

HGS Bulletin

Volume 53 Number 10

Houston Geological Society

June 2011

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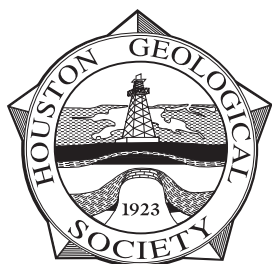
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The Bulletin

Houston Geological Society

Volume 53, Number 10

June 2011

In Every Issue

- 5 From the President**
by John Tubb, Jr.
- 7 From the Editor**
by Barry Katz
- 36 GeoEvents Calendar**
- 67 HGS Membership Application**
- 68 HPAC**
- 69 Professional Directory**

Houston Geological Society

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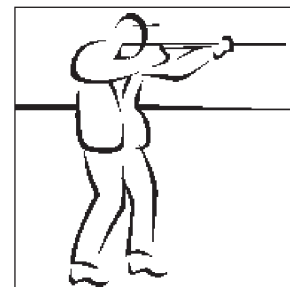
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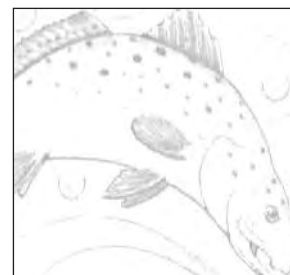
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Other Features

- 5 HGS Strategic Plan: Charting a Path for Growth**
Jennifer Burton
- 9 HGS New Officers and Board of Directors for 2011-2012**
- 9 Vendor Corner Recognition and Thanks**
- 11 Save the Date! July 21st, 2011**
Techno-Fest and Techno-Conference
- 15 Space City: Highlights of the AAPG 2011 Annual Convention in Houston April 10-13**
Linda Sternbach
- 17 HGS Debuts New Look for the AAPG Convention**
Bill Mason
- 19 Houston Geological Society Awards**
- 51 10th HGS/PESGB Conference**
Africa: a Legacy of Exploration and Discovery
- 54 SIPES Luncheon Meeting**
Microseismic Monitoring During Shale Field Development
- 57 Texas Team Wins 2011 Imperial Barrel Award Competition**
- 59 Government Update**
Henry M. Wise and Arlin Howles
- 63 June Crossword Answers**
- 64 June Crossword, May Crossword Answers**



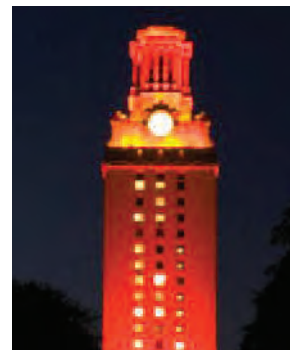
page 4



page 8

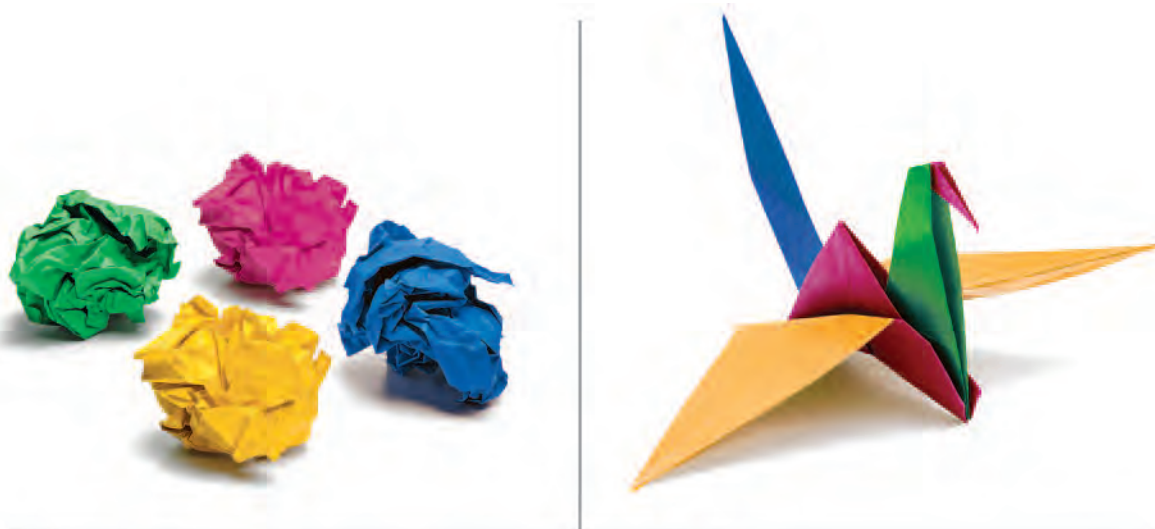


page 15



page 57

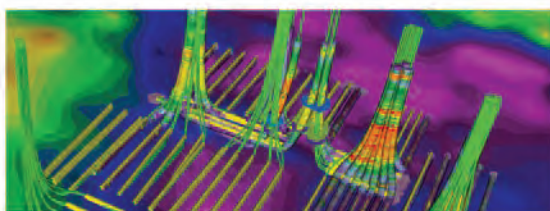
About the Cover: California sunset Photo by Barry Katz



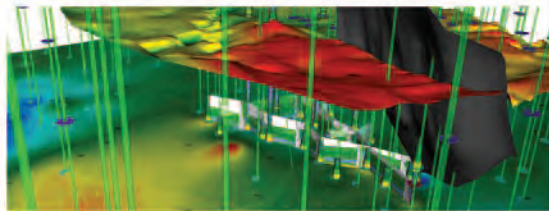
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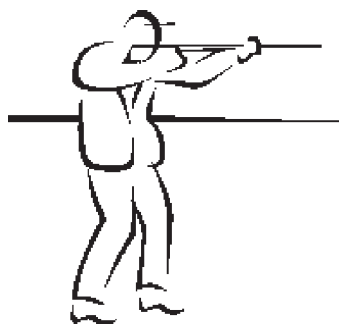
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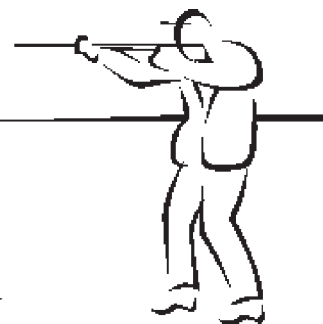
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28th Annual HGS SKEET SHOOT



Saturday, June 18, 2011

Greater Houston Gun Club
6702 McHard Road, Missouri City

This tournament is a 50 target event. Shells are provided, however **you must bring eye and ear protection.** Greater Houston Gun Club and National Skeet Shooting Association safety rules will be in effect. Trophy winning shooters will be determined by the Lewis class system. Door prizes will be awarded by blind drawing after the conclusion of shooting. All competitors are automatically entered into the door prize drawing, but you must be present at the time of the drawing to win.

BBQ lunch will be provided from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.
Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

IMPORTANT!!

WE ARE LIMITED TO 160 SHOOTERS IN FOUR ROTATIONS. ENTRY FEE IS \$80 PER SHOOTER FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BY SATURDAY, JUNE 11. AFTER THAT, REGISTRATION WILL BE STRICTLY ON A "SPACE AVAILABLE" BASIS AND THE ENTRY FEE WILL BE \$95 PER SHOOTER. REGISTER EARLY!!

For more information, contact: Tom McCarroll at (713)419-9414 or tom_mccarroll@yahoo.com.

For directions to the club, visit www.greaterhoustongunclub.com.

HGS SKEET SHOOT REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Company: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Preferred shooting time: (circle one) 9:00 10:00 11:00 12:00

Indicate ammunition required: (circle one) 12 gauge 20 gauge

Please return form(s) with check for \$80.00 per shooter, payable to: **Houston Geological Society**

If you prefer to pay by credit card, please call Sandra at the HGS office, (713) 463-9476.

Mail to: **Tom McCarroll • 2668 Hwy. 365 #329 • Brenham, TX 77833**

Registration Fee: \$_____ + Sponsor contribution: \$_____ = Total: \$_____

If you wish to shoot with a specific squad (5 shooters max.), please submit all forms together.

**ALL SHOOTERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY
BEFORE THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO SHOOT!**



John Tubb, Jr.
jbtjr@sbcglobal.net

Past, Present, and Future

Well, it's the middle of April (tax time) and I am writing my farewell President's Letter to be published in this month's bulletin. Time has gone by very fast this year. We still have Guest Night, Shrimp Peel, Skeet Shoot and President's Night left in my Presidential year. HGS has had a great year. Our three major events, Techno-Fest, African Conference and Mudstone Conference were all tremendous successes. All of our technical talks and social events were very well attended. The HGS Legends Night honoring **John Amoruso, Dick Bishop, Dan Smith and Dave Rensink** was a sellout. We were active in our K-12 education outreach programs. The AAPG Convention ended mid-April with over 8,200 registrants. Thanks go to **Steve Levine** and his volunteers for all of their work in making the AAPG Convention a huge success.

The success we have had this year would not have been possible without all of the volunteers that worked on the multitude of our projects. Thank you volunteers! If you have not volunteered for any of our projects, you should consider doing so. It is very rewarding, not to mention *FUN*, and it's giving something back to the society and our community.

This is the past. What about the future? Your HGS Board has been

working these past two months with Spencer Yantis, a retired University of Houston marketing professor, considering where the HGS is presently and where we want to be in the future. We have rewritten the HGS Mission Statement and added a Vision Statement and Slogan. See the article by **Jennifer Burton** below for more details.

We are now working on specific projects to achieve these goals. Foremost among the projects is upgrading the website by making it more "user friendly" and more suited to our needs. We are planning on putting a lot of emphasis on webinars to be put on the website. We think that webinars are the wave of the future for extending technical training to all our membership. We want to expand the K-12 outreach program. Our ultimate goal is to have a three year plan. These projects will be completed well after my term of office.

I have extremely enjoyed this past year. It has been a lot of work, but it was well worth it. Would I do it again? In a second! Thanks for the memories. ■

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

HGS Strategic Plan: Charting a Path for Growth

by **Jennifer Burton**, Director 2011-12

In March the current HGS Board initiated an organizational review of the society in an effort to reflect on current programs and to understand how we can better serve our membership. To that end, we engaged the help of Dr. Spencer Yantis, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Houston who has had extensive experience helping various not-for-profit organizations build their strategic business plans. The first step in the process is to develop a clearly stated mission and vision that defines the organization's strengths and future direction. Over the course of several brainstorming sessions, a consensus view of the HGS emerged. We present here the new mission, vision, and slogan statements, and we welcome your feedback. These statements are meant to be simple, clear, and stand as the unifying theme behind all our programs. Beyond these statements, we will be working with individual program committees to build goals and objectives that are consistent with the vision and mission of the society.

Why we are doing this now?

The HGS has a proud and admirable history of serving the Houston geosciences community for over 87 years, and we have the unique distinction of being the largest local geosciences organization in the world with 3900 members. Over the years

our membership demography and interests have evolved along with new technologies and processes. In order to grow, the society must maintain a clear *vision* of where it wants to go and a compelling *mission*. It must also regularly review its programs to insure that we are meeting the needs and interests of

our membership and the community. We are indebted to our core of volunteer committees who passionately provide our programs, and we are committed to supporting their efforts by providing a sound organizational structure and budget. ■

Our Vision:

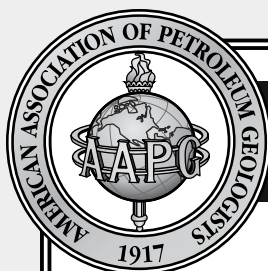
To be the essential organization serving earth science professionals in the Houston community.

Our Mission:

To provide earth science enrichment through technical education, networking opportunities, and community service.

Our Slogan:

A local geosciences society with global reach.



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E-mail: educate@aapg.org
Download a registration form at:
www.aapg.org/education/sec.cfm

Tuition for the week:

	Price through 5/9/2011	Price increase after 5/9/2011
AAPG Members.....	\$1695	\$1795
Non Members.....	\$1795	\$1895
Individual Courses	\$450/day	\$500/day

(Your five-day badge can be transferred to a friend
or colleague if you can't attend all five days.)



Barry Katz
BJKatz.HGS@gmail.com

Its Time to Pass the Torch

I hope that I have followed the “Hippocratic Oath” and have done no harm to the *Bulletin* during my tenure as Editor and maybe actually added a little something! This is my twentieth and final column, and now my countdown is over. Over these past two years I have had the opportunity to share my thoughts with you on three things of importance to me – volunteerism, continuous learning, and mentoring. Each of these items were discussed several times and will remain an important part of my professional life. I hope that they will be part of yours as well. Remember that they are important components of our technical development and we all should continue to develop and advance professionally no matter how many years it has been since we were awarded our degree.

These past two years have been a true learning experience for me. I really didn’t know what to expect when I stepped into the job. I have been a reviewer and a member of the editorial board for several different journals. In those roles I was largely asked to comment on technical issues. Deadlines were present but were generally soft. A note to the editor was usually enough for an extension. As the *Bulletin*’s editor, my role was much more as publisher. Content was important, but so were a broad range of items such as the number of pages, the placement of advertising, consistent style and format, and the selection of the cover art. I learned what a “pulled quote” is, and that part of my job was their selection, as well as the creation of titles for many of the contributions received. It wasn’t always easy selecting that impactful phrase or sentence or creating that catchy title. It also became very clear what the definition of a hard deadline was. Missing delivery to the printer could mean late arrival to your mailbox, which would be unacceptable. I learned when I took office that the job description and responsibilities of the Editor were limited, but well defined, with one, true, sole function—ensuring timely delivery of the *Bulletin*.

The importance of a good team became very clear because the *Bulletin* is much more than the product of a single individual. There were a number of people that provided support throughout my tenure. As always, I will share in the success of my team, but take full responsibility for the hiccups that we had over the past two years.

In addition to the President and myself, there have been a number of regular monthly contributors. These include **Winona LaBrant-Smith**, **Henry Wise** and **Arlin Howes**. They kept us informed of HPAC activities and government actions that impact our industry. There were also those that funneled monthly contributions to me for each of the HGS meetings – **Amy Sullivan**, **Matthew Cowan**, **Justin Vandenbrink**, **Steve Getz**, **Jory Pacht**, **Dan Bendig**, and **David Tonner**. These individuals kept the wheels on track and provided the forward motion needed.

Our many contributors, too many to mention, provided the content, and provided the primary purpose for the *Bulletin* to exist.

And, finally there was the “behind the scenes” team. **Sandra Babcock** and **Gabriela Henriquez**, our HGS office staff, provided assistance with handling that all important advertising and making sure that the lines of communication were open. Although, as Editor you hope that every member

reads each issue from cover to cover, I know that is not the case. But there are a handful of individuals that do. **James Ragsdale** and **Charles Reville** have provided editorial comments on all contributions received. Their editorial comments have helped to provide technical clarity and a consistent style. Then there is **Ron Waszczak**, your Editor-Elect. As part of the annual transition from Editor-Elect to Editor, Ron has been responsible for the review of the “final” copy of the *Bulletin* before going to press. He provided a much needed, fresh pair of eyes. Typically after reviewing several draft versions of the *Bulletin*, I am either seeing things that aren’t there or missing things that are. There is one more member of the team that reads the *Bulletin* cover to cover, after the fact. **Fang Lin**, has the role of compiling the annual index. The construction of the index is no small task. Look for this feature in the September issue of the *Bulletin*.

The team also included **Lisa Krueger**. Her job is to assemble all of the bits and pieces of content that I provide into a product that the HGS membership can be proud of. More on Lisa later in this issue. She will be receiving the Editor’s Award this month.

From the Editor continued on page 9

11th ANNUAL GSH/HGS SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT

Friday, October 7, 2011

The FISH SPOT Marina • 4009 20th Street North • Texas City, Texas
Galveston Bay Complex and Offshore

This year's Saltwater Fishing Tournament will include an Offshore Division to be held on Friday, October 7 at the Fish Spot Marina, Texas City, Texas. We are looking forward to a big event this Fall and we encourage full family participation.

Galveston Bay Complex Division

Trophies will be awarded for the heaviest individual Redfish (Non-Tagged), Speckled Trout and Flounder. Trophies will also be awarded for the heaviest individual Stringer-1 Redfish, 3 Speckled Trout, and 1 Flounder.

Galveston Offshore Division

Trophies will be awarded for the heaviest individual Red Snapper, King Mackerel, and Mahi-mahi.

Registration fee includes: Launch Fee, GSH/HGS Fishing Cap, Fish Fry Meal after weigh-in, Refreshments, Trophies, and DOOR PRIZES.

For more information, please contact:

Bobby Perez (HGS & GSH) • 281-240-1234 ext. 3103 Office • 281-240-4997 Fax • 281-787-2106 Cell • 281-495-8695 Home
E-mail addresses: rdphtx@aol.com or r_perez@seismicventures.com

The Geophysical Society of Houston and the Houston Geological Society are non-profit organizations serving the Geosciences Community. Corporate and individual contributions are appreciated and will be acknowledged on several sponsor boards and banners at the Weigh-In Station and Marina. All contributors will be recognized in the GSH newsletter and HGS *Bulletin* following the tournament. This is a great way to entertain friends, family, business associates, and clients. So spread the word!

GSH/HGS SALTWATER TOURNAMENT

NAME: _____ COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONES: (H) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Upon receipt of the registration form, each participant will be provided with a copy of the specific tournament itinerary and rules sheet by e-mail. Please register **EARLY**.

Please return this form with your check for \$60.00 per contestant payable to:

GSH SALTWATER TOURNAMENT and Mail to:

Geophysical Society of Houston, 14811 Saint Mary's Lane, Suite 250 • Houston, Texas 77079

Registration Fee: \$ _____ + Sponsor Contribution: \$ _____ = TOTAL \$ _____

DISCLAIMER:

I acknowledge that the Geophysical Society of Houston / Houston Geological Society will not be held responsible for injury or accidents during this event. PRACTICE SAFETY!!!!

