplines, including a paleontologist who works with microorganisms. Everyone's passion really shined through. The ability to perform actual field work was a big attraction for her… maybe we have a future geoscientist in our hands?"

AN EARLY STEP TOWARD A FUTURE IN GEOSCIENCE

Alongside her research achievements, Victoria is a talented sketch artist and a competitive student-athlete involved in swimming, volleyball, soccer, basketball, and cross-country. ■

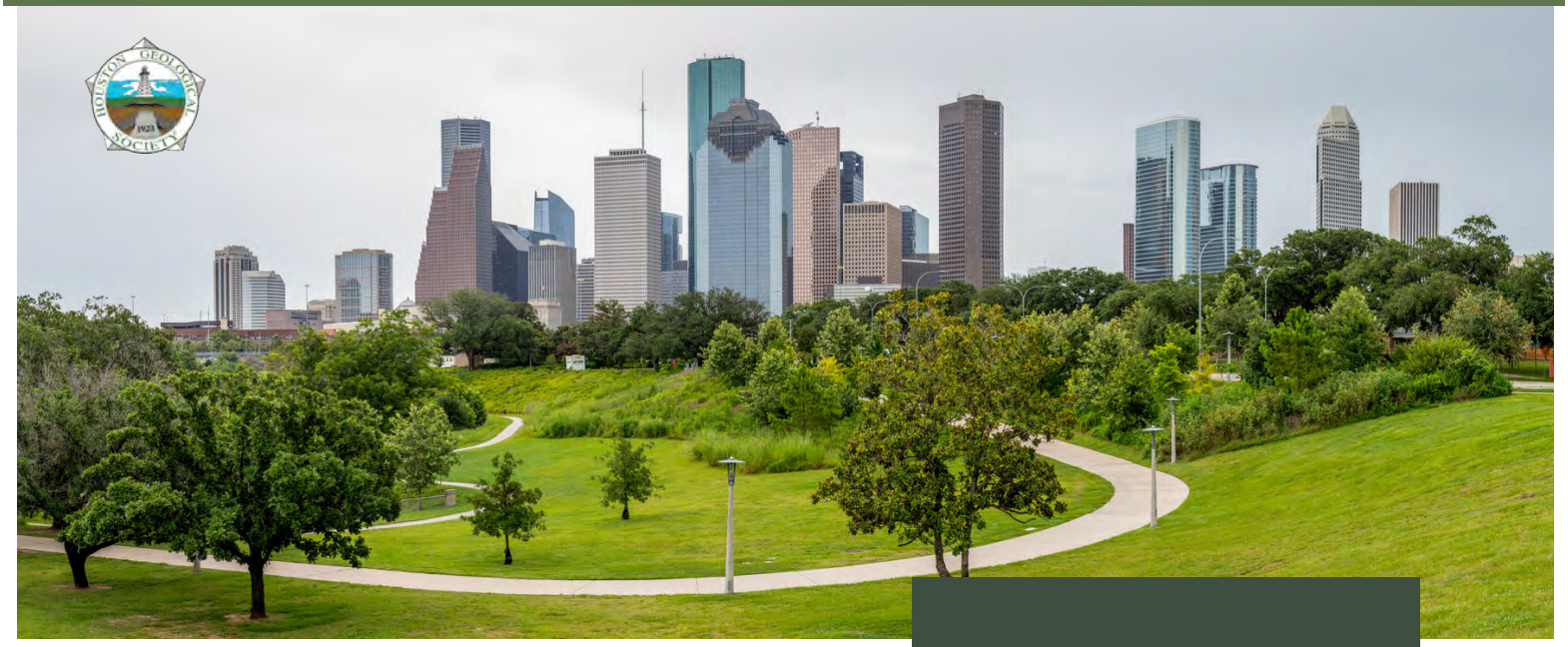


Victoria Kerr holding the inaugural "Inspirational Youth" award at GeoGulf 2026.



Victoria Kerr attended GeoGulf 2026 with her mom Vanessa Kerr.

