Mark your calendars and start making your plans to attend, IMAGE ’24, the premier meeting for geoscientists and energy professionals to connect and advance understandings, expand global networks, and create solutions for increased energy demand and challenges.
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Welcome to the HGS 100th Anniversary Special Issue

By Charles Sternbach, Linda Sternbach, and Craig Dingler

MISSION FOCUS

Many HGS members will recall the 75th Anniversary Gala and the special issue of the HGS Bulletin in 1998. But what has HGS been doing to fulfill its mission in the last 25 years leading up to the 100th Anniversary in 2023? Read on, and you will see the answer to that question is a lot! This special issue showcases just a few of the many programs helping HGS fulfill its objectives, which are:

1. To stimulate interest and promote advancement in geology for the Houston area. (Geoscience)
2. To disseminate and facilitate discussion of geological information, relationships among geologists in the area (Professionalism)
3. To aid and encourage academic training in the science of geology (Education and Outreach)

We organized the Table of Contents to this special issue along these HGS mission guidelines. The Society strives to achieve these goals through regularly scheduled technical meetings, the publication of a monthly Bulletin, web communication, a continuing education program, field trips, timely books, and two student scholarship funds.

As you unfold the pages of this HGS Special Issue, you will read how the last 25 years have been highly productive in HGS’s history—flourishing in all regards.

We also remember in this publication 100 HGS Historical Past Presidents, each with a connection to many geoscientists and HGS members. The mural, 100 Years, 100 Presidents, presents a vertical stratigraphic column. This issue continues the presidential traditions; updating the timeline started in the 75th Special Issue. We also recognize many awardees who have contributed to HGS success. In particular, we celebrate Gerald A. Cooley and 15 Cooley Award winners in the past 25 years.

JANUS

As we reflect on this historical moment, we recall Janus, the ancient Roman god with two faces—one looking forward and another backward. Some of the last Century’s notable technical turning points included: salt domes, deltas, shallow water deposits, onshore exploration, 3D seismic, computers, the internet, GPS, stratigraphic traps, and the dawn of unconventionals. We look to our next Century for, among other things, improved integration, augmented intelligence through ever greater computing power, enhanced seismic imaging (subsalt AVO), improved completion techniques (especially in tight reservoirs), the discovery of more stratigraphic traps, production in deep and ultradeep water, high delivery wells, lower carbon, better communications, LNG exports, and a global gas market.

HOUSTON DEMOGRAPHICS

Houston demographics—global offshore technology, global corporate headquarters, a vital service sector, refineries, universities, and space exploration (that strengthens technological capability)—foretell that HGS will play a continued strategic role in the future of human prosperity. We expect that HGS will continue its proud tradition of Leadership, Technology, Discovery and Education long into the future.

EDITORS NOTE: We include many photos of smiling people. Better than words alone, these pictures show the huge impact of HGS. We are grateful to many sources for these images.
President’s Letter
The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same.

On August 8, 1923, 74 geologists got together and founded the Houston Geological Society as an avenue for geologists in Houston to gather, meet, and communicate their discoveries and share gained knowledge.

EARLY DAYS
On August 8, 1923, 74 geologists got together and founded the Houston Geological Society as an avenue for geologists in Houston to gather, meet, and communicate their discoveries and share gained knowledge. This society came from the previous two decades of an oil boom in Houston. First Spindletop in 1901, setting off an oil boom of activity in Houston and southeast Texas. Houston was surrounded by salt domes like Sour Lake, Hull, Boling, Pierce Junction, Goose Creek, and many more. As wells were drilled deeper for oil, the geologist became an integral cog in the oil machine. The science of geology was getting traction in the growing oil industry, and scientific organizations began to form to share newfound knowledge.

Since its inception, the HGS has grown to almost 5,000 members in the 1980s and 1990s, with members on nearly every continent. Major oil company exploration managers, recognizing the value of industry networking, encouraged their geologists to join HGS and attend luncheons and dinners for technical talks. While the HGS’ primary focus was and is petroleum geology, it has also fostered other geological disciplines. Some of those disciplines include environmental geologists, groundwater, surface faulting, geothermal, uranium mining, underground storage and disposal, and academic and government scientists. The future for geologists in the HGS includes carbon sequestration and storage and hydrogen and helium exploration.

HGS LEADS THE WAY
Though no hard numbers are available, Houston likely has the world’s largest per capita population of geologists. The oil booms and busts have impacted many HGS members over the years, and the membership has waxed and waned along with oil prices. The perfect storm of price, technology, and available capital came together around 2008, when the unconventional shale plays came into their own, further affecting the way petroleum was explored for and produced, further impacting geological workforce needs.

A victim of their own success, the unconventional plays in North America put more oil and gas into the market, changing the distribution of worldwide supply and then falling to another price collapse beginning in 2014 when oil was over $100 per barrel. Oil finally dropped to around $26 per barrel in January 2016. And again in 2020, when oil prices on the NYMEX again dropped to $26 per barrel during the beginning of the global pandemic.