Signature: _____ Date _____

There is yet one other individual that needs to be thanked; my wife of 34 years, Terry. There are more reasons than I can count that I am thankful to her for, but at this time I will focus on those related to the *Bulletin*. Probably first and foremost is her willingness to let me invest my time to carry out my duties as Editor. She gave up many a weekend activity so that I could complete an issue on time and was understanding about my Friday editorial meetings at the HGS office. She was also there to discuss my thoughts about each column before I took pen to paper and then critiqued each column. She ensured that my thoughts were clear, and possibly of greater importance, that my tone was correct. There were a few columns over the past two years that underwent major rewrite after Terry

read them. Paraphrasing Jerry Maguire, she made me and my columns “whole”.

I now pass the torch to the new team – Editor Ron Waszczak and Editor-elect Patricia Santogrossi. I have full confidence that they will continue the tradition of the *Bulletin* and will bring it to new heights!.

And in closing, I once again search for an appropriate quote. This time from Edward R. Murrow.

“Good night, and good luck” ■

New Officers – HGS Board of Directors for 2011-2012

President Steven A. Earle

President-elect Martin Cassidy

Vice President David Meaux

Treasurer Christina M. Higginbotham

Treasurer-elect Donald Walker

Secretary Matt Cowan

Editor Ron F. Waszczak

Editor-elect Patricia Santogrossi

Directors

John Adamick (2010-2012)

Jennifer L. Burton (2010-2012)

Gary Coburn (2011-2013)

Cecelia Baum Raburn (2011-2013)

Vendor Corner Recognition and Thanks

The Houston Geological Society would like to recognize and thank its many vendors who demonstrated their financial support of the HGS by providing “Vendor Corners” for our 2010-2011 evening technical meetings. These are the folks who present poster session displays of their company’s products, studies or services. They provided a great focal point for the attendees, during the gathering and social period, prior to the meetings. The Vendor Corner fees that they pay are donated 100% to the HGS Scholarship Fund (undergraduate geosciences students) and the HGS Student Membership Initiative.

The HGS would like to thank the following:

*AOA Geophysics – Dan McConnell, Adrian Digby, Brenda Monsalve, Lionel Fray, Hunter Danque

*Dickson International Geosciences (DIGS) – Bill Dickson

*Fugro Grav. & Mag. – Alex Blacque, Luiz Braga, Jeff Rowe

Fugro Multi-Client – Lucy Plant, Claire Glover

*Geochemical Solutions International (GSI) – Craig Schiefelbein

*Geomage Limited– Dave Schwartz

*ION GX Technology – Catherina Birkinshaw Christiansen, Menno Dinkelman, Peter Nuttall, Al Danforth

Micro-Strat Inc. – Walter Wornardt

*Petrophysicqal Solutions – Neal Peeler, Bill Price

Rock Solid Images – Jason Tinder, Geoffroy Paixach

Seiswave Inc. – Oscar Skaer

Sequence Stratigraphic Associates – Seth Thornton, Thomas Stump, Bill Krebs

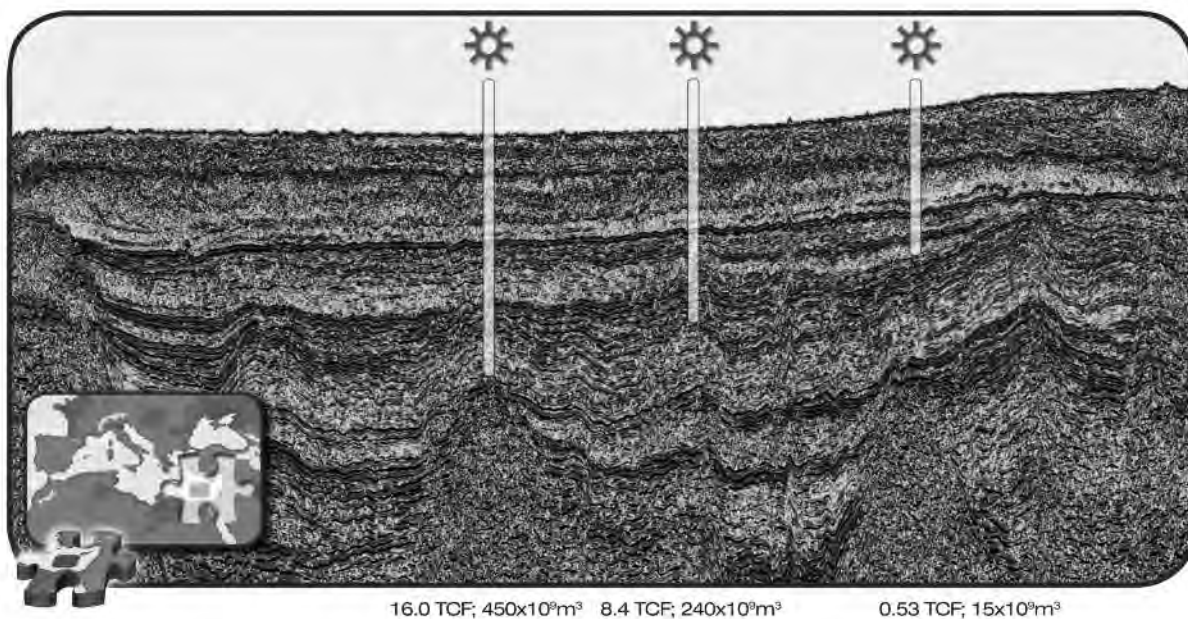
Spatial Energy – Gary Crews, Rich Weber, Robin Leventhal

Tsunami Development – Bill Kamps, Lisa Qualls, Steve Joachims

*Hosted more than one vendor corner

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Save the Date! July 21st, 2011

Techno-Fest and Techno-Conference

Techno-Fest was established years ago to bring new technology to the Oil and Gas Community in a one day local setting. In the early beginnings the event were vendors showing the latest in their technologies of software, regional studies or speculative seismic data with a predominant audience of geologists. Last year the HGS added Techno-Conference. We understand that exploration and exploitation takes an integrated approach across many scientific disciplines and are now expanding the breath of the conference across disciplines of geology, geophysics and engineering.

The Theme for this year's Conference is "Profits in any Environment." **René Mott**, who is Chairman of Techno-Conference is now soliciting papers in the following topics:

- onshore and offshore new technologies
- new technologies in drilling and completions
- new technologies in geophysics
- new concepts in geology

A Call for Papers is being requested from interested parties that would like to share their case studies and proven new technology of the past year.

There are a limited amount of speaking positions for this one-day event.

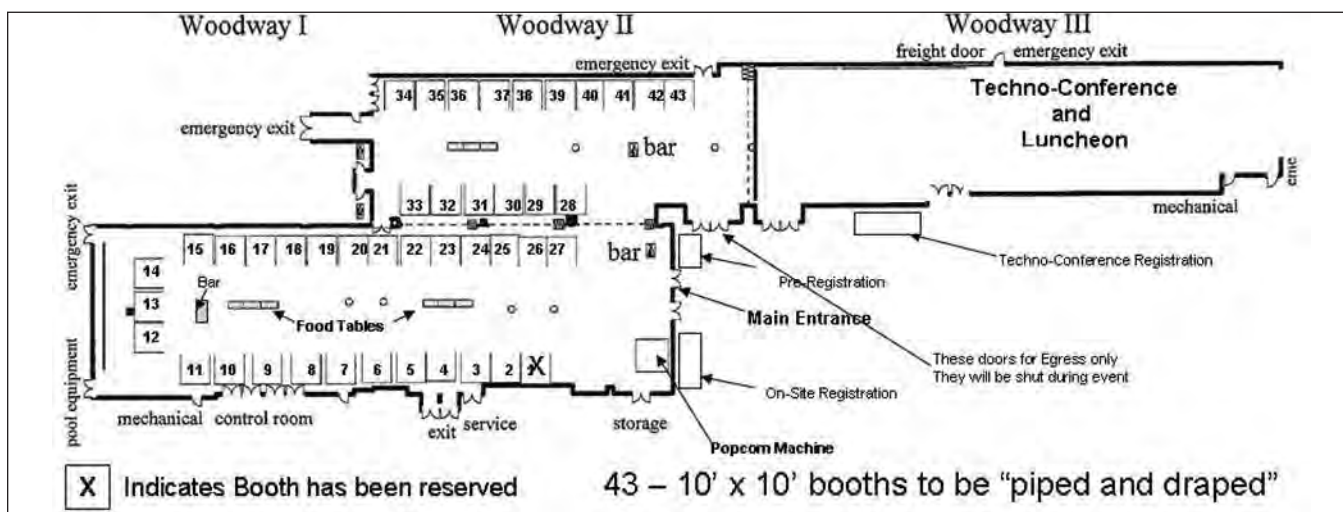
Abstracts and speaker bios are asked to be submitted by interested parties to René Mott (queenmio@att.net) or **Deborah Sacrey** (dsacrey@auburnenergy.com) in *.doc format.

Final material will need to be in power point format *.ppt for presentations and are due June 21, 2011.

A public *.pdf file will need to be delivered at the same time to post to the a website for participants to before the event for note taking.

Final materials may be sent to René Mott (queenmio@att.net) for installation at the Techno-Conference. ■

Please join us in making this year's event a sell out!



Loyd Tuttle **Bob Liska** **Jim Thorpe**
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SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION FORM**Summer Techno-Fest and Techno-Conference 2011****Thursday, July 21st – 8:30am – 8:30pm****WESTIN GALLERIA • 5060 West Alabama, Houston, TX**

Description: The HGS Emerging Technologies Group is inviting companies to come and share their new technologies and research. We are reserving space at the Westin Galleria Hotel. The event will be held on July 21st, from 8:30am to 8:30pm for both Techno-Fest and Techno-Conference. We will have finger foods and a cash bar for Techno-Fest. People attending this function will be eating and drinking while viewing the latest in technology and research. There will be a small admission fee for each person attending. An announcement will be run on the HGS site, if a URL is provided, the vendor list will be directed toward the vendor's home page. Sponsorship opportunities include Techno-Conference Luncheon, beverage bar at Techno-Fest as well as munchies served during Techno-Fest.

Companies wishing to participate as a sponsor should fill out the following contract, and return to:

Deborah Sacrey

Auburn Energy • 8588 Katy Freeway, Suite 260 • Houston, TX 77024

(office: 713-468-3260, fax: 713-468-3210) Include a fax cover letter

E-mail me along with faxing your reply at: dsacrey@auburnenergy.com

- 1) The undersigned hereby applies to be a general sponsor at the above mentioned Techno-Fest.
- 2) This contract must be signed and returned ASAP with check for amount appropriate to sponsorship level. (Check or credit card.)
General Sponsorship: ☐ Platinum \$1000 ☐ Gold \$500 ☐ Silver \$250 ☐ Bronze \$100.
- 3) Contact me directly if you do not receive confirmation of the application within 3 days of sending.
- 4) Company's name will be posted at the event and on the website.
- 5) E-mail a gif or tif image of your company logo for inclusion on the HGS website.

***PLEASE INCLUDE THE CONTACT NAME FOR THIS EVENT!**

☐ Refreshment Sponsorship ☐ General Sponsorship

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*Contact Name _____ Title: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

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Email: _____

• Let me know if you do not check your e-mail regularly. Most correspondence is by e-mail. •

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Signed: _____

Date: _____

If you have any questions, please contact

Deborah Sacrey, 713-468-3260 or dsacrey@auburnenergy.com

Bonnie Milne-Andrews, 281-874-2841 or bonnie.milne@swiftenergy.com

VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM

Summer Techno-Fest 2011

Thursday, July 21st – 8:30am – 8:30pm
WESTIN GALLERIA • 5060 West Alabama, Houston, TX

Description: The Houston Geological Society is inviting companies to come and share their new technologies and research. We are reserving space at the Westin Galleria Hotel in the Woodway Hall. The event will be held on July 21st, 2011 from 2:30pm to 8:30pm. We will have finger foods and a cash bar. People attending this function will be eating and drinking while viewing the latest in technology and research. There will be a small admission fee for each person attending. Exhibitors will be given 2 admissions with the booth fee. Additional admissions may be purchased. An announcement will be run on the HGS site, if a URL is provided, the vendor list will be directed toward the vendor's home page. Please indicate if you would be interested in Sponsorship.

Booths will be piped and draped. Vendors will be responsible for ordering furniture, electrical and internet/phone hookups (if necessary).

Companies wishing to participate should fill out the following contract, and return to:

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(office: 713-468-3260, fax: 713-468-3210) Include a fax cover letter

E-mail me along with faxing your reply at: dsacrey@auburnenergy.com

- 1) The undersigned hereby applies for space at the above mentioned Techno-Fest.
- 2) **This contract must be signed and returned ASAP with check for \$400.00 if reserved by July 1 or \$500.00 if reserved AFTER July 1, 2010.** (If you need more time to have a check cut, please contact Deborah Sacrey.)
 Make checks payable to HGS (Houston Geological Society). Space allocated is based on booths available at time of application.
- 3) Each company will be responsible for providing electrical/phone/internet. Information is included with this packet.
- 4) Contact me directly if you do not receive confirmation of the application within 3 days of sending.
- 5) Setup will begin at 7:00 am on the day of the event, and must be completed by 12 NOON. Dismantling will begin at 8:30pm and must be finished by 12:00 am.
- 6) You will be contacted with more information at least two weeks prior to the event.

***PLEASE INCLUDE THE CONTACT NAME FOR THIS EVENT!**

☐ Refreshment Sponsorship ☐ General Sponsorship

Company Name _____

*Contact Name _____ Title: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

• Let me know if you do not check your e-mail regularly. Most correspondence is by e-mail. •

URL Site: _____

BOOTH CHOICE: _____ 1ST _____ 2ND _____ 3RD (Booth floor plan on page 17)

Credit Card number and type: _____ Expiration Date (required): _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Daytime Phone number of Card Holder: _____

Billing Address for Card: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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Space City: Highlights of the AAPG 2011 Annual Convention in Houston April 10-13

by *Linda Sternbach*

The AAPG Annual Convention took geoscientists “to Greater Heights” during the All-Convention Luncheon on April 11, which featured astronauts **Scott Carpenter** (Mercury 7), **Harrison “Jack” Schmitt** (Apollo 17), and **James F. Reilly II** (Space Shuttle) and a video address by current NASA shuttle astronaut **Andrew Fustel**. The theme of the 2011 convention was “Making the Next Giant Leap in Geosciences.” The Houston Geological Society contributed more than 100 volunteers to make the program a success under General Chairman **Steve Levine**.

The All-Convention Luncheon riveted 600 people as they watched a tribute to the NASA space program, celebrating 50 years since JFK’s announcement of the U.S. goal to send astronauts to the Moon. The luncheon started with introductions by General Chairman Levine, and AAPG Honorary Member **Charles Sternbach**. Then Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter, who in 1962 was the second American to orbit the Earth, presented his vivid recollections of being in the group of the first astronauts, Navy pilots who had the “right stuff.” Moonwalker Dr. Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, lunar module pilot on Apollo 17 in 1972, spoke on the need to reorganize NASA and the imperative for the U.S. to continue to fund manned space flight. Shuttle astronaut James F. Reilly spoke on why he became an astronaut and his memories of seeing Earth from space. Current NASA shuttle astronaut Andrew Fustel spoke via video, as he was scheduled to launch on shuttle Endeavour to the Space Station.

HGS sponsored an all-day field trip to NASA on Saturday, April 9, before the convention. The trip sent 88 people on two buses to NASA with astronauts Jack Schmitt and Jim Reilly as co-field trip leaders with Charles Sternbach, **William (Bill) Ambrose** of the BEG, and **Linda Sternbach**. The group toured the Space Center Houston exhibits of moon rocks, the prototype Mars rovers being built, and the Saturn 5 rocket in Rocket Park. ■

Highlights of the AAPG 2011 Annual Convention continued on page 17



Charles Sternbach and AAPG 2011 General Chairman Steve Levine at the All-Convention Luncheon



JSC Rockyard — the Mars Rover



Scott Carpenter and Jack Schmitt



Andrew Fustel



Jim Reilly



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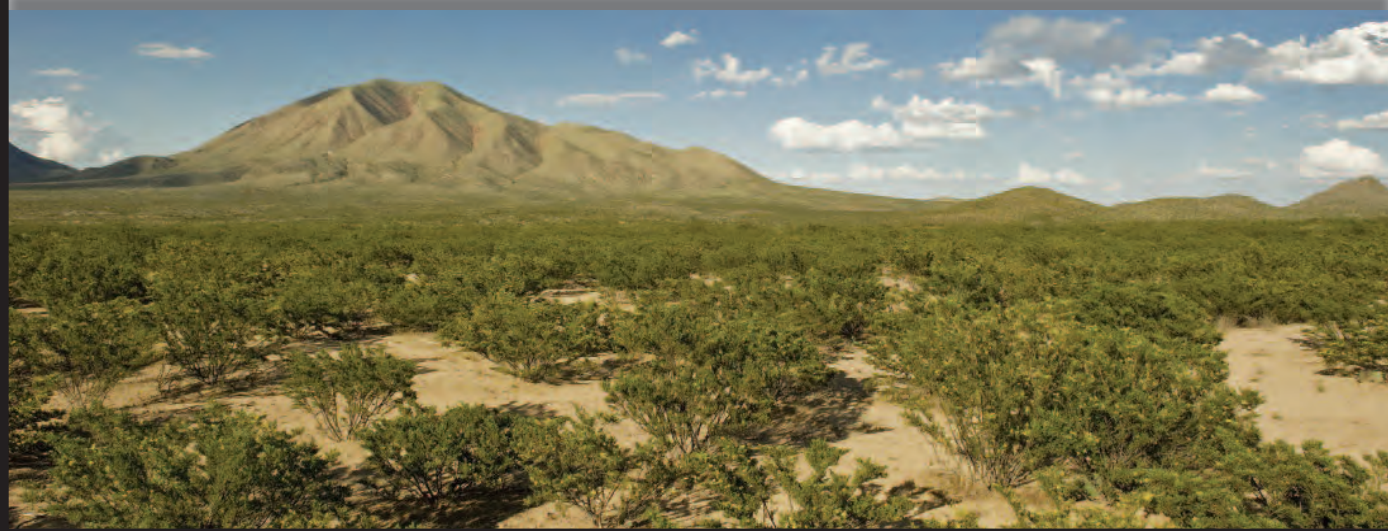


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Jack Schmitt with Apollo 17 display



NASA Rocket Park — Saturn 5 Rocket



Jeff Lund, Jack Schmitt and Charles Sternbach



Jack Schmitt at Rocket Park

HGS Debuts New Look for the AAPG Convention

by **Bill Mason**, Exhibits Chairman

If you visited the HGS booth at this year's AAPG convention (ACE 2011), you may have noticed some major changes. The exhibit committee, with the help of part-time marketing consultant **Ashley Harris**, helped put a fresh new face to the image of the Society. The booth debuted a brand new, single message pop-up display, a large video monitor projecting a truly professional PowerPoint presentation, HGS table cover with the HGS logo,

redesigned forms, and giveaways. Visitors were even able to get their business cards laminated courtesy of the HGS with our new luggage tag laminator. Most importantly, visitors to our booth were welcomed by a diverse and dynamic group of booth volunteers who made this exhibit the most successful to-date.