Volunteer with HGS



Annual Events

Every year the HGS has annual social events, and we need volunteers to help us organize and set up on the day of!

These include events such as:

- Golf Tournament
- Shrimp Peel & Crawfish Boil
- Skeet Shoot
- Pickleball Event
- Field Trips





Committees

HGS committees such as Educational Outreach and Continuing Education provide geoscience learning resources to students and the local geoscience community. These groups are always looking for volunteers! If you or someone you know is interested in lending a hand, please contact the HGS Office!

Interested in Volunteering?

The HGS is always looking for energetic members to become volunteers for the society! As the largest local geological society in the country, we depend on the support of our members to help us organize and execute our many activities. Committees such as Educational Outreach, Continuing Education, and our annual social event committees are always looking for extra helping hands! Contact the HGS Office at office@hgs.org to learn more!

Seeing Geology Differently: Color and Accessibility in Maps and Figures

By Lucia Torrado

The idea for this month's GeoPick comes from a moment I shared with a close friend while working on a sequence stratigraphy assignment.

We were sketching stratigraphic surfaces on a printed seismic section. When it came time to draw the transgressive surface -traditionally blue- I noticed he had drawn it in purple and instinctively "corrected" him. Later that day, while working on a seismic interpretation, we became increasingly flustered, exchanging exasperated sighs as we discussed the top of the Cretaceous, an unconformity that I was also referring to as the "green horizon". After several minutes of confusion, we realized the issue: I was referring to the bright green horizon, while he was pointing to what I saw as aquamarine (**Figure 1**). What seemed like a straightforward discussion about a key stratigraphic surface quickly turned into a frustrating exchange simply because we were interpreting the colors differently.

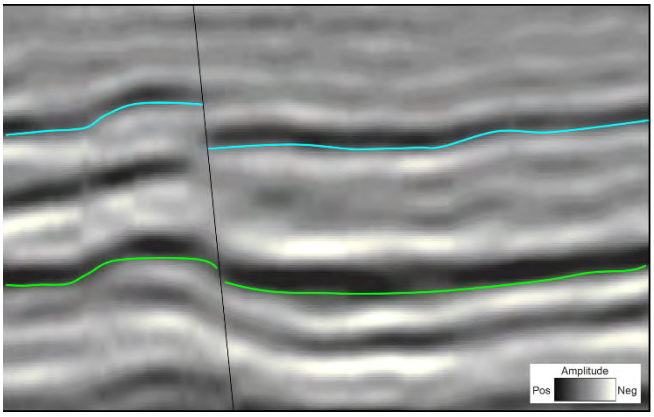


Figure 1. *The source of our lively discussion: I was referring to the bright green horizon (bottom), while my color-blind friend was confidently interpreting the aquamarine horizon (top). Vertical and horizontal scales, as well as location information, have been intentionally omitted.*

It was a small moment, and in hindsight a hilarious one, but it stuck with me. Not long after, he quietly confessed to me that he was color-blind. Over time, he became more comfortable double-checking assignments and figures with me. An RGB blending on a spectral decomposition was particularly challenging for him to visualize, as green, pink, and red can blend for people with color vision deficiencies. In contrast, recognizing calcite in thin-section was somewhat easier due to its extremely high-order interference colors in cross-polarized light. Still, I often think that if it weren't for calcite's distinctive twinning, I might struggle to recognize it myself; its very high birefringence can produce pastel pinks, greens, and whites that are not always easy to distinguish (see **Figure 2**).