In 2020, a worldwide pandemic changed how the world interacts by closing businesses and limiting or canceling in-person gatherings worldwide. Virtual meetings, already used moderately for business, became the norm even for personal interactions, and in person events became rare. The impact on professional organizations was debilitating. Costs rose, making electronic delivery of periodicals, including the HGS Bulletin, necessary. Companies again had wholesale personnel reductions, and those layoffs affected the latest generation of geoscientists, mirroring 1973, 1986, and later. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

BUILDING BACK STRONGER
That was then, and this is now, where we are climbing out of the post-pandemic and momentarily, at least, stabilizing petroleum prices. The Houston Geological Society is recovering from the last few years, as reflected in last year’s President, Walter Light’s column. (page 89) He reflects on the financial leveling of HGS finances and, hopefully, stabilizing and increasing membership. The HGS is still dedicated to its mission to support the geological community via monthly technical meetings, social events, continuing education, academic events, and all the things that the HGS previously provided to its members and non-members alike.

It is truly an honor to have been elected to serve as your President during the Centennial Anniversary of the Houston Geological Society. Thank you for trusting me with this position, but the entire Board, the committee Chairs, and the members drive this society to make it what it is and can be. Thanks to Craig Dingler, and to Charles and Linda Sternbach, co-chairs of the 100th Anniversary Committee, for this special Commemorative Edition of the HGS Bulletin and everyone involved in the Centennial Gala and events planned to celebrate this special 100th year of the Houston Geological Society. (page 89)

Paul Britt, HGS President
100th Anniversary Committee

Looking Ahead to A New Century with Elevated Vision

By Charles Sternbach and Linda Sternbach, co-chairs of the HGS 100th Anniversary Committee

A PERSONAL STORY

We joined HGS shortly after arriving in Houston as new-hire geologists in 1984. As typical young professionals, we didn’t know anyone. HGS changed all that. Over the next nearly 40 years, we met thousands of fellow geoscientists by attending and organizing hundreds of technical talks for HGS. We benefitted immensely from learning about exciting discoveries, plays, and technology from those who made them happen. We even befriended a few legends along the journey. We are grateful for the friendships that arose while serving HGS behind the scenes and in leadership roles. We are honored to be HGS members, co-chairs of the HGS 100th Anniversary Committee, and to summarize Centennial Year celebrations.

LONG-TERM PLANNING

The HGS 100th Anniversary Committee has been planning for the Anniversary year (1923 to 2023) for more than ten years. Initially, the efforts included steering committee events, like positioning the 2023 GCAGS GeoGulf Convention in Houston. After many years in the planning stages, these efforts resulted in a coordinated series of celebratory events in 2023 that include:

- GeoGulf 2023, Saturday to Tuesday, April 22-25, 2023, at the Norris Conference Center (see separate article.)
- HGS Bulletin Special Issue (Editorial team led by HGS Past President Craig Dingler)
- HGS Past Presidents Luncheon, Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at Petroleum Club of Houston (HGS founded on this date, 1923).
- HGS Gala, Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the Petroleum Club of Houston

ELEVATING OUR VIEW

The image below shows the Houston Geological Society (HGS) 100th Anniversary logo unified with the 13 stars of the GCAGS constellation of affiliated Gulf Coast societies. The HGS is one of the bright stars in this constellation, radiating creative energy for 100 years.

Look carefully at the center of the HGS logo. For HGS’s first century, the view from the San Jacinto Monument to offshore Galveston Bay prevailed. The expansion from onshore to offshore was a giant leap in technology and abilities that continues into ever-deepening waters.

The view from above elevates our view for the next century. From this view, the Gulf Coast curves into a global community where we exchange people, ideas, prosperity, and resources.

The Gulf Coast is well-positioned. Its infrastructure unifies corporate headquarters, independents, a vital service sector, and universities where new ideas, whole cycle thinking, and energy resources flourish. NASA will continue to explore our planet (and beyond) above Gulf Coast facilities.

The Sun shines brightly on the Gulf Coast. Natural energy from above and below ground makes life more habitable through the energy that Gulf Coast geoscientists work diligently to provide.
Tri-Star Group, Houston based with more than 40 years of exploration innovation globally

Investing in North American oil and gas exploration and production
THE EARLY DAYS
For its early history, HGS only had two monthly meetings: a monthly dinner, and a luncheon meeting. Usually, both meetings were devoted to topics important to the plays of the Gulf of Mexico. As Houston became the center of international and regional domestic oil and gas plays in the late 1990s, Clint Moore championed the development of Special Interest Groups to help HGS become more relevant to specialized communities within the HGS.

THE RISE OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
As “the Energy Center of the World,” the HGS needed to expand and address members who wanted special interest groups devoted to world plays, environmental issues, and US plays outside the Gulf of Mexico. The special interest groups thrived because
- Their committees had chairs and co-chairs, including a treasurer and a budget,
- They had the autonomy to experiment with programs using HGS support and advertising,
- The programs attracted excellent leaders, many of whom progressed to the top of HGS leadership and continued in HGS leadership for decades.

INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATIONISTS GROUP
The granddaddy of the special interest groups is the International Explorationists Group, created in 1982 under HGS’s first woman President, Peggy Rice. I call the International Explorationists the granddaddy, not just in terms of time, but the number of effective programs, the number of people on its committee, and high attendance at nearly every International Group monthly meeting. Most HGS members know that the International Explorationists group created the Africa Conference, with the British Society PESGB, jointly hosting a two-day meeting in the US, or in London, every year for decades.

To focus on the last 25 years, the International Explorationists committee included a team from 2000–2005 that worked incredibly well together: Al Danforth, the Africa and Brazil margin expert, retired from Texaco; Scott Thornton, international expert; Steve Henry, consultant with a company called GeoLearn; George D. Klein, and UK natives Ian Poyntz and Ray Bate. Al Danforth, Steve Henry, and Scott Thornton were high-powered international consultants on “conjugate margins” of the US and South American pre-Atlantic rift geology linked to West Africa geology and oil discoveries. They were responsible for the seismic interpretation of TGS and ION regional seismic lines. International topics included Africa, all parts of South America, Mexico, Europe, Indonesia, and even hard-to-get talks like the 2013 talk on the geology of Iraq. New leaders came on board around 2007, including Tarek Ghazi, who worked for Saudi Aramco; in 2018, Steve Getz and Donna Davis were co-chairs, later including Ryan Yarrington.
NORTH AMERICAN EXPLORATIONISTS GROUP

The North American Explorationist’s Group also dates back to 1990-92 and has had a smaller but dedicated committee. This group’s focus encompasses plays in North America, including Canada and Mexico, but particularly the Permian Basin, which has had HGS members from Shell, Conoco, and Amoco, who wanted to network on conventional oil plays in the Midland and Delaware basins. Founding chairs of this group include HGS Past Presidents Charles Sternbach and Steve Levine.


NORTHSIDERS GROUP

The Northsiders Group was formed around 2002 to serve members living in Houston’s Greenspoint and Woodlands area. Ray Sorenson (and others) championed a new group based in the northern Houston community. These members felt they could not attend regular HGS dinners in West Houston and drive back home at night. This group has been unique as the committee leaders came from Devon Energy and Weatherford Labs and scheduled talks on any topic that interested them, not staying inside a geographic theme. Frank Walles, who worked at Devon and later at Anadarko in the Woodlands, and Gary Coburn of Murphy Oil turned the Northsiders into a place to learn about the shale play, and many committee members also volunteered at the annual Applied Geomechanics Conference that became known as the Mudrocks Conference 2004-2009. The committee chairs for 2010-2021 have included Tony D’Agostino, David Tonner, Michael Salazar, Sydney Mitchelle Weitkunat, Ian McGlynn, and Jeremy Andrews of XTO Energy. HGS Past President Clint Moore championed the creation of the Northsiders Group and we need to acknowledge Clint as the leadership supporter of all the HGS Special Interest Groups.

E&E, THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GROUP

The Environmental & Engineering Geologists group, while smaller than some of the other HGS committees, has a dedicated membership that is very active in the Society’s affairs. It has firmly established itself as one of the mainstays of HGS technical offerings.

The committee is currently co-chaired by Matthew Cowen and Troy Meinen. Glenn Lowenstein adopted the chairmanship in the late 1990s from Craig Dingler and helped shepherd the organization for 10 years. Monthly dinner meetings were held at Charlie’s Hamburgers and have moved around to various local eateries (Jalapenos, Rudi Lechner’s) and was at the Black Labrador from 2007 to 2020. The meetings have been at Craft Republic Houston for the last few years.
During the early 1990s, the E&EG group was instrumental in introducing legislation for the licensing of geologists who practice before the public in realms that dealt with the public’s health, safety, and welfare in Texas. Their hard work paid off when licensing was passed in 2001 and became effective in 2003. During this time members such as Richard Howe, Glenn Lowenstein, and Michael Campbell were very helpful in this endeavor.

Today the committee’s focus is still on the environmental and engineering sectors of geology as well as keeping tabs on licensure. The E&EG group still provides important networking opportunities for the unemployed and those who still wish to transition to different career paths within geology.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOFEST COMMITTEE
Emerging Technology was a dinner meeting championed by Ron Nelson, who wanted to schedule talks on logging tools, core analysis, fractures, and rock topics not covered by the HGS dinner meetings. Tom Tucker helped lay the early groundwork. Clint Moore asked Charles Sternbach to chair the group, and Charles formed a talented and dynamic committee including Shawn Porche, Rosemary Mullin, Frank Rabbio, and Dan Morris. In their first year, they showcased five talks, each with more than 100 attendees. The group quickly gained critical mass.