Previous conventions would generate 12 to 24 new member applications. This year's convention produced 51 new applications and a considerable number of renewals.

Additional to a new look, our booth featured a truly inspiring group of young professionals from the NeoGeos that gave new energy to the booth. We are grateful for their participation. ■

Special thanks to the following list of people who volunteered their time.

Jeffrey Allen	Jim Becnel	Marc Cooper
Jannette England	Mike Erpenbeck	Alan Foley
Bryan Guzman	Carrie Kidd	Claudia Ludwig
Andrew McCann	David Novak	Keith Patton
Sarah Power	Lisa Qualls	Cecillia Ramirez
Constantin Sandu	Marvin Smith	Donna Kraker-Riley





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Houston Geological Society Awards

2010–2011 Gerald A. Cooley Award

The Gerald A. Cooley Award is given to members who have continued to serve the Society well above and beyond the call of duty over many years. It is the highest recognition given by the HGS.

DEBORAH KING SACREY needs no introduction among our membership or the geological community at large. She epitomizes the ideals of service and leadership within our profession, and for that the Houston Geological Society is pleased to recognize her with its highest honor, the Gerald A. Cooley Award. Her continued contributions — to the HGS, AAPG, the Oklahoma City Geological Society, the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, and her alma mater, the University of Oklahoma — are numerous and noteworthy.

Deborah's career began at Gulf Oil after graduation from OU. She continued her oil company staff career at ANR, Old Dominion, Weeks Exploration, and Paramount Energy before founding Auburn Energy, a thriving consultancy with tremendous success generating numerous prospects and discoveries.

Deborah's contributions to both local and national professional organizations are truly legendary. SIPES, the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, voted Deborah to be their first woman National President in 2001–2002. That honor culminated a long history of service to the Oklahoma and Houston chapters including terms as Vice-President and President of the SIPES Foundation. In service to AAPG, she has represented both the Oklahoma City and Houston societies in the House of Delegates and chaired both the Nominations and Elections and Rules and Procedures Committees.

She has served in several offices in AAPG's Division of Professional affairs, including Vice President and Secretary. She has also served as past General Vice-Chair and DPA Vice-Chair at AAPG National

Conventions. At the University of Oklahoma, she is past-Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council.



Deborah Sacrey

Deborah has helped to pioneer many new and successful additions to each organization that she has served. Her insight and creativity helped AAPG realize the concept of AAPEX, the successful Prospect and Property Expo for which she has served on the Steering Committee since its inception. Most recently, Deborah has helped to elevate the HGS Techno-Fest event to new levels, creating the first annual Techno-Conference this year. This event was highly successful, creating a new and very accessible venue for professionals to network outside of a national convention format.

Perhaps most symbolic of Deborah's contribution to our profession is her record of voluntarily and unselfishly teaching courses and seminars in the use of SMT Kingdom geophysical interpretation software at numerous industry events and conventions. Hundreds of mid-career geoscientists have benefited enormously from this opportunity.

The Houston Geological Society is indebted to Deborah's dedicated service. She has worked tirelessly in the Society office and in many of the HGS's regular and special activities and events. She has served as past Treasurer and as Committee Chairperson for the Public Relations, Political Affairs, and Techno-Fest committees. In addition, she played a key role in moving the office twice and in training and supporting HGS's office staff. She has been honoured with both the Distinguished Service and President's Awards by the HGS. ■

Jennifer Burton

2010–2011 Honorary Life Membership

Honorary Life Membership is bestowed upon persons who have distinguished themselves in the science of geology or have contributed outstanding service to the success and welfare of this organization.

LINDA STERNBACH is awarded Honorary Membership in the Houston Geological Society after 26 years of contributions to the organization. She joined HGS while at ARCO Oil and Gas in 1985 and started serving on committees in 1990. She has served as President, Vice President, Guest Night Chair, HGS *Bulletin* Editor, on the Directory and Membership Growth committees, and in the International Explorationists Group. Her contributions range from helping others behind the scenes and “bringing the projector” (HGS Rising Star Award in 1995) to more visible roles, especially as Guest Night chair and Vice President, and as a frequent contributor to the HGS *Bulletin*, writing editorials and articles about Society events. Linda has recruited many new members, students, volunteers, and leaders for HGS. Through it all, her goal has always been to make HGS more rewarding to its members.



Linda Sternbach

Reflecting on a few favorite HGS experiences, Linda particularly recalls looking up to Dan Smith, Clint Moore, Jeff Lund, Jim Ragsdale, and Pat Gordon, who were HGS Presidents in the 1990s. These meetings (then held in the Westin Galleria Hotel) were very interesting and useful in her career, which started at ARCO. In particular, Dan Smith’s presentation on Chocolate Bayou exemplified how 3D seismic could be used to find reserves in untapped fault blocks. Later, when Linda mapped Chocolate Bayou in a consulting role, she remembered that HGS dinner meeting. Linda has done full-time geological and geophysical exploration over the last 27 years, including shelf and deepwater Gulf of Mexico (Pennzoil and Kerr McGee), offshore West Africa (Globex), offshore Australia, the Philippines, Trinidad, and the Middle East (Oxy). Participating in HGS programs has facilitated training and networking for her career.

HGS is known for creating popular social events. Linda recalls the excitement at a packed HGS dinner meeting during Clint Moore’s term as Vice President in 1993. More than 250 people gathered to see the pay section log of Anadarko’s Mahogany Field sub-salt discovery well before it was released to the public. Clint Moore later asked Linda to serve as HGS Editor. She was happy to accept even though she now admits she did not know what she was getting into. During the two years Linda was Editor-elect and Editor

(1996–1998), she and HGS Editor Dave Orchard knew the *Bulletin* needed to be reformatted. Together they increased photographic, color, and technical content. It was a time when logging onto the Internet was new to HGS members. Linda then joined the HGS International Explorationists’ group under Al Danforth, Scott Thornton, and Martin Cassidy where she served as Treasurer and Technical Program Chair.

When Denise Stone was President, she asked Linda to chair Guest Night at the Houston Museum of Natural Science during the period 2003–2007. Charles Sternbach was able to contact Apollo 17 moonwalker Jack Schmitt to speak at the Guest Night in June 2003. Linda remembers how happy everybody was to meet Dr. Schmitt and see the HMNS. This was followed by a Guest Night speaker from Johnson

Space Center in 2004 after the NASA rover Spirit and Opportunity landed on Mars. Other Guest Night events featured paleontologist Dr. Bob Bakker and dinosaurs, and space shuttle astronaut Jim Reilly. All these Guest Night events sold out.

Linda organized the third HGS Legends program in January, 2006 featuring Peter Vail, Arnold Bouma, Albert Bally, and Pete Rose. In September 2005, hurricanes Katrina and Rita affected the HGS program. A speaker based in New Orleans needed to be located, but his safety and whereabouts were unknown for several days as phones were down to New Orleans. The speaker did manage to call in just before the rescheduled luncheon and the meeting was held, to the relief of all! As Vice President, Linda also remembers when Dave Rensink was President of HGS (2005–2006). She admired the way Dave, and then President-elect Steve Brachman, tackled HGS financial challenges due to a tough economy.

As HGS President (2007–2008), Linda worked hard to overhaul the HGS website and increase membership. A new webpage design went online in 2008 after a lot of creative input from the HGS Board and web manager Bill Osten. Linda also strove to increase HGS membership. The HGS once had 5000 members, but in 2007 the number of members was sliding down to 3000. Meetings with the Membership Committee and email recruiting efforts helped achieve more than 3500 members. Linda visited U. of H. and Rice

Honorary Life Membership Award - Linda Sternbach *continued on page 63*

2010–2011 Distinguished Service Awards

This award was created to honor members who have rendered long-term valuable service to the Society.

MICHAEL DEMING has served the Houston Geological Society in various capacities over the years. His volunteer work began in 1993 when he was Membership Chairman and he fulfilled that role until 1997. From 1997–1999 Michael was the HGS Treasurer-elect and Treasurer. His service continued as the Poster Chairman in 2000. He has also been a Guest Night volunteer. The society would like to recognize Michael for these service efforts, but in particular for his work as Awards Chairman from 2004-2011. During this period he has never let the society, a guest speaker, or an annual awardee go without proper recognition.



Michael Deming

As the HGS Vice President in 2010-2011, it has been extremely reassuring to have the nightly marble speaker award handed over to me to present to the guest speaker. Michael always ensures the award inscription is perfect. This kind of service helps make the HGS a coherent and active society. The consistency and respect for our speakers and the reliability of volunteer efforts from Michael are what makes him the recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Service Award. ■

Amy Sullivan

2010–2011 Distinguished Service Awards

This award was created to honor members who have rendered long-term valuable service to the Society.

The Houston Geological Society is pleased to present its Distinguished Service Award to **STEVE GETZ** for his dedication to the Society. He is currently Chairman of the North American Interest Group where he has served since 2008, consistently bringing in a rich and diverse program of high-quality talks for this group. Prior to that he served three years as Treasurer for North American Interest Group. In addition to his work for HGS, he has served in the AAPG House of Delegates and is Chair of the AAPG Geophysical Integration Committee.

Steve received his B.S. in Geology from the University of New Mexico. He started with Cities Service as a geophysicist and then consulted for several years before joining Santos USA as a Senior Advisor, then as Chief Geologist for Allen-Hoffman Exploration. He now is Principal of his own consulting company, Getz Exploration Consultants, Inc.



Steve L. Getz

In appreciation for his years of service to the Society, we are happy to honor Steve Getz with this award. ■

Amy Sullivan

2010–2011 Distinguished Service Awards

This award was created to honor members who have rendered long-term valuable service to the Society.

MARTHA MCRAE's service to the HGS goes beyond volunteerism. Our society is truly indebted to Martha for her passionate enthusiasm for sharing her knowledge and love of geology with the community. Martha has been central to the success of the HGS' largest public outreach event, Earth Science Week (ESW), having served on the committee for over a decade and as Committee Co-Chairman for seven years. At this week-long annual event, the HGS and our sister organizations reach thousands of people through the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) Family Energy Festival, public field trips, and K–12 activities that are geared for teachers and students. Without reservation, Martha has undertaken the planning and organization of this event which takes months of preparation and commitment. Outreach events like ESW are the public face of our society and central to building a lasting relationship with the community. For her tireless service, we are pleased to honor Martha with the Distinguished Service Award.

In addition to her service with ESW, Martha is a certified HGS Volunteer Geologist for the HMNS, leading tours and serving at museum events such as Dino Days and Boy Scout Badge Programs. Martha also has organized the HGS booth at the Houston Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Show and helped organize and run

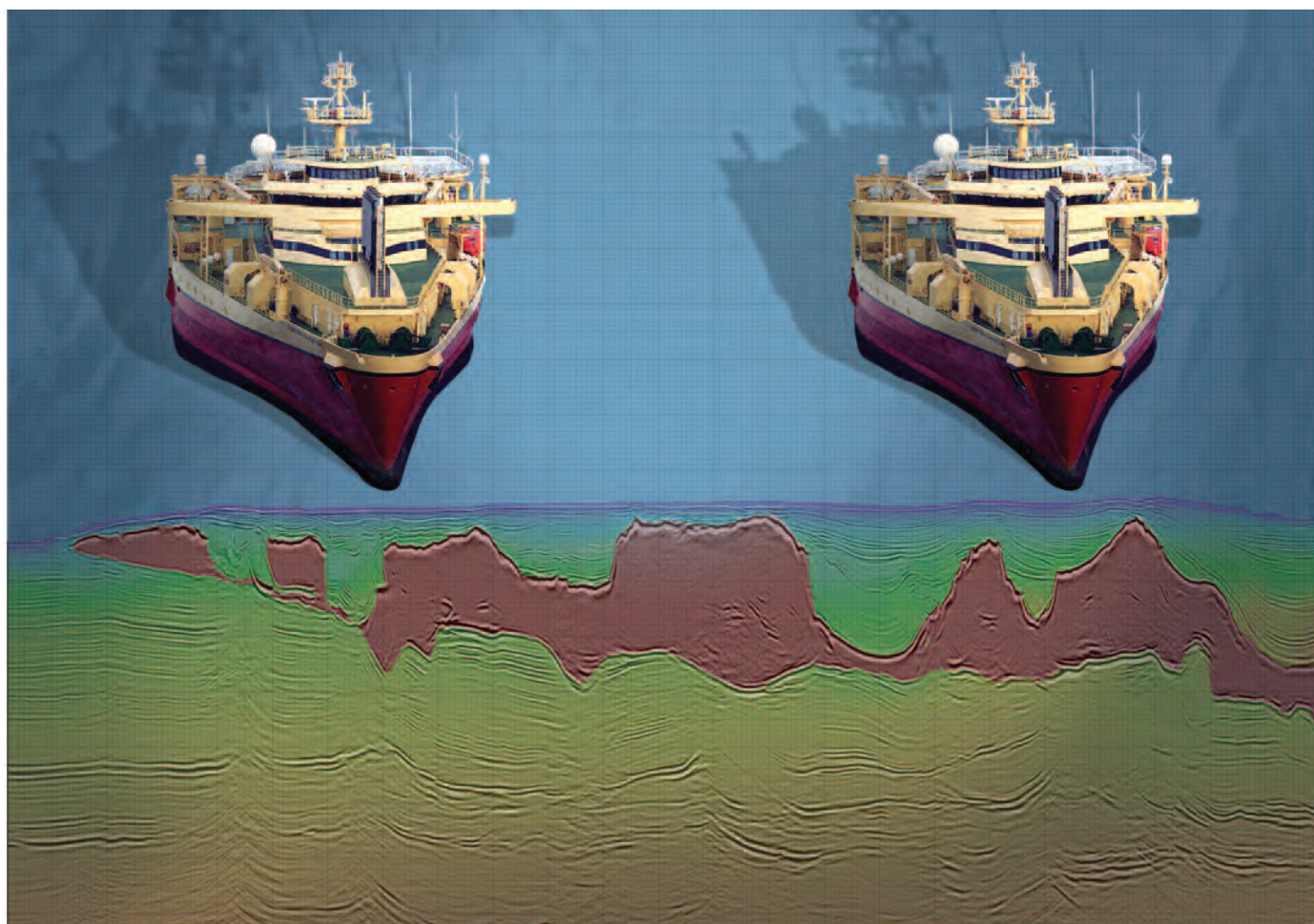
many of the public and college field trips associated with ESW. She has volunteered with the Academic Liaison and Engineering Council of Houston (ECH) committees. She has also been very active in the past with the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) as the Texas delegate in 1997–98, AWG Foundation Treasurer 1999–2001, and AWG Foundation Vice-President 2002–2003.



Martha McRae

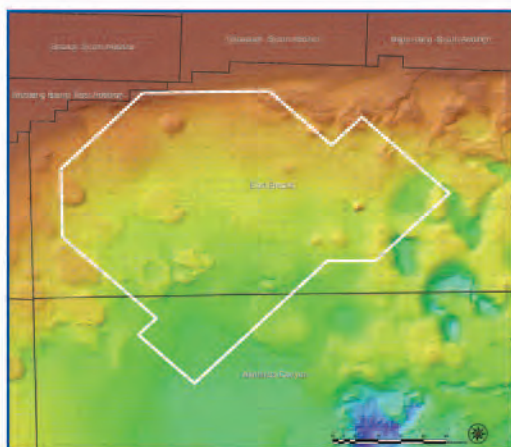
Martha has a B.S. in geology and a minor in computer science from Stephen F. Austin State University and an M.S. in geology from Texas A&M University. Her geologic interests and petroleum thesis involved environment of deposition and reservoir description. She is a Licensed Professional Geologist in the State of Texas. She is also a member of AAPG, GSA, AWG, and HGMS. Martha began her professional career in 1986 as a junior geologist at Petroleum Information, Inc. After graduate school in 1991, she began working for Exxon Exploration Company as a prospect generator in the Mid-Continent and Southern Louisiana exploration teams. In 1997, she joined Landmark Graphics as a geoscience consultant. She joined Chevron Energy Technology Company in 2005 and is currently helping to globally deploy their next generation of geological and geophysical software. ■

Jennifer Burton



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2010–2011 Distinguished Service Awards

This award was created to honor members who have rendered long-term valuable service to the Society.

RENÉ MOTT has been a very active and dedicated volunteer for the HGS. She was instrumental in expanding last year's Techno-Fest event to include a venue of presentations that highlight the use of advanced technologies in many of the hottest plays in the U.S. This year she is making Techno-Conference even better, and we are indebted!