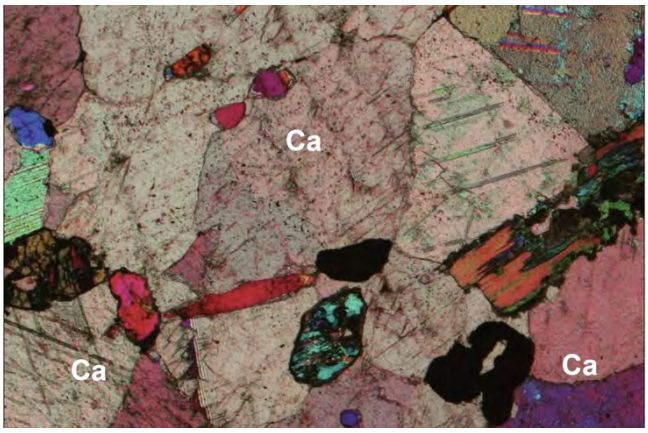


Figure 2. *Calcite crystals (Ca) associated with minor monticellite, biotite, and opaque minerals in a plutonic carbonatite from Xiluvo, Republic of Mozambique. Plane-polarized light (PPL), 2× magnification; field of view ~7 mm. Calcite's very high birefringence produces pastel interference colors that can be challenging to distinguish. Image sourced online; credit to @scholar_geologist.*

WHEN COLOR ISN'T JUST COLOR?

These experiences make me realize an aspect of geology that we often take for granted: our discipline is deeply color-coded. Color is embedded in almost everything we do, whether interpreting rock units in a map, reading stratigraphic columns, examining seismic attributes, or identifying hand specimens (**Figure 3**). We are so conditioned to these conventions that we rarely stop to think about them. A red line often signals a sequence boundary. Stratigraphic charts assign specific colors to geologic ages, many geologists can recognize the Jurassic instantly from its characteristic blue. On maps, blue tones typically suggest



Figure 3. *A geologic version of the Ishihara Color Test. Many geologists immediately notice the red and green minerals in this rock. For someone with red–green color vision deficiency, however, those colors may appear much more similar, reducing the contrast between mineral phases. The image shows a hand specimen of wehrlite, a clinopyroxene-rich peridotite, from Åheim, Norway. Sample width: ~10 cm. Image source: Sandatlas (https://sandatlas.org/peridotite/).*

deeper areas while warmer colors may indicate shallower regions. Thickness maps, or isopach maps, commonly use warm colors such as red and orange to represent greater thickness and cooler tones like blue or green for thinner intervals.

These conventions help us communicate complex information quickly and efficiently. Yet even a simple design choice -like the color palette used- can unintentionally make information harder to interpret for colleagues who perceive color differently. Color vision deficiency affects a significant portion of the population -most commonly red–green color blindness- meaning that some of the palettes we routinely use in maps, seismic displays, and figures may be difficult for others to distinguish.

Fortunately, small adjustments can make a big difference. Choosing color-blind–friendly palettes, increasing contrast between adjacent colors, and combining color with patterns or clear labeling can make figures easier for everyone to interpret. Many modern visualization tools and software packages now offer palettes specifically designed to remain distinguishable across different types of color vision.

Being thoughtful about color choices is a simple step that improves clarity, accessibility, and communication in our work. After all, the goal of any map, figure, or interpretation is the same: to make the geology easier to see and easier to understand for everyone.

COLORBREWER: MAKING GEOLOGICAL MAPS ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

ColorBrewer is an online tool designed to provide a wide selection of color-blind safe, print-friendly, and visually distinct palettes, ensuring that your geological figures communicate effectively to all readers.