The committee developed creative ideas, including Technofest, an all-day event championed by Shawn Porche. Jim Doyle and Mike Allison were chairs (2002-2004). And software vendors rented booths to meet attendees and network on new products. Deborah Sacrey did a great job on Techofest and Techno-Conference in 2008, making significant profits for HGS.

Buoyed by this success and enthusiastic team spirit, the group created 100 coffee mugs labeled “Emerging Technology” out of a small portion of revenue surplus generated by meetings that packed the house. These mugs were greatly appreciated by the sponsors and participants, popularizing the committee’s team spirit. Mugs were sold at meetings, recouping much more than the mugs originally cost, making everyone happy.

It’s time to bring back the Emerging Technology Group with new chairs!
Africa Conference

By Caroline Wachtman, Kevin Dale, Al Danforth, Brian Horn, and Duncan MacGregor

IT STARTED IN A PUB IN 2001

Like many great ideas, the idea for the Africa Conference started with a small group of colleagues chatting after work in a pub. That initial pub conversation was held in 2001, and it sparked a collaboration extending more than 22 years between the Houston Geological Society (HGS) and the Geoscience Energy Society of Great Britain (GESGP; formerly the Petroleum Society of Great Britain, PESGB). During that time, the Africa Conference hosted hundreds of presentations from majors, independents, consultants, academics, and government ministries. The format and content of the Africa Conference have evolved, but the Conference has continued to mirror the interest and enthusiasm of geologists exploring and developing energy resources in Africa.

THE EARLY DAYS

During the late 1990s, the PESGB Special Interest Group on Africa periodically held symposiums organized by Nick Cameron, Val Clure, and Ray Bate. In late 2001, Al Danforth from the HGS and Ray Bate from the PESGB discussed the challenges encountered by small professional societies when organizing conferences. They conceived the idea of jointly organizing and marketing a conference on Africa. The PESGB and HGS planned to alternate as hosts; each society would assume the risk and keep the financial benefit of being the host. Although there was no formal agreement, the partnership has proven successful for more than 22 years.

The inaugural 2002 conference was hosted by PESGB in London and chaired by Ray Bate with support from Duncan MacGregor. Over 250 delegates attended and presented talks on “Africa: The Success will Continue.” HGS hosted the 2nd Africa conference in Houston in 2003 with the theme “Africa: New Plays – New Perspectives.” The HGS introduced posters and vendor booths to the Conference that year. PESGB hosted the 2004 conference, “The Continent of Challenge and Opportunity,” followed by “Africa: Path to Discovery,” hosted by HGS in 2005. More than 150 papers were presented during the 2006 conference, themed “The Elephants of the Future.” In these years, most of the papers focused on exploration in West and North Africa, although East Africa was a key focus in 2003.

CONFERENCE EVOLUTION

Attracting African contributors has historically been a challenge, and the HGS and PESGB tried to attract more local contributions by moving the 2007 conference to Cape Town. Attendance was overall low, and the Conference was returned to Houston in 2008. In 2019, PESGB worked closely with seismic vendors to increase the number of African delegates and to support local content development. The model successfully increased African participation, but it was not sustainable with the shift to a virtual format in 2020. Approximately 10% of the delegates to the 2022 virtual conference were in Africa, whereas nearly 70% of delegates attended from Houston or London.

HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS

- 650 delegates attended the 2013 Conference, the largest number of attendees
- 80 presentations at the 2017 Conference, the largest number of oral presentations to date
- 21 annual conferences held since 2002
- 3 years that the Conference was held virtually
- 2019, the year that TV documentary geologist, Professor Iain Stewart, handed out the awards for best papers
The role of seismic data in exploration has historically been a theme of the Conference. A seismic workshop was added to the program for the 12th Conference held in 2013 in London. Including seismic was further expanded in 2015 and 2016 to include seismic vendors showcasing the latest products and services. In 2018, attendees discussed and interpreted seismic lines that extended the length of a hotel. Seismic vendors composed fewer delegates to the 2022 conference but remained integral to the Conference’s success, with Shearwater as the headline sponsor that year.

Although the Africa Conference is focused on hydrocarbon exploration, development, and production, the Conference has continued to evolve with the energy industry. In 2021, the first Energy Transition session was included. It featured talks on the CO₂ storage potential and geothermal exploration potential of Africa. This theme was continued and expanded in 2022, with talks on hydrogen and helium exploration, machine learning workflows applied to CO₂ storage and net-zero goals.

GOING VIRTUAL...AND BACK
The Africa conference went virtual in 2020 when the COVID-19 global pandemic resulted in travel restrictions and reduced corporate budgets. In 2020, the HGS held the 19th Conference as an online series featuring different African areas each Thursday over a month. The 20th and 21st annual conferences were held as two half-day virtual technical sessions as the global pandemic continued to limit travel and cause logistical uncertainties. In addition to the virtual components, an in-person dinner and social hour were held in Houston in 2022.