Ms. Mott is an independent and is owner of Empress Exploration, a company that invests in and generates oil and gas projects. She holds a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M and a masters degree from the University of Texas. Her career began in 1982 with Unocal in Houston as a geophysicist working the Gulf of

Mexico. In 1990 her career continued in Dallas with Maxus Energy as a geophysicist for the Miocene exploration team. In 1995 she returned to Houston with Gulfstar and Peltex.



René Mott

In 1999, Ms. Mott was hired as the 35th employee of Seismic Micro-Technology as Director of Technical Support and Advisor. Even though she is no longer employed there, she still jumps into the SMT e-mail group and offers assistance and solutions to problems that users may have. She is a member of HGS, SEG, AAPG, and SIPES, and is a Texas State Registered professional geophysicist. ■

Jennifer Burton



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2010–2011 President's Awards

This award has been established to honor members whose extraordinary efforts or unique contributions deserve special recognition.

TOM MCCARROLL received his B.S. in geology from LSU in 1973. He started his career with Amoco Production Company in New Orleans, but moved to Houston after being awarded a graduate fellowship at Rice University in 1976. He cut his academic career short in 1977 to accept a position as Staff Geophysicist with Oil Development Company of Texas. ODCI eventually became Santa Fe Energy Resources and Tom worked there until 1998, serving in a variety of positions, including Division Exploration Manager in charge of the Gulf Coast, Division Exploration Manager in charge of the Western Division (everything west of the Rockies), Manager of Business Development, and VP and General Manager of Santa Fe Energy Resources of Myanmar, located in Rangoon.



Tom McCarroll

In 1998 Tom joined Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas as Vice President of Exploration for the Gulf Coast Region and served in that position until Louis Dreyfus was acquired by Dominion Resources in 2001.

In 2002, Tom joined Cheyenne Petroleum as Vice President, Gulf Coast, then moved in 2007 to Patriot Exploration as Vice President, Exploration. He has worked as a consultant since 2009.

During his exploration career, Tom has worked the Gulf Coast, on- and offshore, San Joaquin and Sacramento basins, the Basin and Range, the Mid-Continent, and the Permian basin in the U.S., as well as the Irrawaddy and Chindwin basins in Myanmar (Burma). Tom and his wife, Michelle, recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary and are enjoying living in the suburbs of Wellesville, Texas. They have a son, Otis, who graduated from Texas A&M in 2000 and is currently living and working in New Orleans.

Tom is a member of HGS, GSH, AAPG, SEG, and API and has served several terms as an AAPG Delegate, including a year as Foreman of the Houston delegation. He is a former Executive Director of HGS and has served on several GCAGS Convention committees.

Tom has served as Skeet Shoot Chair numerous times since the first skeet shoot in 1982. His first year as chair was around 1989, but he can't remember how many years he has served. His best estimate is ten years as chair in the 28 years the event has been held, but Tom's getting old; his memory's not what it once was! ■

John Adamick

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2010–2011 President's Awards

This award has been established to honor members whose extraordinary efforts or unique contributions deserve special recognition.

EVELYN MEDVIN has over thirty years of experience as a geoscientist and is currently Vice President for Core Laboratories, where she focuses on understanding client needs and technological challenges, cross-company integration, and providing fit-for-purpose solutions for reservoir optimization. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Ms. Medvin began her career with Cities Service as an exploration geophysicist working South and Central America. She continued her career with Occidental Petroleum in Bakersfield, California, finding and developing hydrocarbon reserves in Latin America and the Gulf of Mexico.

After leaving Occidental, Ms. Medvin spent two years at Schlumberger/GeoQuest where she gained expertise in 3-D visualization software. After eight years of Landmark experience, she specialized in making CAEX software work for finding oil and gas. During her tenure as VP of Interpretation and Business Development for Coherence Technology Company, she focused on applying Coherence Cube™ processing throughout the E&P life cycle. She has made numerous presentations and

published several articles on oil and gas technology and their applications.



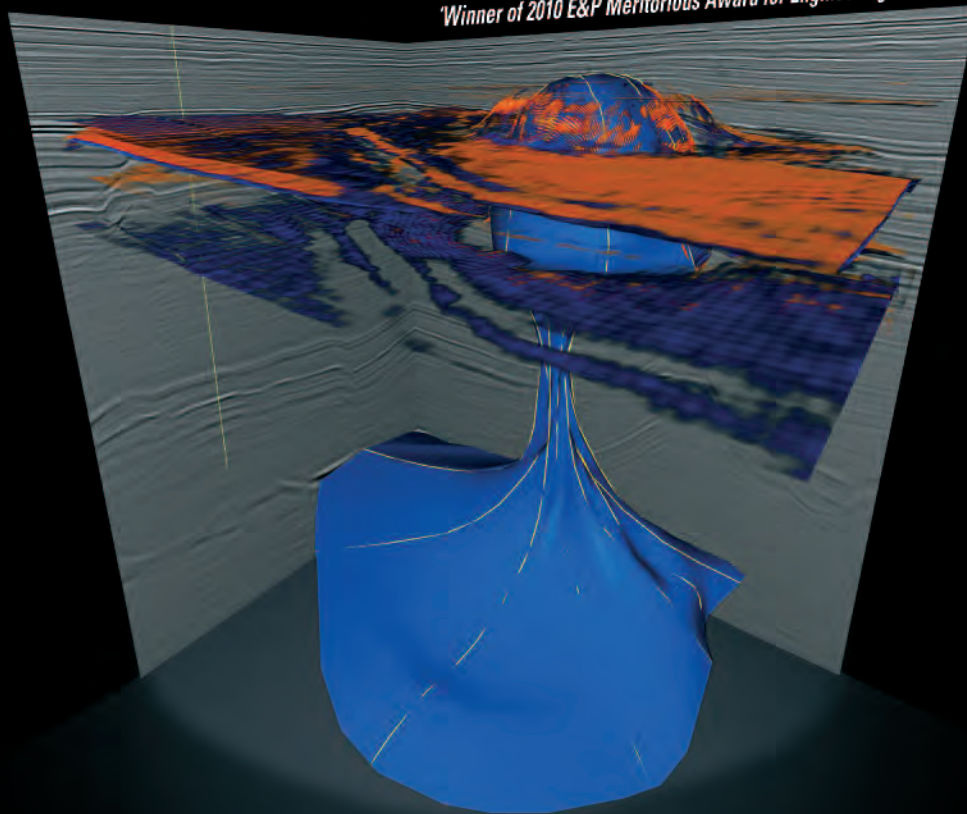
Evelyn Medvin

She is a member of several professional industry organizations, is a member of the board for IPAA's Petroleum Academies, serves on the Professional Women in Earth Sciences committee of AAPG, and is a member of the AAPG House of Delegates representing the Gulf Coast Region.

Ms. Medvin enjoys mentoring young people in the oil and gas industry and became a trustee with the HGS Foundation (undergraduate scholarship program) in 2005. While with the Foundation, she has played a very active role in fund-raising and was particularly successful this year in securing contributions via the HGS Legends Night sponsorship program. She also suggested and led the first of several field trips held for our undergraduate scholarship winners. ■

John Adamick

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2010–2011 President's Awards

This award has been established to honor members whose extraordinary efforts or unique contributions deserve special recognition.

DIANNA PHU is a project manager and senior geologist at the geoscience and engineering consulting firm, Geoscience Earth & Marine Services (GEMS), a division of Forum Energy Technologies. Dianna began her career at GEMS after graduating from the University of Houston in December, 2000, with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and geophysics. She worked her way towards her present role through hard work, dedication, and a constant drive to learn more and deliver a quality product. Dianna presently manages an integrated study and collaborates with multi-disciplinary teams to identify and quantify seafloor and shallow geologic constraints affecting exploration and development planning in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. Dianna's role involves building a geologic model based on detailed stratigraphic and structural interpretation in 2D and 3D seismic data, integration with age control, geotechnical properties, and visualization in a GIS-based workspace, contributing to site-specific field development planning, special-interest studies, and regional reconnaissance assessments.

Dianna was introduced to the Houston Geological Society as an undergraduate student at UH, receiving the HGS Undergraduate

Scholarship in 1999. In September, 2005, Dianna took the reins of the HGS Young Professional committee, the NeoGeos, and re-defined the group's industry presence, earning a Rising Star Award in 2007. Since her NeoGeos involvement, Dianna has contributed to behind-the-scenes planning for the HGS/GSH Geoscience Day program, Continuing Education Committee, Arrangements Committee, and the Website Committee, as well as continued to serve as a core member of the Offshore Technology Conference's *The Next Wave* program planning committee.



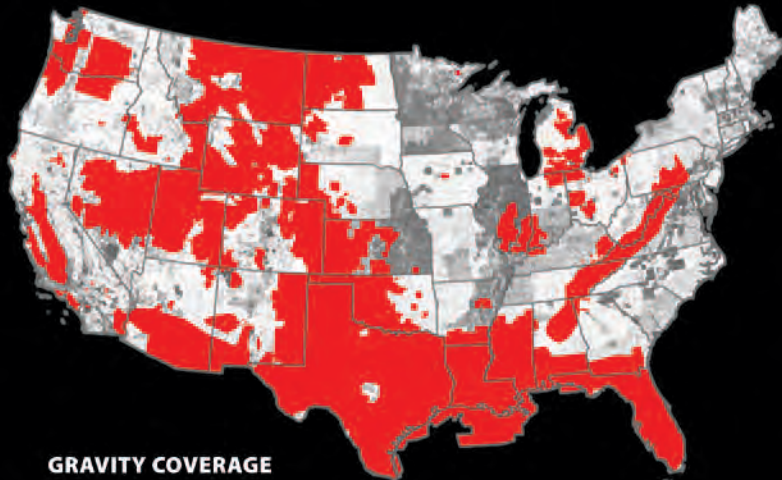
Dianna Phu

Recognizing the generational gap in the oil and gas industry, Dianna's passion focuses on engaging the younger generation to be proactively involved and disseminating opportunities to the greater membership base. In July, 2010, Dianna gained approval from the HGS Board of Directors to establish a Social Media Committee. Creating a Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn presence and establishing a social media policy for the HGS, Dianna now directs her energy towards spreading the HGS opportunities to a wider audience and sharing the world of geoscience with a global community. ■

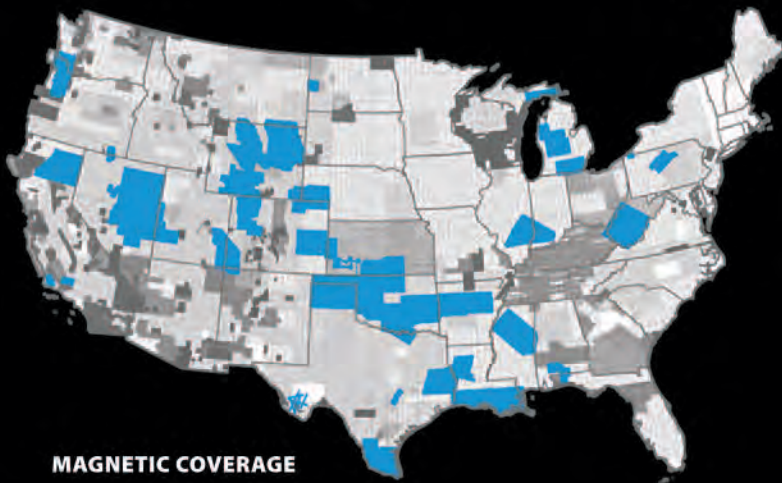
David Meaux

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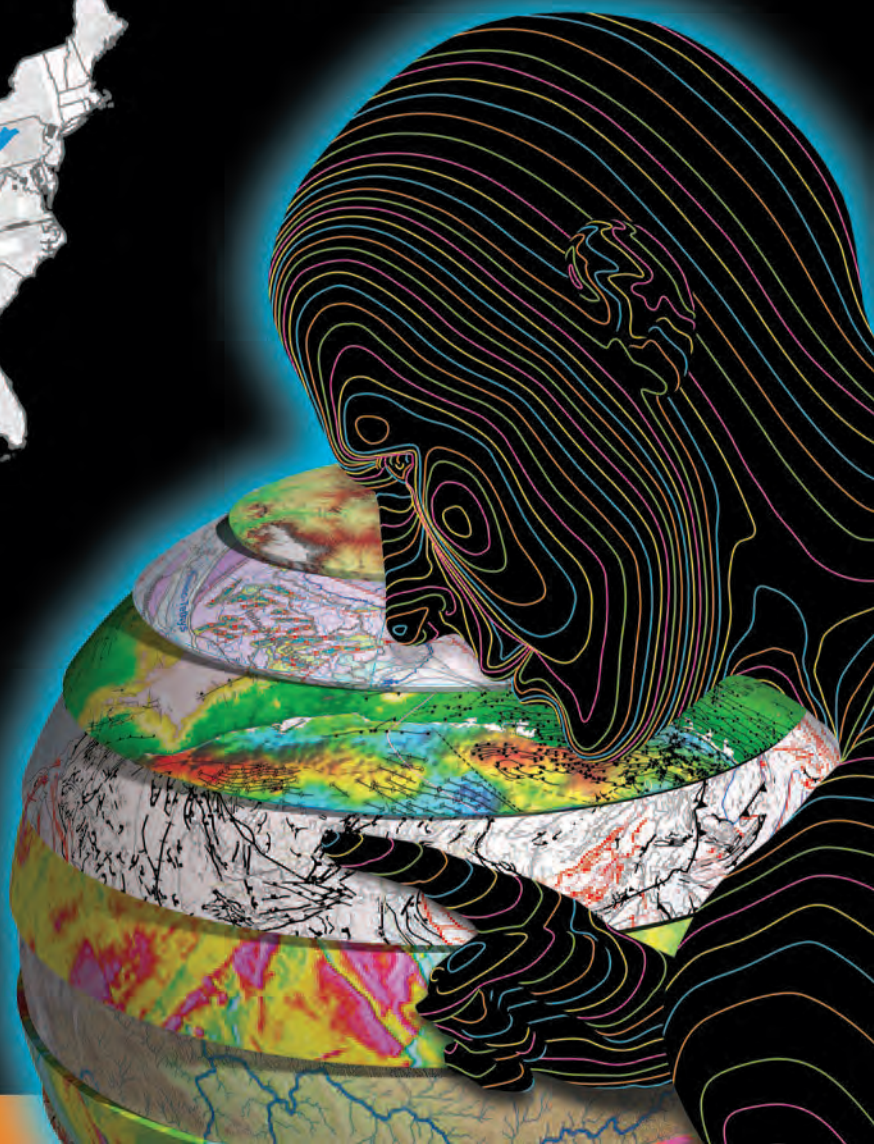
SERVICES



DATA



STUDIES



2010–2011 Rising Star Award

This award has been established to honor individuals who are relative newcomers to the Houston Geological Society who have made significant and promising contributions to the enhancement and success of the HGS.

The Houston Geological Society is pleased to honor **MIKE ERPENBECK** with the Rising Star Award. Mike is Chair of the Office Committee and has helped keep our operations humming smoothly. This year that meant managing the challenge of a staff turnover.

As the HGS office is an important link to the members, this is truly an essential component of our mission. So when one of our long-time volunteers stepped down, we were most fortunate to have someone of Mike's capabilities step into this critical void. Mike has a B.S. from San Diego State

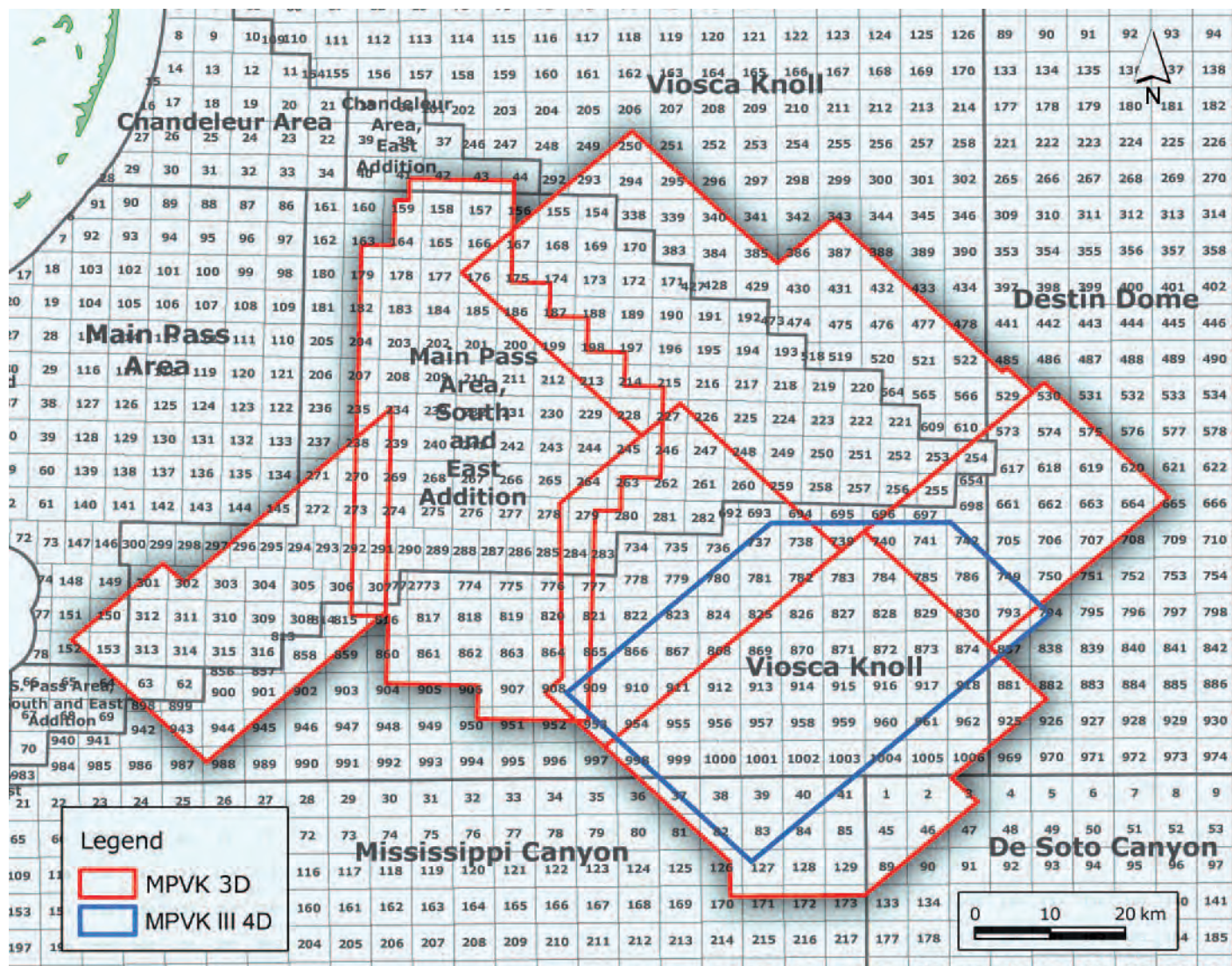
and an M.S. from Texas Tech, both in geology, and an M.B.A. from the University of Houston. He has worked with Texas Oil and Gas, Pilgrim Exploration, Hemus Oil and Gas, Vantage Pipeline and UMC Petroleum. Currently he is Manager of U.S. E&P Services for Ziff Energy Group.