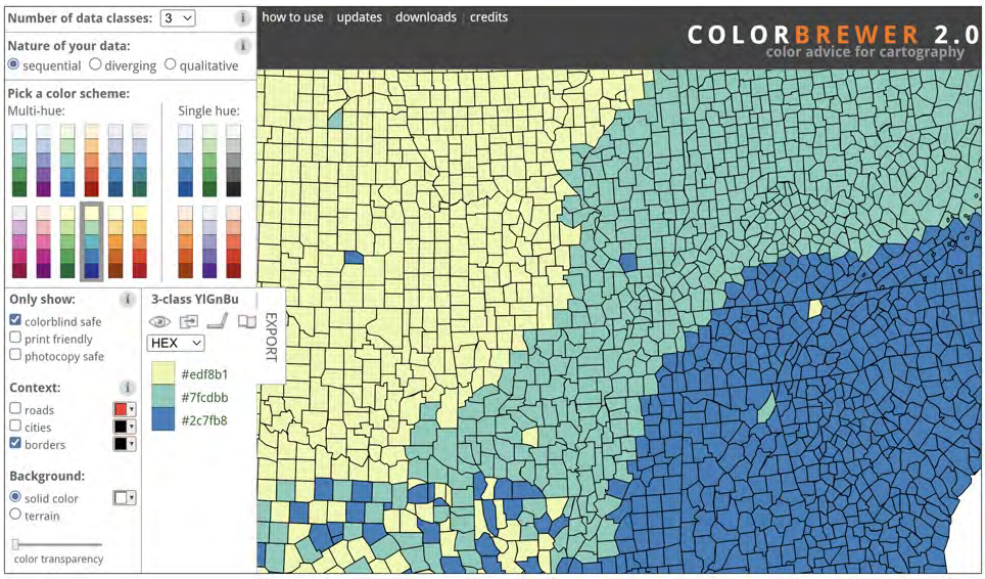


Figure 4. *Screenshot of the ColorBrewer 2.0 website. Note the menu on the left, where you can select colorblind-safe palettes, among other useful features.*

Using *ColorBrewer* is straightforward: select the number of categories you need, choose the palette type -sequential for ordered data, diverging for contrasts, or qualitative for categories- and the tool generates options tested for accessibility (**Figure 4**). Imagine mapping sedimentary formations across a region: with a standard palette, two similar shades of brown might be indistinguishable to some viewers, but with a *ColorBrewer* palette, each formation stands out clearly.

SCIENTIFIC COLOR MAPS AND STAGLAB BY FABIO CRAMERI

Developed by Fabio Crameri, a geophysicist by training and a communication scientist, Scientific Colour Maps are a suite of perceptually uniform, color-vision deficiency (CVD) friendly, and professionally designed palettes specifically created for scientific data visualization. They aim to prevent visual distortion and the exclusion of readers that common but "unscientific" colormaps (like the traditional "jet" or "rainbow" scales) often cause. If you work with seismic attributes, for example, these color palettes ensure that subtle variations in amplitude, coherence, or curvature are clearly distinguishable, since visualization can make all the difference between seeing patterns and missing them entirely.

Multi-color schemes like the rainbow (jet) map are visually appealing and often used as defaults in visualization software, but they are considered "unscientific" because they can mislead interpretation (**Figure 5**). Problems arise when color maps: 1) include both red and green (problematic for color-vision deficiencies), 2) use different colors with similar lightness (making ordering difficult), 3) lack a gradual lightness gradient (hard to read in grayscale), or 4) are perceptually non-uniform (some colors exaggerate or hide data variations).

To address this, Crameri developed *StagLab*: a software package that incorporates an extensive suite of fully-automated Geodynamic diagnostics, and applies scientific visualization to produce publication-ready figures. It is the first fully scientific visualization software as it uses exclusively Scientific color to prevent significant visual errors that would otherwise distort the underlying data and mislead the reader, while excluding others with color-vision deficiencies. A flexible, efficient, reliable, and testable tool, *StagLab* is written in *MatLab* and adjustable for use with geodynamic mantle-convection codes.

Seeing Geology Differently: Color and Accessibility

Whether you're preparing figures for publication, presentations, or teaching, these palettes provide a professional and accessible way to highlight features that might otherwise be overlooked. These palettes are widely available across major scientific platforms like *Python, MatLab* and *ArcGIS*.

OKABE-ITO PALETTE (AND RELATED ACCESSIBLE PALETTES)

A well-known color blind-safe palette originally developed for scientific figures and data visualization; the Okabe Ito palette uses a set of distinct colors that remain distinguishable across the major types of color vision deficiency. This makes it especially useful for categorical maps, charts, and figures where you need multiple clearly separated hues.

The palette works by maximizing contrast and separability for viewers with color vision differences (protanopia, deuteranopia, etc.), and it translates reasonably well to grayscale. It is commonly used for categorical layers on geological maps, legend entries with multiple units, and figures with several classes where distinct colors are crucial. The set includes colors like orange, sky blue, bluish green, yellow, strong blue, vermillion, reddish purple, and black, which remain distinct even under color vision deficiency simulators.