The Africa Conference participants realized key benefits of virtual conferences, such as engaging a worldwide and diverse audience, allowing attendees the flexibility to manage their schedules, and reducing costs. However, participants also missed face-to-face networking opportunities. Participant feedback on the virtual v. in-person format following the 2022 conference was evenly split, with half of the participants strongly in favor of continuing virtually and an equal number preferring a return to an in-person format. The 22nd Annual Conference will be held in London and will be a welcome return to in-person presentations, posters, and exhibitors. The 2023 event aims to showcase how the subsurface of Africa has the potential to power the world’s future and drive its own energy development.

22ND CONFERENCE
The 2022 Conference had three goals: to be inclusive, be accretive to the discussion on African geology, and foster engagement among the community of scientists and businesspeople working in Africa. To achieve these goals, the Conference included 28 virtual presentations, a pre-conference in-person dinner, and a post-conference in-person social in Houston. Nearly 200 people participated in one or more of the events, and many attendees were outside Houston. Approximately one-third of participants worked for Exploration & Production companies, one-third worked as consultants, and vendors or those in academia comprised the final third.

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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>The Future of G&amp;G in Africa: Skills, Transition, and Resources</td>
<td>Caroline Wachtman</td>
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<td>Africa and its Conjugate Margins – New Ideas, Play and Innovation</td>
<td>Brian Horn</td>
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<td>Africa is Back: Smarter, Stronger, Better</td>
<td>Kevin Dale</td>
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<td>Big Continent, Big Ideas, Big Opportunity, Strategies for Success</td>
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*Although only the Chair is listed here, the Africa Conference would not be possible without the dedicated support of dozens of volunteers and staff from HGS and PESGB.
**ORIGIN OF A FRANCHISE**

Long-term successful HGS programs like Legends, Scholarship Night, Africa Conference, Guest Night, Sheriff Lecture, NeoGeos, and others anticipate a trend and fulfill a need. The Applied Geoscience “Mudrock” Conference belongs to this pantheon. As George Mitchell foretold in his Legends appearance in 2000, the power of combining geoscience and engineering in well-completion techniques would change the Petroleum Industry profoundly. An age of experimentation followed, driven by a rapid proliferation of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Science evolved rapidly to meet the needs of Industry, and the HGS Applied Geoscience Mudrocks Conference provided a forum for collaboration precisely at the right time and place.

Members of the HGS Northsiders Group and AAPG Energy Minerals Group put their stamp on the 2000s era at HGS by creating a “Mudrocks” Conference from idea to reality. During the AAPG ACE in Long Beach, California, Spring of 2007, Frank Walles discussed the conference idea with Charles Sternbach, who advised: “Why not bring this conference to HGS?”

The first HGS Mudrocks Conference was proposed in Fall 2007 by Frank Walles (Devon) and Paul Basinski (ConocoPhillips) to then-President Linda Sternbach as a one-day program to gather top experts in the unconventional field. Walles said he didn’t want to do another Barnett Shale program then because he saw the Mudrocks expanding to the Eagle Ford Shale and Austin Chalk. Paul Basinski had already contacted many key people in the shale-gas/unconventional-reservoir topic area. Key volunteers from the HGS Northsiders’ Group included Committee co-chair David Tonner (International Logging), Bruce Martin (Devon), and Kirk Barrell (Wave Exploration).

**GREENLIGHTING A WELL-ORGANIZED TEAM WITH A VISION**

To the HGS Board’s credit, they approved the “Mudrocks” idea as a new conference along the lines of the existing “Africa Conference.” The first ever “Applied Geoscience Conference: U.S. Gulf Region Mudstones as Unconventional Shale Gas/Oil Reservoirs, Fractured, and Non-Fractured,” was held at the downtown Houston Doubletree Hotel, October 1 and 2, 2007. The first conference attracted about 180 people, but the second conference in 2009 sold out. HGS Board members knew there was an industry demand for conferences combining geology, petrophysics, reservoir engineers, and drilling of unconventional shale plays.

Walles and Basinski also coordinated an AAPG Energy Minerals sub-website with industry papers and key information available only to AAPG EMD members. HGS benefited because the now yearly “Mudrocks Conference” was an early conduit for
accessing unconventional shale research and abstracts beyond the AAPG EMD members-only website. Many people joined AAPG, HGS, and the Energy Minerals Division just to be able to read cutting-edge research from companies like Devon, Baker, Southwestern Energy, and CoreLab. AAPG started organizing its own Unconventional Shale Conferences, and eventually, the EMD membership became free and open to all AAPG members.

MULTI-DISCIPLINES AND EXPANDING VENUES

Mudrocks Conferences were held for one year at the Hilton North Hotel at Greenspoint (Feb 8-9, 2010). This conference was highly geologically focused on Gulf Coast shales and the Louisiana Haynesville featuring well-known researchers Kevin Bohacs (ExxonMobil), Kitty Milliken (BEG), Ursula Hammes, and Scott Hamlin (Haynesville, BEG), and Randy Miller of CoreLab. Industry experts in Houston-based companies included Dan Jarvie, Phil Martin (New Century), Mike Cameron (Newfield), and Bruce Martin (Southwest Energy).