Mike Erpenbeck

For tackling this vital role in our organization and performing his duties with distinction, we congratulate Mike on this well-earned Rising Star Award. ■

Steve Earle



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2010–2011 Rising Star Award

This award has been established to honor individuals who are relative newcomers to the Houston Geological Society who have made significant and promising contributions to the enhancement and success of the HGS.

ROSEMARY LAIDACKER is recognized as a rising star within the HGS community. Ms. Laidacker holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Lamar University and a master of science degree in geology/geophysics from the University of Houston. She began her career with Amoco and Cities Service and is currently a consultant for Grand Gulf South Energy.

She is a long-time member of the HGS and her love of the profession is echoed in her volunteerism. She has worked on various

committees of the Society and is Chair of the Continuing Education committee. Since becoming chair, the committee has offered numerous timely and applicable short courses such as Mark Rowan's *Salt Tectonics* and Dan Tearpock's *Subsurface Mapping* courses. Rosemary enjoys being part of a team that puts together low-cost, quality seminars for the membership. It is with great pleasure that the HGS is honoring Rosemary with this award. ■

Robert Pledger



Rosemary Laidacker

June 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



		Members Pre-registered Prices: General Dinner Meeting..... \$28 Nonmembers & walk-ups \$35 Env. & Eng. \$25 Luncheon Meeting \$30 Nonmembers & walk-ups \$35 International Explorationists \$28 North American Explorationists \$28	1
5 Southwest Section AAPG Annual Conference <i>Ruidoso, New Mexico</i>	6	7 HGS Board Meeting <i>6 p.m.</i>	8
12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29

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GEOEVENTS

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2	3	4
9	10	11
16 SIPES Luncheon Meeting "Microseismic Monitoring During Shale Field Development" Peter M. Duncan, Petroleum Club Page 54	17	18 28th HGS Annual Skeet Shoot Greater Houston Gun Club Page 4
23	24	25
30 Reservations: The HGS prefers that you make your reservations on-line through the HGS website at www.hgs.org . If you have no Internet access, you can e-mail reservations@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, check with the Webmaster@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.		NOW you can make your reservations on-line at www.hgs.org



Upcoming GeoEvents

July 21, 2011
Techno-Fest *Houston, Texas*

July 31-August 4, 2011
TSOP-CSCOP Joint Meeting:
Unconventional Resources, Clean
Coal, and Offshore Resources
Halifax, NS, Canada

August 2-4, 2011
AAPG Geosciences Technology
Workshop – US Shale Plays
Fort Worth, Texas

September 6-8, 2011
PESGB/HGS Conference on African
E & P *London, England*

September 25-27, 2011
Eastern Section AAPG Annual Meeting
Washington, D.C.

October 9-12, 2011
Geological Society of America
Annual Meeting *Minneapolis, MN*

October 16-18, 2011
61st Annual Convention - Gulf Coast
Association of Geological
Societies *Veracruz, México*

October 23-26, 2011
AAPG International Conference
& Exhibition *Milan, Italy*

November 22-24, 2011
GSL – Conference on CO₂
Sequestration
London, England

December 4-7, 2011
GCSSEPM Foundation Bob F.
Perkins Research Conference
Houston, Texas

April 22-25, 2012
AAPG Annual Convention
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2010–2011 Rising Star Award

This award has been established to honor individuals who are relative newcomers to the Houston Geological Society who have made significant and promising contributions to the enhancement and success of the HGS.

SHANNON LEMKE has been a member of HGS since 2000 and serves the HGS through her involvement with the HGS Foundation (undergraduate scholarship program), in which she is a trustee. She is passionate about helping young geoscientists and has been a college recruiter for her employer as well as a mentor to several geology interns.

Shannon graduated from Michigan Technological

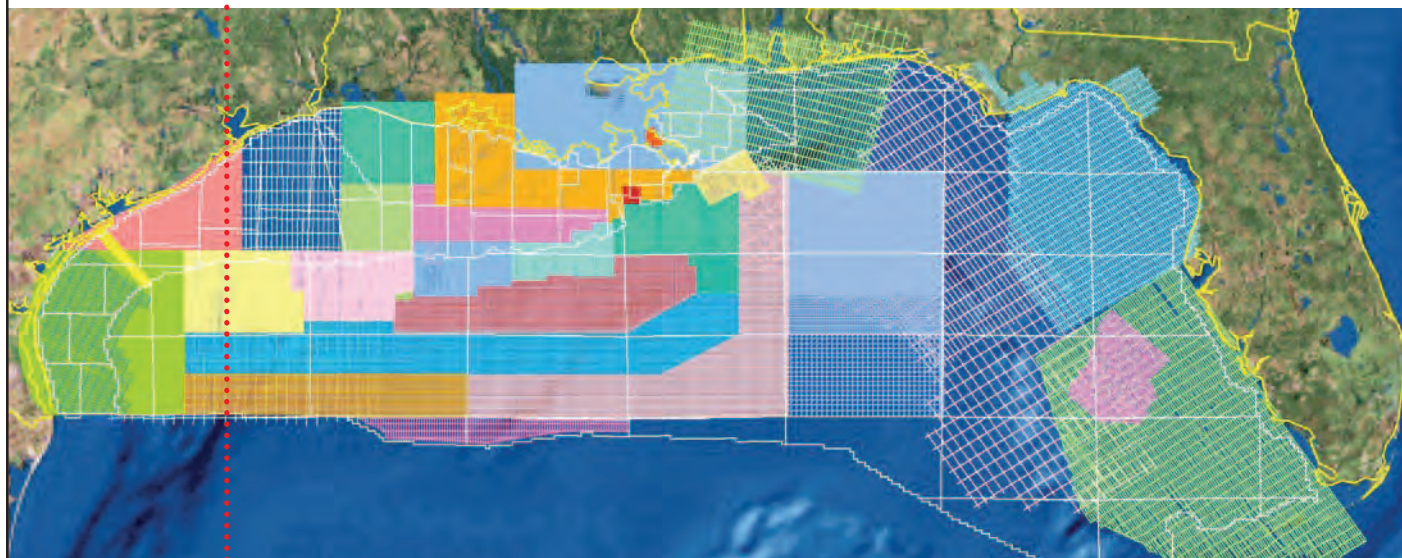
University in 2000 with a B.S. in geological engineering and entered industry as a geologist with Newfield Exploration. She worked with Newfield for ten years in a variety of exploration and development roles — onshore Texas. Shannon is currently a senior geologist for Vitruvian Exploration, where she is active exploring for oil resource plays. ■

John Adamick



Shannon Lemke

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2010–2011 Rising Star Award

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KELLY LIMBAUGH has been with Global Geophysical Services for nearly three years, working in sales and marketing communications. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications/public relations from Stephen F. Austin State University. Kelly has been involved with HGS since 2008 and has participated in many events. In 2010 she volunteered to chair the Holiday Party and

changed the theme and venue to provide a more casual, laid-back ambiance to a crazy time of year. The *Holiday Ho Ho Hoedown* was enjoyed by all and planning for the 2011 party has already begun. Kelly has four children and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppy. She enjoys reading, running, and relaxing with her family. ■

Christina Higginbotham



Kelly Limbaugh

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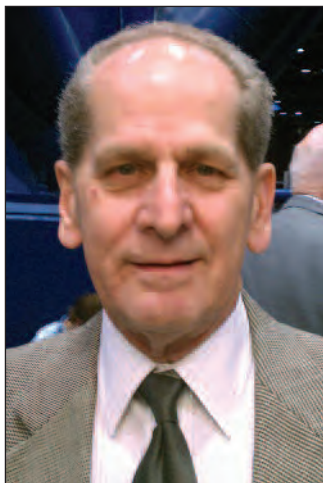
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2010–2011 Rising Star Award

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BILL MASON has been an active volunteer for HGS since joining in 2000. He has been an outstanding and dedicated Chair of the Exhibits Committee. Bill has been extremely successful at organizing and recruiting volunteers and has made steady improvements to the professional “face” of the organization at numerous venues including NAPE and AAPG. This year, Bill was instrumental in organizing the committee’s effort to improve and modernize the HGS booth. As a result, the HGS has enjoyed increased interest and has attracted many new

members. In celebration of his initiative and hard work, the HGS is pleased to honor him with the Rising Star Award.



Bill Mason

Bill is owner and operator of Mason Energy Services, an executive search firm specializing in the placement of geoscience and engineering professionals in the upstream petroleum industry. Bill began his career with Otis Engineering in the mid-1970s. ■

Jennifer Burton

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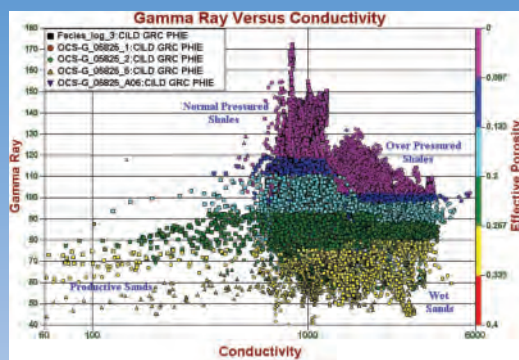
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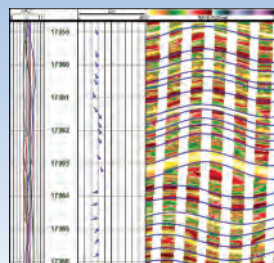
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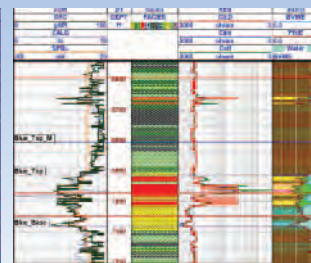
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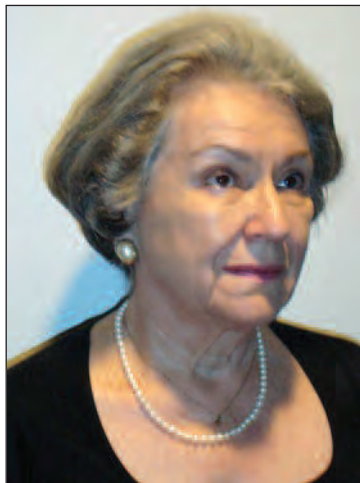


Facies Classification

2010-2011 HGS/HPAC Distinguished Service Award

WINONA LABRANT SMITH has been selected to receive the HGS/HPAC Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding leadership and tireless volunteering with the Houston Geological Society, the Houston Geological Auxiliary, and the Houston Petroleum Auxiliary Council over the past thirteen years. Most recently, Winona has been the HGS-HPAC liaison and the writer of the monthly HPAC column in the HGS *Bulletin* which highlights the efforts of HPAC volunteers. Prior to serving as the HPAC-HGS liaison, Winona was instrumental in the formation of HPAC, helping to bring together the Houston Association of Professional Landmen, Geophysical Auxiliary of Houston,

Houston Geological Auxiliary, and Houston Society of Petroleum Engineers Auxiliary to strengthen the auxiliary community.



Winona LaBrant Smith

Winona served on the By-Laws Committee of the new organization before becoming the HGS-HPAC liaison. As an active HGS volunteer, Winona has been willing to serve the HGS in any capacity needed — from working at Techno-Fest and arranging activities for spouses at AAPG to lending an extra hand at the HGS office, and working registration with NAPE — always with considerable enthusiasm. Winona has been an invaluable member of our society and we are pleased to honor her with this award. ■

Cecelia Baum

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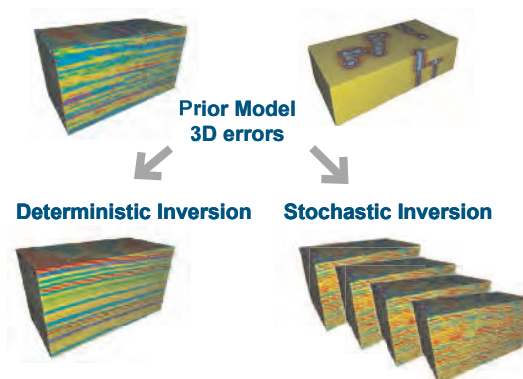
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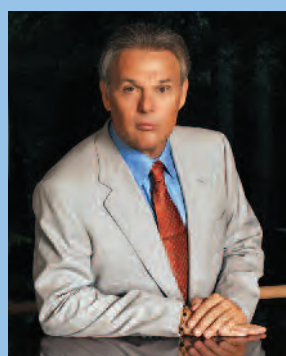
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Directory of Oil Company Name Changes – 21st Edition (April 2011)

A new 21st edition, of the HGS publication, "Directory of Oil Company Name Changes", is now available through the Bureau of Economic Geology. This publication is a cross-referenced list of domestic oil and gas, exploration and production companies that have sold major assets or have changed their names due to a merger, acquisition or reorganization. The purpose of this directory is to provide an oil company road map that may assist geologists in tracking down logs, samples, cores, paleo, drilling reports, production histories and other well data that may be obscured by these numerous name changes.

The cost of the directory is \$15.00 and it can be obtained from the BEG. The contact information is as follows:

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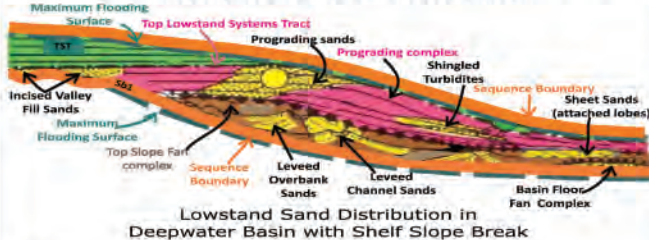
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2010–2011 Editor's Award

This award has been established to honor individuals whose extraordinary efforts or unique contributions to the Bulletin deserve special recognition.

Last year, a new category of awards was initiated — The Editor's Award. I am proud to present the 2011 award to **LISA KRUEGER**. Lisa is not an officer, committee chair, or even a member of HGS. Lisa is an artist and graphic designer, but she has been and continues to be an important part of HGS. Lisa is responsible for the layout and design of the *HGS Bulletin*. She assembles all of the bits and pieces delivered into the journal that our members receive each month. Yes, that is what she is paid to do. But Lisa does so much more. For nearly a decade now, she has tracked down late ads and followed up with an author when a photo or figure wasn't working. She is the *Bulletin's* corporate memory

with her tenure extending well beyond the Editor's term. She has worked on weekends and with our printer when content was running late. She has acted as a mentor to this Editor, ensuring that we know what to do and when. She acted as a sounding board and raised red flags when something just didn't seem right. For all these actions which are above and beyond her official position, the society presents Lisa Krueger with this year's Editor's Award. To Lisa Krueger for your continued support of the *HGS Bulletin*, and your assistance in making it the most widely read local society publication, we honor you! ■

Barry Katz



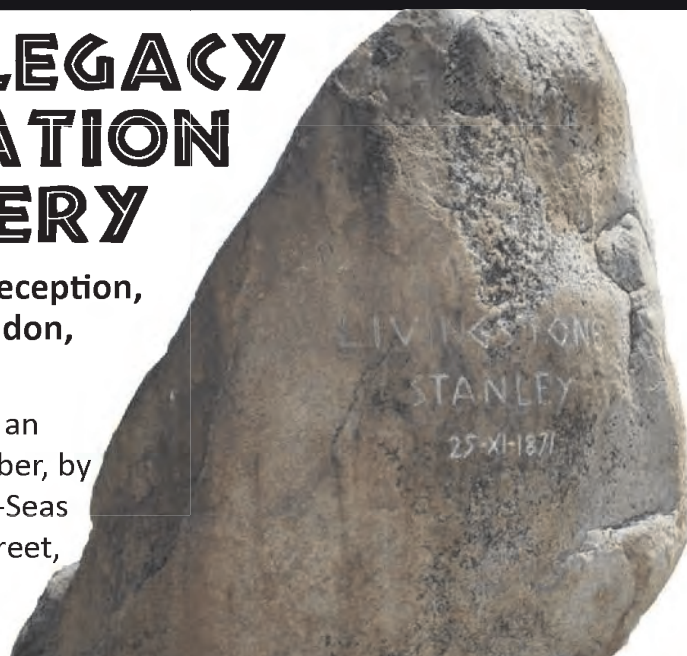
Lisa Krueger

**The 10th PESGB/HGS
Conference on African E&P**

AFRICA: A LEGACY OF EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

**Evening Lecture & Ice-Breaker Reception,
Royal Over-Seas League London,
6 September 2011**

The conference will be kicked off with an Evening Lecture on Tuesday 6 September, by Duncan MacGregor, at the Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, St James Street, London, entitled 'African Rift Plays: Is the Present the Key to the Past?'