COLOR YOUR DATA FOR EVERYONE

Together, tools like *ColorBrewer, Scientific Color Maps & StagLab,* and the Okabe-Ito palette provide geoscientists with powerful options for creating accessible, easy-to-interpret figures and maps. The best part? They are all freely available and simple to implement in most visualization software. By thoughtfully selecting colors, we not only make our maps and seismic interpretations clearer, but also make geoscience more inclusive, ensuring that research, teaching, and outreach can reach a wider audience. After all, good science is only meaningful if it can be seen, understood, and appreciated by everyone. ■

REFERENCES

ColorBrew: https://colorbrewer2.org

Color Maps: (https://www.fabiocrameri.ch/colourmaps/)

Crameri, F., 2018, Geodynamic diagnostics, scientific visualisation and StagLab 3.0, Geoscientific Model Development: v. 11, no. 6, p. 2541–2562, doi:10.5194/gmd-11-2541-2018

StagLab: (www.fabiocrameri.ch/staglab)

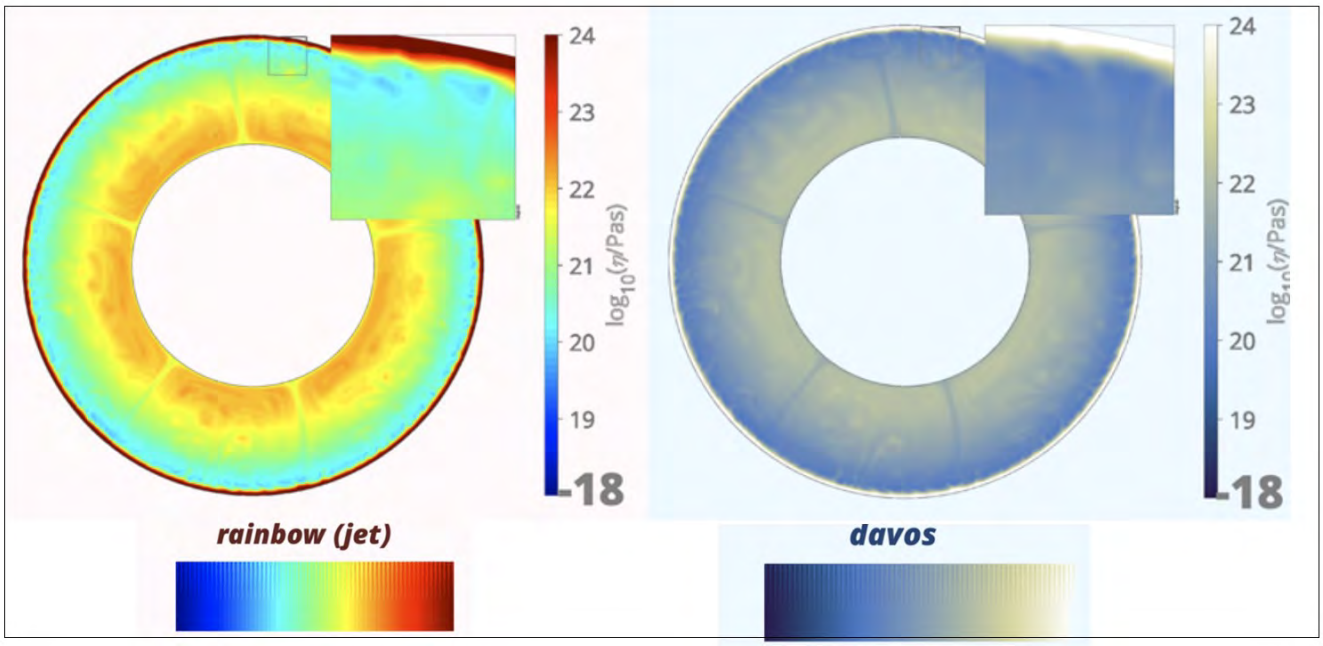


Figure 5. *Example of a mantle plume tracking figure (Crameri, 2018). A common rainbow (also known as jet) color map hides low-contrast variations in the cyan–green part vs. "davos", a color-vision deficiency friendly color map that highlights these contrasts better.*

GeoPicks features recommendations from fellow geoscientists like resources, experiences, or tools. Do you have a favorite you'd like to share? Send it to us at editor@hgs.org.