The Westin Hotel, a bigger venue on I-10 and Beltway 8, became the Mudrocks meeting spot for several years, 2011-2018. The Mudrocks conference added core workshops and exhibits. It expanded the unconventional plays to include the Midland Basin (Cline Shale), Permian Basin (Wolfbone), Midcontinent Niobrara Plays, and Canadian plays in Newfoundland. The Mudrocks Committee included 47 people in its heyday. The biggest audience attendance was in 2015, with 250 attendees. The HGS committee included Frank Walles, Michael Van Horn, and Mike Cameron (Newfield), Bruce Martin (UCK Consulting), Kathy McDonald (Southwestern Energy), Dave Tonner (Weatherford), James Schulte (Devon), and Randy Lafollette (Baker Hughes). Sponsoring companies include Newfield, Talisman, Shell, ConocoPhillips, Anadarko, Statoil, Weatherford, and CoreLab.

The setback of the petroleum industry with low oil prices affected the last Mudrocks Conferences 2016-2018—the topics diversified into hybrid petroleum systems, completion technology, and geo-mechanics of rocks. The 2018 Mudrocks Conference was held at the Anadarko Tower, with 180 people attending. In 2019, the conference became the HGS “Subsurface Intelligence and Analytics Conference” about digital workflows in the geoscience disciplines and the latest advancements in utilizing new digital technologies hosting 170 attendees.

IS IT THE ROCK OR THE FRAC?

During the tenure of the Mudrock Conference, many fundamental scientific issues were yet to be settled. Creative debates flourished. These included optimizing the hydraulic fracturing variables and understanding fundamental geology, rock properties, and mechanics. Debates also included whether or not gas AND oil would flow. How fluids flow from nanopores in various unconventional plays was hotly debated. New science was being created, and the Mudrocks Conference was the crucible for testing and discussing new ideas.

LEGACY OF DISCOVERY

During its decade-plus of annual conferences, the Mudrocks Conference produced an incredible legacy of papers and speaking engagements for leading scientists of the Gulf Coast, Permian Basin, and shale plays all over the country and the world. HGS benefited financially from this volunteer-led program, growing the Society to nearly 3500 members. Total net revenue to HGS from many profitable conferences exceeded $1 million. The Mudrocks Conference is one of the finest examples of a well-organized team collaboratively addressing scientific challenges to drive Industry success. How wonderful that HGS provided the platform for such a conference to flourish!

Dr. Arnold Bouma looks at cores.
The first mention of a continuing education committee in the HGS Bulletin was in November 1967, continuing through May 1974, as a Special Committee, A.A.P.G. Continuing Education Co-Ordinator with the first Chairman DeWitt Van Siclen. By September 1974, continuing through May 1975, the A.A.P.G. affiliation was removed, for the Special Committee named Continuing Education. By the September 1975 Bulletin, the Continuing Education Committee was elevated to a HGS standing committee. The Continuing Education Committee (CEC.) is a longtime stalwart HGS Committee. We produce short courses on various topics with some classic repetitions, such as those addressing petrophysics.

The CEC’s stated mission from 1998 to 2023 has always been to provide timely courses that provide material that participants can immediately apply when they return to their offices. Until the most recent fiscal year, 2022-2023, the CEC was proud to provide courses to members at below commercial rates while providing a profit to contribute to HGS overhead. During this recent year, the CEC was proud to provide courses at commercial rates that could still attract participants while contributing a larger, significant profit to help HGS recover from the recent fiscal deficit it was experiencing.

Timely applies to world-class conferences the CEC organized while collaborating with other organizations. These conferences took a full year of planning before they were executed.

- The HGS CEC and the Engineering, Science and Technology Council of Houston joined forces to present a 3-day conference on November 3-5, 2005, “Coastal Subsidence, Sea Level and the Future of the Gulf Coast Conference.” This conference earned the CEC a reputation of prescience since the conference planning started a year earlier in 2004, and Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005, highlighting the impact of coastal subsidence.
- The HGS CEC joined forces with the Gulf Coast Section of the SEPM (GCSSEPG) and the Engineering, Science and Technology Council of Houston to present the 2-day conference “Flooding in Southeast Texas: The Science Behind the Floods” on June 6-7, 2018. Much of the basis for the science presented was provided by Hurricane Harvey, which dumped 60 inches of rain on the southeast on August 25, 2017, causing catastrophic flooding in Houston.
- Timely repeatedly applies to short courses and short course series the CEC developed.

• On the heels of the passage of the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act, CEC presented a 4-part mini-series, “Petroleum Reserves—Avoiding Write-downs,” with world-class instructors:

To provide residual income for HGS, the CEC proposed recording the “Petroleum Reserves—Avoiding Write-downs” mini-series and creating a CD volume that could later be sold. The CEC acquired corporate donations to provide the funding to purchase a video camera, Camtasia editing software, and seed money to publish the CD volume. This initiative launched the newly created Video Committee. Creating residual income from short courses persists today as a CEC subcommittee investigates developing the process for on-demand video-recorded short courses.