QEII Conference Centre, London, 7 - 8 September 2011

This annual conference, alternating between London and Houston, has established itself as the primary technical E & P conference on Africa, with an attendance regularly exceeding 300, including operators, consultants, governments and academia. There will be a large poster programme in addition to the oral programme of about 25 high quality talks covering all aspects of E & P in all regions of Africa. Special sessions are planned on rift systems, including the East African rift and the conjugate margin pre-salt plays of the South Atlantic. Papers have already been submitted/invited on: African Topography and Palaeoclimate; Lacustrine Carbonate Reservoirs; Turbidite Outcrop Analogues; Albertine Basin; Lake Malawi Drilling and Evolution; Moroccan Gas Discoveries; Jubilee Field, Ghana, post-first production; Red Sea Drilling; Onshore Cabinda Discovery; Campos Basin Exploration.

ABSTRACTS: Some poster slots are still available. Please send an abstract (circa 200 words) to Duncan Macgregor at dmacgregor@surestream-petroleum.com and also to Richard Dixon at dixonr2@bp.com as soon as possible. Extended abstracts are normally written once your paper is accepted and are issued on a conference CD.

For draft oral programme and registration please see PESGB website from April onwards.

Details of sponsorship opportunities and display booths are available from the PESGB - please contact rebecca@pesgb.org.uk for more information.

Evening Lecture & Ice-Breaker Reception, Tuesday 6th September

The conference will be kicked off with an Evening Lecture on Tuesday 6th September, 6pm, at the Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, St James's Street, London entitled 'African Rift Plays: Is the Present the Key to the Past?' by Duncan MacGregor. Followed by the Ice-Breaker Reception, 7pm, sponsored by Tullow Oil
visit www.pesgb.org.uk for more info.

Africa: A Legacy of Exploration and Discovery

Preliminary Programme Wednesday 7th September

(Some papers dependant on govt/partners permission)

8:30	Registration & Coffee	
9:20	Welcome and Introduction	
	Session 1: The East African Rift System and Cenozoic Tectonics	
9:30	Cenozoic Palaeogeography of Africa: Relief Growth and Plate Deformation	<i>F. Guillocheau, Geosciences Rennes</i>
9:55	Carbonate Facies Assemblages in a Modern Rift Lake, Examples from the Turkana Rift, Kenya and South Atlantic Pre-Salt Analogues	<i>C. Scholtz, Univ of Syracuse</i>
10:20	Development of, and timing of events in, the Albertine Rift, Uganda-Congo	<i>M. Pickford, Collège de France, and Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris</i>
10:45	Coffee & Poster Presentations	
11:15	A Stratigraphic and Palaeoenvironmental Interpretation of Neogene and Holocene Sediments from Lake Albert, Uganda	<i>D. Shaw, Biostrat Associates and J. Weston, RPS</i>
11:40	Exploration of the Butiaba-Victoria-Nile Play, Albert Rift Basin Uganda	<i>P. Burden et al, Tullow Oil</i>
12:05	Climate Driven Source Rock Variability in the Lake Malawi Rift: Results from Deepwater Scientific Drilling	<i>C. Scholtz, Univ of Syracuse</i>
12:30	Lunch & Poster Presentations	
	Session 2: Transform Margins	
13:45	Comparing Continental Margins across the Atlantic: Equatorial West Africa and Northern Brazil Transform Margins using new PSDM data	<i>A. Danforth, N. Kumar, P. Nuttall, S. Venkatraman, ION/GX Technology, S. Henry, RIFTT</i>
14:10	Extensional and Transform Fault Interaction, Influence on the Upper Cretaceous Hydrocarbon System, Equatorial Margin, West Africa	<i>K. Nibbelink, Hyperdynamics</i>
14:35	The Role of Reactivated Basement Structures in Controlling Basin Evolution in Liberia, West Africa	<i>M. Belayneh, Senergy, et al</i>
15:00	Coffee & Poster Presentations	
15:30	Jubilee - High Class Reservoir Management Practices and Surveillance	<i>D. Agyapong and D. Hanley, Tullow Oil</i>
15:55	Karoo Turbidites, South Africa: Potential Reservoir Analogues for the Deepwater West African Transform Margin	<i>D. Hodgson, R. Brunt, W. van der Merve, S. Flint, Liverpool Univ</i>
16:20	Comparison of Structural Styles and Prospectivity of Ghanaian Offshore Basins	<i>T. Hancock, TGS</i>
16:45	East Africa Transform Margin - The View from Tanzania and Madagascar	<i>R. Higgins, Ophir Energy</i>
17:10	Whatever happened to the "other" Transform Margin? A Review of "Yet-to-emerge" Plays of the Transform Margin of South Africa	<i>S. Santoni, Bayfield Energy</i>
17:40	Evening Reception sponsored by Afren and Shell	

Africa: A Legacy of Exploration and Discovery

Preliminary Programme Thursday 8th September

8-30	Registration & Coffee	
	Session 4: North & Interior Africa Tectonics and Plays	
9-00	'The Uplift History of the Hoggar Massif': Implications for Dynamic Topography and Landscape	<i>R. Dixon and J. Hossack, BP</i>
9-25	AFTA Data show that the Southern Margin of Africa was Buried by Early Cretaceous Sediment prior to the onset of Regional Exhumation	<i>P. Green, I. Duddy, Geotrack, J. Malan, NewAge</i>
9-50	The Austrian Unconformity in North Africa	<i>D. Boote, Consultant and J. Redfern, Univ of Manchester</i>
10-15	Revelations in the Rharb	<i>S. Harker, Circle Oil</i>
10-40	Coffee & Poster Presentations	
11-10	A change in play focus rejuvenates exploration potential on the central Moroccan Atlantic Margin	<i>K. Kelly and P. Hawkes, Serica Energy</i>
11-35	Hydrocarbon Potential in the Essaouira Salt Basin, Morocco	<i>I. Davison, L. Anderson, Earthmoves, M. Bilbo, Canamens</i>
12-00	Tectonic and time-temperature evolution of the intracratonic Congo Basin	<i>D. Delvaux, Royal Museum of Central Africa, E. Kadima, S. N. Sebagenzi, Univ of Lubumbashi, V. Sachse, R. Littke, Univ of Aachen</i>
12-25	Lunch & Poster Presentations	
	Session 5: South Atlantic Plays	
14-00	Some New Thoughts on the Rifting and Early Opening of the South Atlantic Ocean	<i>C. Reeves, Earthworks</i>
14-25	Palaeogeography of the Central Segment during Atlantic Opening	<i>A. C. Chaboureau, Géosciences Rennes, et al</i>
14-50	Pre-Salt Geology of the South Atlantic: A Review	<i>I. Davison, Earthmoves</i>
15-15	Coffee & Poster Presentations	
15-45	Leveraging Knowledge from Legacy Data in West African Coastal Basins (Gabon/Congo)	<i>A. McAfee, Core Labs</i>
16-10	New Deep Water Play Concepts in the Douala Basin, Equatorial Guinea	<i>L. Davidson, RPS</i>
16-35	TBA	
17-00	Closing Address	

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Africa: A Legacy of Exploration and Discovery

Preliminary Programme of Posters

Poster Session:	
The Indian Ocean Margin of South Africa: Uplift Timing, Relative Importance of Strike Slip Movements and Dynamic Topography	<i>F. Guillocheau, Geosciences Rennes</i>
Searching High and Low: Correlating shallow and deep structural trends along the West African Margin to determine sediment transport and hydrocarbon migration controls	<i>W. Dickson, DIGS and C. Schiefelbein, GSI</i>
East African Rift System Regional Geological Interpretation Study, Utilising Earth Observation Data	<i>M. Hall, Infoterra</i>
Deepwater Extension of Cretaceous Fan Play in Offshore Liberia	<i>M. Tannei, T. Hancock, P. Conn, I. Deighton, TGS</i>
Subsidence/Inversion of the Congo Basin, by fission-track and (U-Th-Sm)/He data	<i>U. Glasmacher, F. Bauer, Univ of Heidelberg, D. Delvaux, RMCA</i>
Tracing the thermal and erosional evolution of the Albertine Rift, indications from the Western rift shoulder (DRC)	<i>F. Bauer, Univ of Heidelberg, et al</i>
West Africa's maritime boundaries, from Senegal to Benin	<i>J. Veron, E. Schmid, G. Moundounga, IHS</i>
Occurrence and Prediction of High Pressure Sediments along the West African Margin	<i>R. Swarbrick, GeoPressure Technology</i>
ArcGIS Spatial Analysis of Petroleum Systems in the Sirt Petroleum Province	<i>G. Williams, Lynx and D. Boote, Consultant</i>
The Ethiopian Rift: the magmo-tectonic framework of a syn-rift depositional system and its value as an analogue to exploration along the African margins	<i>M. Hammill, Getech</i>
East African Margin - Stratigraphy to Seismic correlation of the Kenyan deepwater wells Pombo-1 and Simba-1	<i>A. Pardon, A. Holden, L. Hunt, Fugro-NPA</i>
Implications of Relative Sea Level Changes on Exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean Area	<i>W. Wornardt, Micro-Strat</i>
Subsurface plumbing and fluid expulsion from the lower Congo Basin: evidence from 3D seismic analysis and satellite seep detection	<i>M. Huuse, C. Serie, K. Andresen, A. Olubayo, A. Williams, N. Schoedt, L. Clausen, Univ of Manchester/Univ of Aarhus/Fugro-NPA/Maersk</i>
The Austrian Unconformity in North Africa	<i>D. Boote, Consultant and J. Redfern, Univ of Manchester</i>
A Clearer Image of the PreSalt in Angola	<i>R. Borsato, PGS</i>
Seismic and Play Concepts, offshore Liberia	<i>C. Clarke, Senergy</i>
Sedimentation Rate Studies across offshore Africa	<i>F. Guillocheau, Geosciences Rennes</i>
Dolomitisation of shallow marine, mid-Cretaceous carbonates of the Jeffara escarpment, Southern Tunisia	<i>R. Newport, Manchester Univ, et al</i>
Integrated structural, sedimentological and diagenetic evaluation of hydrothermal dolomite, Cretaceous-Eocene, Hammam Faraun Fault Block, Gulf of Suez	<i>J. Hirani, Manchester Univ, et al</i>
The integration of gravity, gravity gradiometry and magnetic datasets into the exploration workflow - Ogaden Basin, Ethiopia	<i>D. Jackson, ARKeX, et al</i>

SIPES June Luncheon Meeting Microseismic Monitoring During Shale Field Development

Peter M. Duncan, MicroSeismic, Inc., Houston, TX

Microseismic monitoring has become an important facilitator to the development of shale fields. As many as 10% of the hydraulic fracture treatments performed in the U.S. are now monitored, with some operators opting to monitor every well as they develop their field. The number of stages monitored is likely up by 300% in the last two years and continues to grow.

Driving the increased penetration of this technology is an appreciation of the complexity of shales. The earlier assumption — that one could monitor the first couple of wells in a field and then expect everything to remain the same thereafter — has proven to be a poor one. The response of the rocks is seen to vary from well to well and stage to stage. Ever conscious of operating costs, operators have been seeking ways to monitor more wells at a lower unit cost. This has led to the deployment of

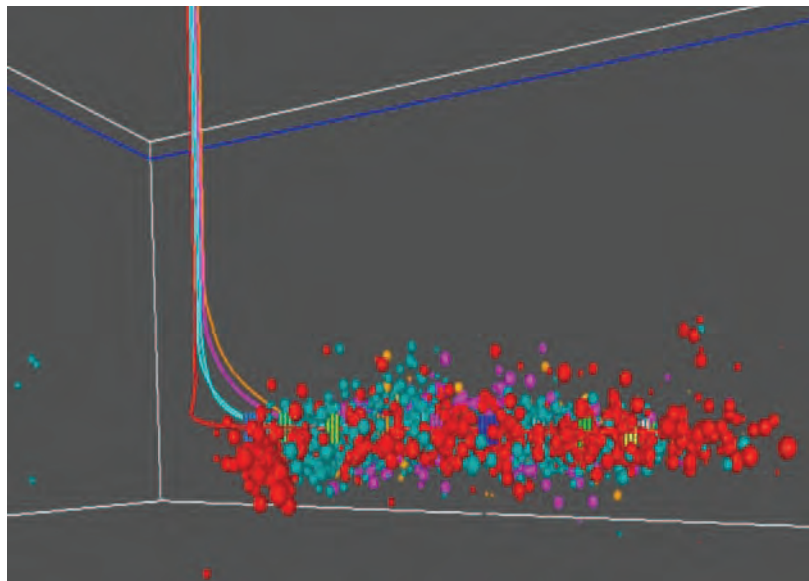
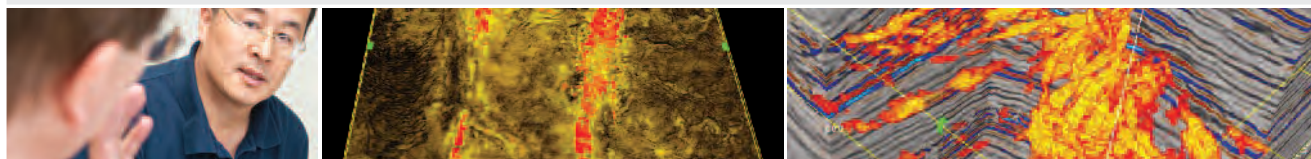


Figure 1: Perspective section view of the microseismic event locations resulting from the treatment of a 5-well pad. The monitoring was performed with a surface array.

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permanent monitoring arrays that can be used to cost-effectively monitor most if not all the fracturing operations as the field is developed at a very low incremental cost. Such arrays can also be employed for monitoring other field operations and as receiver grids for active 3-D and 4-D imaging.

Another important development in the maturing of this technology is the extraction of more information from the data that is collected. The legacy analysis of the data, consisting of hypocenter estimates placed in time and space (the “dots in the box”) as illustrated in Figure 1, is now being supplanted by a more complete treatment. The original analysis was more directed at getting a better fracture design. The more recent developments are directed at producing a better understanding of how the reservoir will perform as a result of the fracturing. Such analysis consists first of extracting the failure mechanism of each microseismic event from the data as well as its magnitude. The nature of the failure mechanism is deterministic of the stress regime in the reservoir. The distribution of event magnitudes also appears to be diagnostic as to whether new fractures are being created or existing fractures are being reactivated.

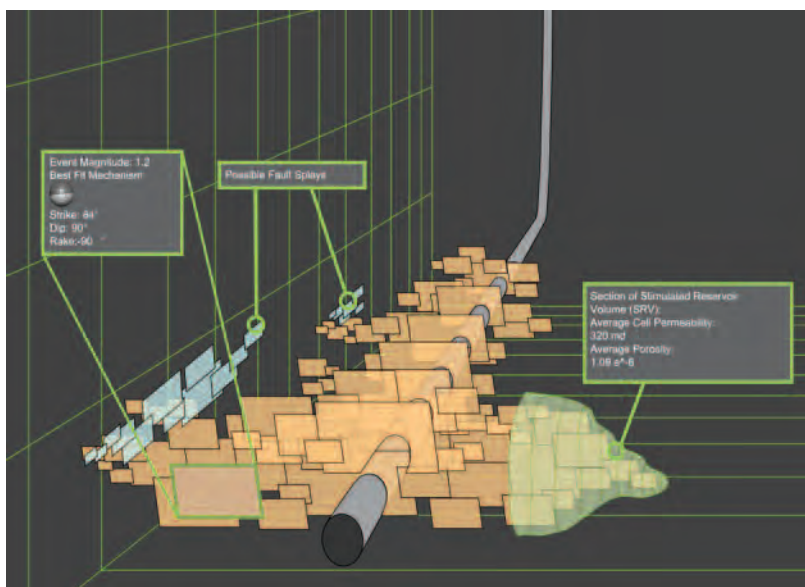
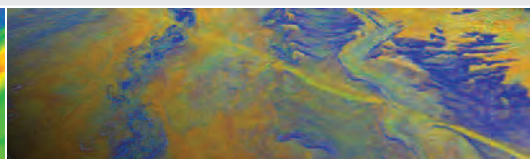
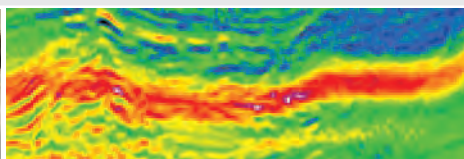


Figure 2: Schematic depicting how the “dots in the box” can be replaced through focal mechanism analysis with DFN representing an estimate of the fractures opened during stimulation.

Taking this analysis further, one can use the temporal and spatial distribution of events, constrained **SIPES Luncheon Meeting** continued on page 57

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HGS Welcomes New Members

New Members Effective May 3, 2011

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Welcome New Members



2nd Annual Corpus Christi Geological Society Saltwater Fishing Tournament – July 29, 2011



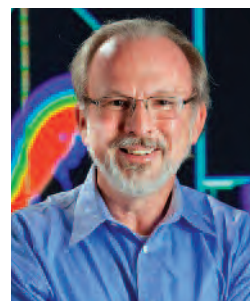
The 2011 Saltwater fishing tournament will be held Friday, July 29, 2011 for you and your guests at the Port Aransas Pavilion located in the Port Aransas Marina. We invite you to join us in support of the Library Exhibit and Continuing Education Fund. The fund provides support to several CCGS initiatives including the successful Map, Bones, and Boulders in School programs.