ROCK SOLID GUESS!



HINT: Layer upon layer, built not by one but by many—ancient communities working together over time to create one of Earth's earliest and most enduring structures. Picture taken from therockgallery.co.uk.



HINT: Found in the Texas Panhandle, these concentric, banded patterns formed by rhythmic chemical precipitation in porous rocks. What is it? Photo sourced online.

Rock-Solid Answers (March issue):

1. Monazite

A hand specimen of monazite, a primary natural sources of rare earth elements.

2. Prosauropods traces

A cliff face in a northern Italy national park preserving parallel trackways of 210-million-year-old dinosaur footprints.

HGS Membership Application

Houston Geological Society
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Email: office@hgs.org

Active Membership

In order to qualify for Active Membership you must have a degree in geology or an allied geoscience from an accredited college or university or, have a degree in science or engineering from an accredited college or university and have been engaged in the professional study or practice of earth science for at least 5 years. Active Members shall be entitled to vote, stand for election, and serve as an officer in the Society. Active Members pay $40.00 in dues.

Associate Membership

Associate Members do not have a degree in geology or allied geoscience, but are engaged in the application of the earth sciences. Associate Members are not entitled to vote, stand for elections or serve as an officer in the Society. Associate Members pay $40.00 in dues.

Student Membership

Student membership is for full-time students enrolled in geology or an allied geoscience. Student Members are not entitled to vote, stand for elections or serve as an officer in the Society. Student Member dues are currently waived (free) but applications must be filled out to its entirety. Student applicants must provide University Dean or Advisor Name to be approved for membership.

Membership Benefits

Digital HGS Bulletin

The HGS Bulletin is a high-quality journal digitally published monthly by the HGS (with the exception of July and August). The journal provides feature articles, meeting abstracts, and information about upcoming and past events. As a member of the HGS, you'll receive a digital copy of the journal on the HGS website. Membership also comes with access to the online archives,with records dating back to 1958.

Discount prices for meetings and short courses

Throughout the year, the various committees of the HGS organize lunch/dinner meetings centered around technical topics of interest to the diverse membership of the organization. An average of 6 meetings a month is common for the HGS (with the exception of July and August). Short courses on a variety of topics are also planned throughout the year by the Continuing Education Committee. These meetings and courses are fantastic opportunities to keep up with technology, network, and expand your education beyond your own specialty. Prices for these events fluctuate depending on the venue and type of event; however, with membership in the HGS you ensure you will always have the opportunity to get the lowest registration fee available.

Networking

The HGS is a dynamic organization, with a membership diverse in experience, education, and career specialties. As the largest local geological society, the HGS offers unprecedented opportunities to network and grow within the Gulf Coast geological community.

Please fill out this application in its entirety to expedite the approval process to become an Active/Associate member of Houston Geological Society.

Full Name _____ Type *(Choose one)*: Active Associate Student

Current Email *(for digital Bulletin & email newsletter)*_____

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Preferred Address for HGS mail_____

This is my home address _____ business address _____

Employer *(required)*_____ Job Title *(required)*_____ Will you volunteer? ____ (Y/N) Committee choice: _____

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OPTIONAL Scholarship Contributions- Calvert/HGS Foundation-Undergraduate **$5.00**_____

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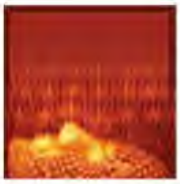
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Bluebonnets near Study Butte, Big Bend National Park, Texas (photo taken March 1st, 2019). Since it's spring in Texas, we're sharing this bloom as a reminder that small actions can lead to growth and opportunity. Photo by Rob Greebon Photography (Sourced online: https://www.robgreebonphotography.com/).