Most recently, the CEC has created another subcommittee to find worthy technical papers to submit for publication in the HGS Bulletin. These will be another facet of continuing education.

CEC members were also the drivers behind the 2017 HGS acquisition of Zoom video conferencing licenses. We provided the technical investigation team to look at all available options and choose the best product for members who became the new HGS Communications Committee. This early effort was important to the seamless transition to virtual HGS meetings during the Covid crisis.

During HGS’s second century, the CEC expects to continue innovating while providing meaningful educational opportunities for members and the Geological community.
Robert E. Sheriff Lecture
A Tradition from 1999
By Charles Sternbach (Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston)

A NEW IDEA WITH STAYING POWER
In 1999, David Meaux, HGS member and president of the University of Houston Geological Alumni Association (UHGAA), brought a new idea to the HGS Executive Committee. I was HGS president then, and I knew Dave from Shell. Dave recommended that HGS dedicate an annual dinner in honor of Dr. Robert E. (Bob), Sheriff of UH, where students present posters and network with the HGS professional community. HGS listened and acted. Two decades later, we are sure glad we did. Students and Industry have benefitted from this longstanding mentoring tradition.

EXPLORATION GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS MISSION
The Sheriff Lecture has been held continuously since 1999 with scholarly presentations by outstanding scientists. The series honors Dr. Sheriff as an educator, scholar, and proponent of geosciences. Its mission is to
1. Bring some of the best-known geologists and geophysicists in the world to the Houston community to share highly relevant ideas to exploration geology and geophysics
2. Showcase geoscience activity at the University of Houston.

POSTER COMPETITION AND RECOGNIZING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP.
Students present their research each year, and judges rank the best presentations. The competition is fun and rewarding. The students gain valuable experience and feedback interacting with Industry professionals. These interactions nourish many valuable contacts and mentoring relationships.

HGS salutes 25 speakers, their co-authors, and hundreds of student scholars over two decades. We thank the presenters for stimulating scientific presentations and the students for sharing their research. HGS has benefited greatly from this lively interaction. Many UH alums have found leadership positions at HGS and in Industry. □

Dr. Robert E. (Bob), Sheriff
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<td>Dr. Kurt Marfurt</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Dr. Kevin Burke</td>
<td>Africa's Vast Petroleum Systems</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Dr. John Dewey</td>
<td>Transtension in Arcs and Orogens</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Jackson and Michael Hudec</td>
<td>Kwanza Arcana: A New Look at Angolan Salt Tectonics, Tectonostratigraphy, and Differential Uplift</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Dr. Celal Sengor</td>
<td>The Geology of the Middle East — Sheriff Lecture</td>
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<td>Conference held at the University of Houston to Honor Dr. Kevin Burke — Plate Tectonics, Plumes, and Planetary Lithospheres</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Dr. Janok Bhattacharya</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Dr. Henry Posamentier</td>
<td>Seismic Geomorphology and Seismic Stratigraphy from Shelf to Deepwater: Implications for Exploration and Development</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>Narrative of an Unrepentant Shale Geologist—Why Mudstones Have a Key Role in Unlocking Geological History and Understanding the Hydrocarbon System</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Kevin Bohacs</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>The Second Half of Plate Tectonics: Finding the Last ~200Ma of Subducted Lithosphere and Incorporating it into Plate Reconstruction</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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https://uh.edu/nsm/earth-atmospheric/news-events/sheriff-lecture/prev-sheriff-lectures/
We are pleased to celebrate HGS' 100th Anniversary (1923-2023). This year’s centennial plans include GeoGulf23 at the Norris Conference Center on April 22-25, this special HGS August Centenary Edition, and a fall Gala planned for Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the Houston Petroleum Club.

GeoGulf23 welcomed 443 attendees to the premiere event of Gulf Coast geoscience. Our theme, “United we Explore the Gulf of Mexico and Beyond,” reminded us that geography, geoscience, and heritage unite us. Gulf Coast Geoscience unites our Section with the AAPG global community. Our workflows unite geology, geophysics, and engineering to optimize commercial solutions.

HGS hosted the 13 affiliated society stars of the GCAGS constellation with 86 technical presentations, 40 poster sessions, 3 field trips, and 3 short courses taught by elite instructors on salt, tectonics, and sedimentary systems. Conference goals delivered the “energy of now.” We had a lively exhibition, social events, and 3 inspirational luncheons. We managed the event with experienced volunteers, and together with 62k sponsorship, we demonstrated economic viability.

Our theme, featured on the GCAGS Transactions and the GeoGulf23 Program book covers, shows the HGS logo prominently beaming like our planet’s sun. If you look closely at the HGS logo, you can see that the view from land to offshore was a new frontier in the middle of HGS’s first Century. We have purposely selected a theme and a logo that supports an elevated view of our Second Century.