See full rules, registration, & sponsorship forms on the ccgs website: www.ccgeo.org

by whatever other external data are available for the field, to begin replacing the “dots” with estimates of the fracture planes that created the microseismic events as depicted in Figure 2. With an assignment of permeability, the fracture model (Discrete Fracture Network or DFN) can be upscaled to a grid model that then can be used in a reservoir production simulation model to begin predicting well and field performance. History matching to actual production provides feedback to the model allowing for improved parameter selection. As the number of wells monitored in the field increases it becomes possible to further refine and improve the process just outlined. The goal is to give the operator a better handle on optimal well orientation, infill spacing, estimated ultimate recovery (EUR) and recompletion potential. ■

Biographical Sketch

PETER M. DUNCAN is founding President of MicroSeismic, Inc., a Houston based geophysical service company. He holds a Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Toronto. He began his career as an exploration geophysicist with Shell Canada before joining Digicon Geophysical, first in Calgary then in Houston. In 1987 he helped Digicon found ExploiTech Inc, an exploration and production consultancy. He was named President of ExploiTech when it became a subsidiary of Landmark Graphics in 1989. In 1992 he was one of three founders of 3DX Technologies Inc., an independent oil and gas exploration company where he served as Vice President and Chief Geophysicist. Duncan was 2003–04 President of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG). Duncan was the Fall 2008 SEG/AAPG Distinguished Lecturer speaking on the subject of passive seismic at 45 venues around the world. He is a Life Member of SEG and an Honorary Member of the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (CSEG) and the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE).



Thursday, June 16, 2011

Houston Petroleum Club in the Discovery Room, 800 Bell St. (downtown Houston). Social 11:15 AM, Luncheon 11:45 AM

Reservations Required: Make reservations by telephone (713-651-1639), fax (713-951-9659), website (www.sipes-houston.org), or e-mail bkspee@aol.com to B. K. Starbuck-Buongiorno by 12:00 noon on Tuesday preceding the meeting. You can now sign up for the meeting online at www.sipes-houston.org, but payment is still required by regular mail or at the door.

Cost: \$30 for SIPES Members and Chapter Affiliates who register by 12:00 Noon Tuesday; \$35 for new registrations at the door. The price for guests, non-members and walk-ins is \$35. No-shows will be billed.

Texas Team Wins 2011 Imperial Barrel Award Competition



Michael Fairbanks, Erin Miller, Justin Fitch, Ashley Bens and Ben Siks
Photo by Jim Sigmond

A team of geoscience students from The University of Texas at Austin beat finalists from 11 global regions to win the Imperial Barrel Award at this year's AAPG Convention held in Houston.

The team of students from the university's Jackson School of Geosciences — Ashley Bens, Michael Fairbanks, Justin Fitch, Erin Miller and Ben Siks — won \$20,000 for their AAPG student chapter. Chris Zahm, a research associate at the Jackson School, was the faculty adviser for the team

Starting in regional competitions, 87 university teams competed for the Imperial Barrel Award. Students use industry technology and datasets to seek a solution to an energy geoscience problem, presenting their findings to a panel of judges from the energy industry. The panel selects the winning team based on the technical quality, clarity and originality of its presentation.

To honor the team the University of Texas tower was lit entirely in orange, a sign of student academic achievement. ■

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Government Update

by Henry M. Wise, P.G. and Arlin Howles, P.G.

If you'd like the most up-to-date information on Texas rules, regulations, and governmental meetings, we direct you to the HGS website to review The Wise Report. This report, which comes out as needed but not more often than once a week, offers the most up-to-date information that may be of interest to Texas geologists.

AGI Government Affairs Monthly Review (March 2011) Bill to 'Rein in' EPA Climate Regulation on the Move

The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 (H.R. 910), a bill that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating greenhouse gases (GHG) under the Clean Air Act, on March 15, 2011. The bill, crafted by Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), would repeal EPA's 2009 finding that carbon dioxide and other GHG endanger human health and public safety. It would strip the agency's authority to regulate GHG emissions from stationary sources and, in 2016, from vehicles.

Supporters of the bill say EPA has overstepped its authority and that GHG regulation is a congressional responsibility; some claim the regulations would drive up energy cost. Opponents warn that the bill would prevent EPA from carrying out its crucial mission—to protect public health. Others argue that repealing the endangerment finding is what Representative Ed Markey (D-MA) has called an “arbitrary rejection of scientific fact.”

The bill moves to the Senate, where its fate is unclear. Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) has introduced a bill (S. 231) as an alternative that would delay any EPA actions on GHG emissions by two years.

Amendments to Limit EPA and cut \$200 Billion from Spending

The Senate is expected to bring to the floor in early April three amendments concerning the EPA's ability to regulate GHGs. The most prominent amendment attached to the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act of 2011 (S. 493) is one that would prohibit the EPA from regulating GHGs. The amendment (S.AMDT. 183) was introduced by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and reflects a bill sponsored by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) (H.R. 910).

Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) is behind an amendment (S.AMDT. 280) that began as a bill (S. 231) that would delay any EPA actions on GHG by two years. It is seen as an alternative to the McConnell amendment.

The third amendment (S.AMDT. 236), by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), would in part reinforce EPA's tailoring rule by making the agricultural exemption from GHG regulations permanent. The

agricultural community is divided over whether the measure would protect farmers from potential negative impacts, such as increased energy costs, of GHG regulations.

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) added an unrelated amendment (S.AMDT. 199) to cut \$200 billion in federal spending for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2011, down from his original previously filed budget bill of \$500 billion. It proposes to reduce funding to the Department of Energy by 50 percent.

Oil and Gas Leasing Legislation

Policymakers introduced legislation in the House and Senate this month aimed at giving oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico more time to develop their leases due to time lost during permitting delays following the BP oil spill and drilling moratorium in 2010. The “Lease Extension and Secure Energy Act of 2011” (S. 516 and H.R. 993) would extend leases for one year and provide operators time to meet new drilling and safety requirements put in place since the spill.

Legislation to Tighten Natural Gas Drilling Oversight

Members of Congress have introduced legislation that would tighten oversight of natural gas drilling companies by removing exemptions from the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act of 2011 (H.R. 1084 and S. 587), or FRAC Act, would repeal an exemption included in the SDWA for hydraulic fracturing, a practice associated with natural gas drilling operations that involves injecting a mixture of chemicals, fluids and sand to ease gas extraction. Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) introduced the House version, and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), whose state has seen a Marcellus Shale drilling boom, is sponsoring the Senate counterpart.

Representative Jared Polis (D-CO) introduced companion legislation, the Bringing Reductions to Energy's Airborne Toxic Health Effects Act, or the BREATHE Act. The “sister legislation” would end a hydrogen sulfide exemption (the gas was originally included as a CAA pollutant but later removed) and require industry to follow “major source” requirements under National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), taking into consideration aggregate air pollution from clusters of wells rather than only individual wells.

Government Update continued on page 61

Leveraging Conventional and Unconventional
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61st Annual GCAGS Convention

October 16th – 19th, 2011

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Organized by The Mexican Association
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The technical program comprises 12 technical oral and poster sessions with the participation of national and international specialists, to address relevant current topics related to the sustainable exploration and development of energy, mineral and ground water resources in the Gulf of Mexico. These technical analyses and discussion sessions have been conceived with the idea we have captured in the Convention's lemma: "Sharing Knowledge to Add Value". Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Exhibition area, the ideal framework for strengthening professional relationships and learning about state-of-the-art technologies and services.

To complement this program, we have designed a Symposium on "Jurassic reservoirs in the Gulf region: stratigraphy, sedimentology, diagenesis and modeling", and organized three field trips, short courses, a lunch-conference, and a spouse program.

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Senators Introduce Carbon Capture and Sequestration Legislation
Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), with Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), John Barrasso (R-WY) and Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), introduced the Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Sequestration Program Amendments Act of 2011 (S. 699). The bill would establish a program through the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide financial and technical assistance to up to 10 commercial scale carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects, which the Senators say would help build confidence in CCS technology developers. Monitoring, accounting and verification of the injected plume would be required at each project, and the bill lays out framework for assessment and long-term assurance of geologic storage sites. Lastly, recognizing the need for a capable workforce as the number of CCS projects increases, the legislation would set up a grant program to train personnel at state agencies responsible for regulatory aspects.

Senators Introduce Paper on Clean Energy Standard

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) released a document on March 21, 2011 that outlines the key elements and questions to consider when developing a clean energy standard (CES). The paper puts forward six broad questions, such as what resources would qualify as clean energy and how a CES would affect technology deployment, each with corresponding subtopics. The CES White Paper is available online (http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=IssueItems.View&IssueItem_ID=7b61e406-3e17-4927-b3f4-d909394d46de).

Johnson Introduces Women in Science Bill

Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Ranking Member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, introduced the Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Act of 2011 (H.R. 889). The bill would require the National Science Foundation (NSF), the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and other federal

agencies to take actions to reduce gender bias in grant distribution and academic advancement within science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. It directs agencies to hold workshops on gender bias; develop policies for extended research grant support for individuals who have care-giving responsibilities; and requires NSF to collect detailed demographic data on STEM faculty and grant awardees across the country.

The bill is similar to an amendment by Representative Johnson that was included in the House version of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (H.R. 5116) but was removed by the Senate from the final version.

House Holds Climate Hearings to Investigate Science Behind Findings

House panels held two hearings in March to examine climate science and findings and implications such as the EPA's controversial GHG regulations currently being contested in Congress. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing on March 8, 2011 entitled "Climate Science and EPA's Greenhouse Gas Regulations," and the House Science, Space and Technology Committee held their own hearing on March 31, 2011 with the title "Climate Change: Examining the Processes Used to Create Science and Policy."

The hearings had one overlapping witness. Dr. John Christy, a climatologist and director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He appeared at both hearings as a majority witness to testify about his concerns with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Christy said at the Energy and Power hearing that EPA regulations would have no effect on climate change. However, Richard Somerville, a climate scientist and professor emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, and Knute Nadelhoffer, an ecologist and the director of the University

Government Update continued on page 62

High Resolution Biostratigraphy and Seismic Sequence Stratigraphy

15 different Microfossil Groups, Cambrian -Recent
Specialists for 28 years

Gulf of Mexico

**Onshore
Offshore
Subsalt**

Shale Gas

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of Michigan's Biological Station, stressed that global warming is occurring and that the U.S. must take action by reducing GHG emissions to avoid detrimental and irreversible effects to the climate.

At the Science Committee hearing, Dr. Richard Muller, a renowned physicist at the University of California, Berkeley, discussed the current research project he is heading called the Berkeley Earth Science Temperature (BEST) project. The effort aims to use new methods to assess and analyze global temperature data and provide a model in addition to those from the three major groups that undertake climate analyses: the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Institute for Space Studies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United Kingdom's Hadley Centre, all of which provide information to the IPCC. BEST's work has yet to be peer-reviewed, but Muller said that their data so far shows "a global warming trend that is very similar to that previously reported by the other groups." Read testimony from the chairs and witnesses and watch the archived webcast of the Science Committee hearing at <http://science.house.gov/hearing/full-committee-hearing-climate-change>, and the Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing at <http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=8304>.

Secretary Salazar Sets the Course for Landsat Program

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar discussed the future of the Landsat program and announced plans for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to become the primary agency responsible for managing the Earth observation satellites on March 21, 2011. The President's fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget request calls for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to become the permanent budgetary and managerial home for future Landsat satellite missions, a position currently held by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). NASA would continue to work in partnership with USGS and would build and launch future satellites. Landsat satellites use remote sensing technology to capture images

and obtain data that is useful for agriculture, emergency response, water management, land use and national security issues. USGS Director Marcia McNutt said that the reorganization would "ensure that we continue to see the land so broadly, so distinctly, so objectively, that we can better understand our lands and manage them more efficiently, based on science, for the benefit of the American people." Salazar claims the shift will create stability for Landsat stakeholders, such as the company Ball Aerospace where Salazar made the announcement, resulting in reliable and sustained job creation and innovation.

There is concern in Congress that the \$48 million increase in Landsat funds for USGS in the FY 2012 request has come at the expense of other crucial programs. Some say the shift in responsibility should be paired with a transfer of funds from NASA. The reorganization will require congressional approval before becoming final.

NASA's Glory Satellite Fails to Launch

For the second time in two years, a NASA satellite set to monitor Earth's climate and perform other Earth observations failed to reach orbit. The \$424 million satellite, known as Glory, and its rocket crashed into the Pacific Ocean on March 4, 2011. The satellite was equipped with a new Total Irradiance Monitor (TIM) to measure the Sun's energy output and an Aerosol Polarimetry Sensor (APS) to look at types and amounts of atmospheric aerosols.

It was the first time NASA has used a Taurus XL rocket since the failed launch of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) in 2009. A NASA review panel assembled after OCO's plunge in 2009 discovered the cause of the crash to be the rocket's fairing, a protective nose cone that is supposed to detach once it travels through the Earth's atmosphere. Orbital Science Corporation, the maker of the Taurus XL, subsequently modified the fairing's design to prevent another disaster, but based on preliminary reports the fairing is likely to be at fault again.

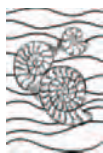
The loss of Glory may result in a gap in a 32 year record of solar energy output. NASA has a couple of options to avoid this data gap. NASA can assemble a new version of TIM to install on a satellite already under construction or extend the battery life of NASA's aging TIM, which is on the satellite SORCE, by shutting down the rest of SORCE's instruments. Europe launched a solar energy monitoring satellite in 2010 called PICARD, but the French team in charge has not released any data so far.

Glory's crash prolongs the puzzle of aerosol behavior in the atmosphere. While some aerosols reflect radiation, cooling the climate, others, like black carbon, absorb radiation, warming the climate. Atmospheric aerosols are believed to exert an influence on

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Current Analysis — Drilling Wells

the climate roughly equal to that of greenhouse gases, but that estimate carries a large margin of error. The APS was not only built to monitor the amounts of absorbing and reflecting aerosols, but to clarify what scale of influence aerosols actually have on Earth's climate.

On March 9, 2011 NASA announced that Bradley C. Flick, director of the Research and Engineering Directorate at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, CA, will lead the mishap investigation board. He will be joined by six other voting members in gathering information to identify why Glory failed on launch.

The implications for NASA's Earth observing program are stark. Weakened by years of low budgets, a backlog of planned satellites and the loss of two expensive rockets, the program needs to recoup costs for the failed launches and continue with planned launches as Congress and the Administration look to reduce discretionary spending. House Republicans in the 112th Congress are targeting any projects related to climate change science for cuts and those reduction efforts include programs with NASA's Earth Science division.

Key Reports and Publications

National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

National Earthquake Resilience: Research, Implementation, and Outreach

Released March 30, 2011, http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13092. This National Research Council report presents a roadmap for increasing national resilience to earthquakes. It warns that because the country has not seen a devastating earthquake in decades that society risks complacency. It endorses the 2008 strategic plan by the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), says NEHRP needs sustained, increased funding to achieve its goals and advocates deploying the remaining 75 percent of the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS).

Key Federal Register Notices

DOI — Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announces the availability of Environmental Assessments (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) reports prepared by BOEMRE for oil and gas activities proposed on both the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the Gulf of Mexico OCS. The documents and more information can be found at <http://alaska.boemre.gov/>. [Thursday, March 3, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 42)].

CEQ — As ordered by the President, federal agencies are now required to integrate climate change adaptation into policies and practices. Council on Environmental Quality's report to all

agencies, Instructions for Implementing Climate Change Adaptation Planning, can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/adaptation>. [Wednesday, March 9, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 46)].

NSF — National Science Foundation announced it will establish the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel to conduct an independent review of the U.S. Antarctic Program to ensure the nation is pursuing the best 20 year trajectory for conducting science and diplomacy in Antarctica. [Monday, March 14, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 49)] ■

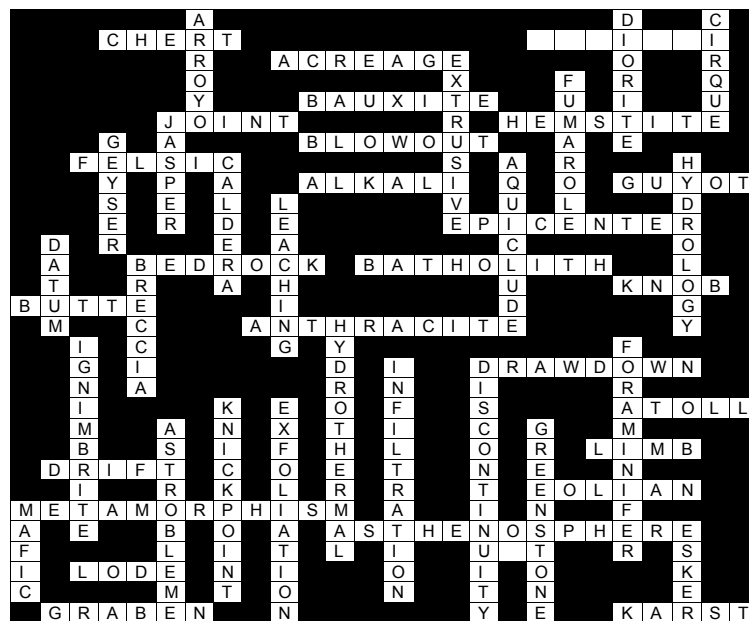
Honorary Life Membership Award - Linda Sternbach *continued from page 20*

to encourage younger members to join. The Society went from five student members to 200 due to onsite visits to these local universities.

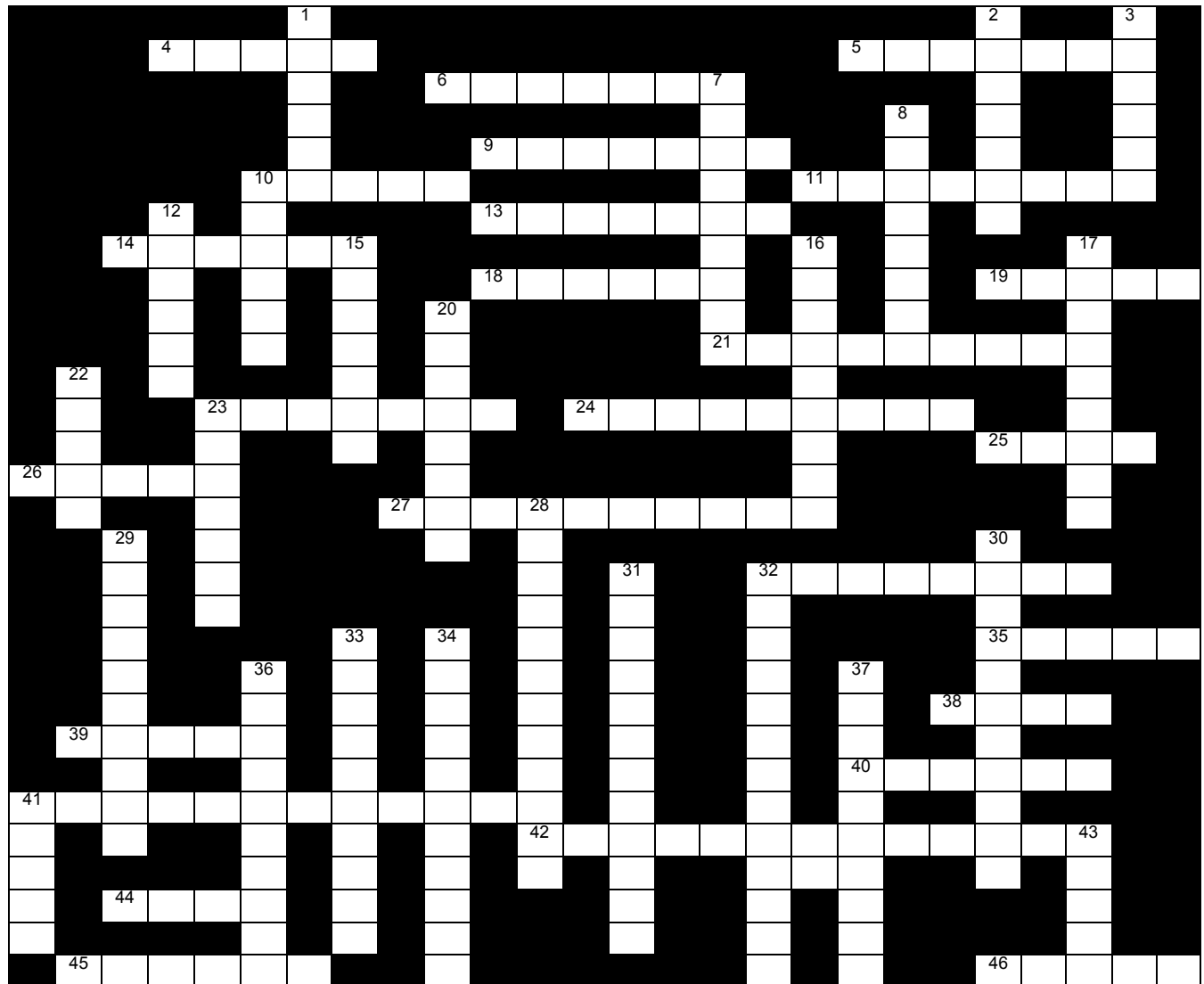
Recently, Linda was the Technical Chair for the 2011 AAPG Houston convention. Linda feels grateful for the opportunity to serve HGS. She enjoys volunteering because the programs make a lot of people happy and the work is worth it. She thanks HGS for the opportunity to experience numerous geological presentations that helped her pave new paths for her own career: working international, deepwater, learning about new technology, and many other topics. She believes, as many do, that a member gets far more out of HGS networking and social connections than you'll ever expect. ■

Charles Sternbach and Amy Sullivan

June Crossword Answers



June Crossword of Geologic Terms



ACROSS

- 4 A microcrystalline or cryptocrystalline sedimentary rock material composed of silica
- 5 Volcanic rock materials which are formed when magma is ejected by a volcano
- 6 An area that is owned or controlled by one or more owners
- 9 The principal ore of aluminum
- 10 A fracture in rock along which there has been no displacement
- 11 An iron oxide mineral that is commonly used as an ore of iron
- 13 A shallow, round or trough-shaped depression in sand or dry soil that is formed by wind erosion
- 14 A term used to describe an igneous rock that has a large percentage of light-colored minerals such as quartz, feldspar, and muscovite
- 18 Used in reference to materials that are rich in sodium and/or potassium
- 19 A seamount with a flat top
- 21 The point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake
- 23 Solid rock present beneath any soil
- 24 A very large intrusive igneous rock mass
- 25 A small hilltop that is round in shape
- 26 A conspicuous hill with steep sides and a flat top
- 27 The highest rank of coal
- 32 A lowering of the water table around a producing well
- 35 A ring-shaped group of coral islands that enclose a shallow lagoon
- 38 One side of a fold
- 39 A general term for all sedimentary materials deposited directly from the ice or melt water
- 40 A term used in reference to the wind

- 41 Alteration of the minerals, textures and composition of a rock caused by exposure to heat, pressure and chemical actions
- 42 A portion of the upper mantle
- 44 A rich accumulation of minerals in solid rock
- 45 An elongated, downthrown block bounded by two steeply dipping normal faults
- 46 A landscape that is characterized by the features of solution weathering and erosion

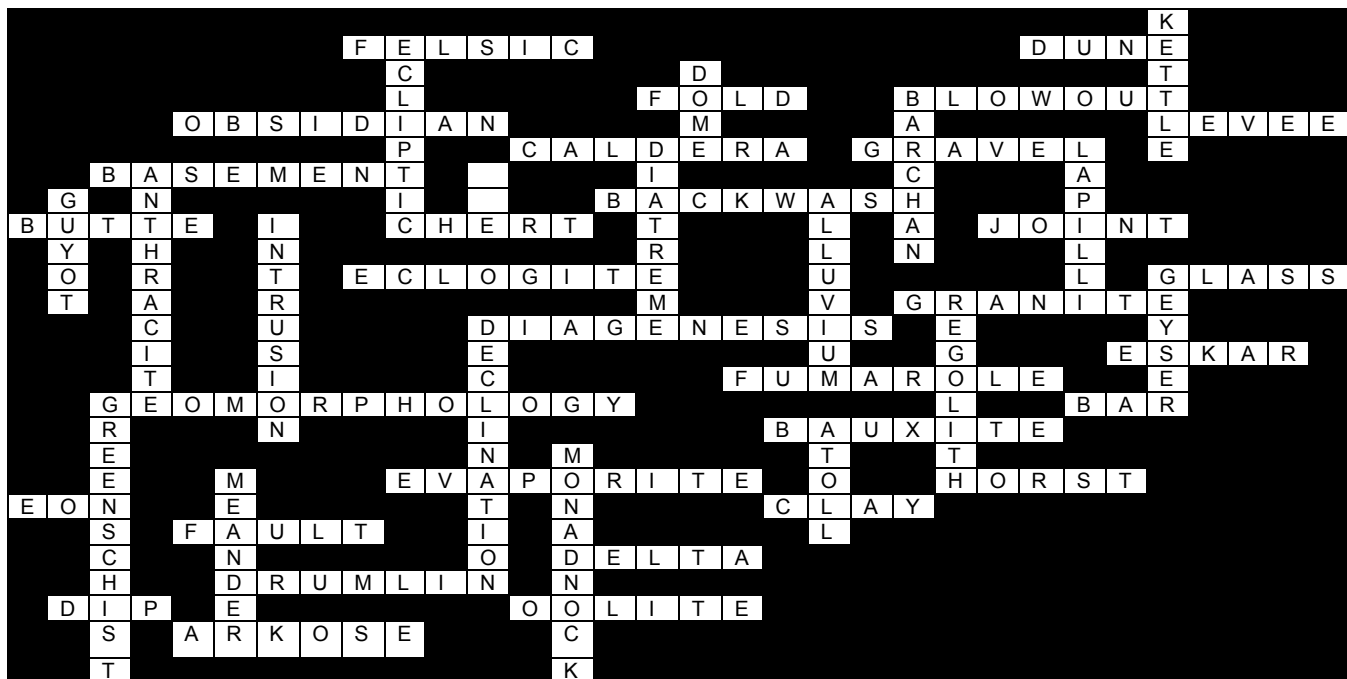
DOWN

- 1 A flat-bottom gully with steep sides that is a channel for an intermittent stream
- 2 A coarse-grained, intrusive igneous rock that contains a mixture of feldspar, pyroxene, hornblende and sometimes quartz
- 3 A bowl-shaped depression with very steep sides that forms at the head of a mountain glacier
- 7 Igneous rocks that crystallize at Earth's surface
- 8 A vent that emits hot gases
- 10 A variety of colored chert
- 12 A hot spring that intermittently erupts a spray of steam and hot water
- 15 A large, bowl-shaped crater associated with a volcanic vent
- 16 A subsurface rock, soil or sediment unit that does not yield useful quantities of water
- 17 The science of Earth's water

- 20 The removal of soluble constituents from a rock or soil by moving ground water
- 22 A reference location or elevation
- 23 A clastic sedimentary rock that is composed of large (over two millimeter diameter) angular fragments
- 28 Pertaining to hot water
- 29 An igneous rock formed by the lithification of ash flow or pyroclastic flow deposits
- 30 A group of single-celled organisms
- 31 The movement of surface water into porous soil
- 32 A surface separating rock layers of differing properties or compositions
- 33 An abrupt change in slope
- 34 A physical weathering process in which concentric layers of rock are removed from an outcrop
- 36 An ancient circular scar on Earth's surface produced by the impact of a meteorite
- 37 A low-grade metamorphic rock that frequently contains green minerals such as chlorite, epidote and talc
- 41 A term used to describe an igneous rock that has a large percentage of dark-colored minerals such as amphibole, pyroxene and olivine
- 43 A long winding ridge of sorted sands and gravel

Answers to this puzzle found on page 63

May Crossword Puzzle Answers





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HGS Bulletin Instructions to Authors

All materials are due by the 15th of the month, 6 weeks before issue publication. Abstracts should be 500 words or less; extended abstracts up to 1000 words; articles can be any length but brevity is preferred as we have a physical page limit within our current publishing contract. All submissions are subject to editorial review and revision.

Text should be submitted by email as an attached text or Word file or on a clearly labeled CD in Word format with a hardcopy printout to the Editor.

Figures, maps, diagrams, etc., should be digital files using Adobe Illustrator, Canvas or CorelDraw. Files should be saved and submitted in .ai (Adobe Illustrator) format. Send them as separate attachments via email or CD if they are larger than 1 MEG each, accompanied by figure captions that include the file name of the desired image. DO NOT EMBED them into your text document; they must be sent as separate files from the text. DO NOT USE POWERPOINT, CLIP ART or Internet images (72-DPI resolution) as these do not have adequate resolution for the printed page and cannot be accepted. All digital files must have 300-DPI resolution or greater at the approximate size the figure will be printed.

Photographs may be digital or hard copy. Hard copies must be printed on glossy paper with the author's name, photo or figure number and caption on the back. Digital files must be submitted in .tif, .jpg or .eps format with 300-DPI or greater resolution at the printing size and be accompanied by figure captions that are linked by the file name of the image. The images should be submitted as individual email attachments (if less than 1 MB) or on CD or DVD.

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8	\$750	\$1,260	\$2,242	\$4,307	\$5,169					
7	\$665	\$1,123	\$2,014	\$3,834	\$4,600					
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June 2011

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Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Endorsement by HGS member (not required if active AAPG member)

Name: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Houston Petroleum Auxiliary Council News

Winona LaBrant Smith, HGS Liaison



The 2010-2011 year for HPAC, led by **Edie Bishop**, President, has been one of outstanding accomplishments for the organization. A website was created, our Newsletter (including pictures) was upgraded, a new Interest Group (HPAC Exploring Houston led by **Martha Lou Broussard**) began functioning, and the membership attended creative and stimulating events. *Kudos to Edie and her Board:*

President	Edie Bishop
1st Vice President	Kathy Hilterman
2nd Vice President	Sally Blackhall
Secretary	SaraNan Grubb
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The nominated officers for HPAC for the year 2011-2012 are as follows:

President	Kathy Hilterman
1st Vice-President	Mickey Murrell
2nd Vice-President	Sharon Fox
Secretary	Barbara Peck
Treasurer	Norma Jean Jones
Editor	Karen Mermis
Parliamentarian	Edie Bishop

The excitement and anticipation for the upcoming year is growing. We wish them every success.

As I write my last column for the HGS *Bulletin*, I would like to express my deep appreciation to my husband, **Marvin Lyle Smith**, for my having had the opportunity to serve as Liaison to HGS from HPAC. Marvin has been a member of HGS for over 50 years (served in on the HGS Booth Committee for 30) and been a member of AAPG approximately 50 years (serving as a Delegate for 27 years) He graduated from the University of Rochester with a masters degree, where he wrote his thesis on the Middle Devonian Ledyard and Wanekah Shales (this is equivalent to the Marcellus Shale that is so current in the industry today). As he researched his thesis and did his field work, he found gas bubbling out of both the Ledyard and Wanekah shales. He concluded that these shales had the potential of being commercially productive. After his

graduation and employment by Shell Oil Company, he projected this theory. (Shell wondered if they had made a mistake by hiring this young uninformed geologist.) Today the Marcellus is one of the “hottest areas” going. Interesting!

Marvin was born and lived in Florida in his formative years. He graduated from Florida Military Academy, St. Petersburg, Florida, where he was on a sports scholarship and played all sports: football, basketball, baseball, track, rifle team, etc. Like all young men of that era, he was very anxious to join the military service and serve his country. Immediately after graduating, he joined the United States Navy. Marvin has such a love of this country and has never felt that he should stop giving to make this a better place to live. He had joined the Boy Scouts of America in Tampa, Florida, when he was 12 years old and became an Eagle Scout in 1942. He remained active in the Scouts even while he served in the Pacific Theater. He has continued to be extremely patriotic and feels that serving with the Scouts is one way to express this patriotism. Marvin serves on the National Boy Scout Board as well as the Local Boy Scout Board. He served as Chair of Chaplains at three National Jamborees, has written many of the current manuals used by Scouts today, served as Chair of the National Catholic Committee on Scouts, just to name a few of the many positions of responsibility he has held. Marvin has been awarded the Silver Buffalo, one of the most prestigious Scout awards. He credits the Scouts for his love of God, country, and family. You must serve this great country “in one capacity or another until you have given back what you receive” ... no end in sight.

Thank you Marvin for making me eligible for Liaison to HGS — what an adventure it has been! And thank you to **John Tubb, Jr.**, President HGS, **Barry Katz**, *Bulletin* Editor, and **Sandra Babcock** HGS Office Manager. You are the best!!!

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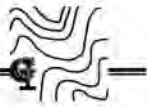
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On The Light Side



HGS Cartoonist
Ghulan Sarwar



Oblivious to the space-time vortex at this site, Sid quickly went around the stream bend, as he chiseled tracks in the flat-lying Cretaceous tidal carbonates. In the next few seconds, he would freak out as his creations materialize and catch up with him.



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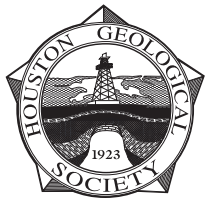
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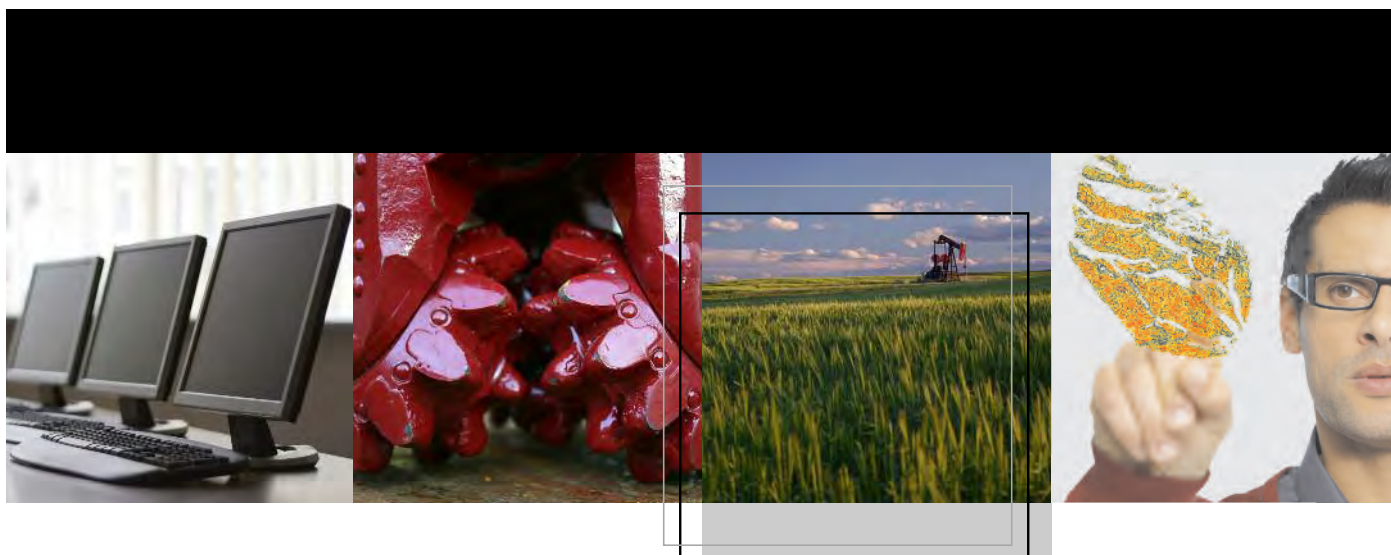
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