**NASA FIELD TRIP**
Saturday, April 21, featured a field trip to NASA. Apollo 17 Moonwalker Harrison “Jack” Schmitt led a group of 30 geologists on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Lunar Vault, Mission Control,
and Rocket Park. Doug Cook, a leading member of the AAPG Astrogeology Committee, described the field trip and a technical session in June 2023 AAPG Explorer. Excerpts below:

The AAPG Astrogeology Committee led a field trip to NASA Space Center Houston on April 22 as a part of the GeoGulf 2023 Conference. Linda Sternbach and co-leaders Committee Chair Doug Wyatt, Doug Cook, and William Ambrose organized the NASA field trip.

The field trip featured Apollo 17 astronaut-geologist Harrison “Jack” Schmitt. Activities on the field trip included visits to historic Apollo Mission Control, the Saturn V rocket, the Apollo 17 Command Module capsule, the Lunar Sample Lab, and a luncheon presentation by Harrison Schmitt. At the Apollo 17 capsule, he recounted not getting much sleep on the way to the Moon with one eye open looking for alarm lights on the instrument panel.

He graciously posed for a picture with a nine-year-old future astronaut who ran up through the crowd to stand beside him.

“At the luncheon, Dr. Schmitt discussed the geology of the Apollo 17 landing site and various topics on lunar science and resources. He described the ongoing studies of Apollo 17 lunar samples. He is working on the 3-meter core that he drilled near Camelot Crater in the Taurus-Littrow Valley on the eastern rim of Mare Serenitatis. Detailed isotopic analyses reveal changes in solar activity and solar wind over time. Dr. Schmitt explained that it is more likely that the Moon formed coeval with the Earth rather than forming in a collision of Earth with a large planetesimal early in solar system history.
At GeoGulf 2023, Monday, April 24, Doug Cook and William Ambrose co-chaired the technical session “Geoscientists Will Be Exploring the Moon and Mars in the Next Decade.” The session featured two presentations about the Moon (Water-Ice Resources on the Moon, William Ambrose; Exploring for Lunar Volatiles, the VIPER Mission Instrument Package, Doug Wyatt, NASA) and two presentations about Mars (The Search for Life on Mars Doug Cook; Martian Field Geologist: What to Wear When Looking for Life on a Desert Planet? Dr. James F. Reilly, former NASA astronaut-geologist and USGS Director). Jim Reilly’s presentation was an in-depth look at the challenges and radiation hazards of sending a human crew to Mars.

SHORT COURSES
On Saturday and Sunday, we featured three short courses. We aimed to feature foundational geoscience of salt, sedimentary systems, and tectonics, which conference attendees could build from the technical program. In a post-conference Survey with 50 responses, short courses received a 4.9 out of 5.0 score. The program components were highly ranked, and short courses were at the top.

Thank you to our short course chairs, Cheryl Desforges and Lauren Robinson, who commented: “We were thrilled to offer three short courses from highly renowned geologists: Drs. Mark Rowan, John Snedden, and Jim Pindell. Rowan taught his famous “Salt Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico” course in two days over the conference weekend. Both Snedden and Pindell led invaluable one-day courses: “Gulf of Mexico Sedimentary Basin: Depositional Evolution and Petroleum Applications” and “Structural, Tectonic, and Paleogeographic Evolution of the GOM, Caribbean, and Northern South America,” respectively.

More than 40 geologists actively participated in the classes, ranging from graduate students to seasoned professionals in experience level.

A STUDENT ATTENDEE COMMENT
“Hello, Prof. Liu. I hope this email finds you well. I had the opportunity to speak with Mark Rowan after the class, and he provided us with a wealth of valuable suggestions and insights. I look forward to discussing these in more detail upon my return. Thank you for sponsoring my visit to Houston to learn more about salt tectonics. The opportunity to explore more in this field and learn from Mark and Charles has been an incredible experience that I will always cherish. Thank you for introducing me to Dr. Bishop, and again for your support. I will continue to work hard and put into practice the knowledge I have gained during my time in Houston.

Best Regards, Yiren Gou”
More than 40 geologists actively participated in the classes, ranging from graduate students to seasoned professionals in experience level. Importantly, we minimized expenses by distributing digital course notes before the courses and added value by providing continuing education certificates that can be used for license requirements. All in all, what a way to kick off the conference!

**OPENING CEREMONY**

On Sunday, we celebrated some of the best and brightest geoscientists of the GoM with technical and service awards and celebrated academic excellence. Charles Sternbach called the meeting to order and welcomed VIPs in the audience, including AAPG president-elect Claudia Hackbarth, Rebecca Dodge, AAPG VP, HGS Host Society President Walter Light, and Paul Britt HGS President-elect. He thanked all the volunteers, sponsors, and exhibitors, James Willis, editor of the *GCAGS Transactions*, and Bob Merrill, editor of the *Journal*. Linda Sternbach reviewed the conference highlights, short courses, field trips, posters, and technical program presenters. Linda especially thanked the Session Chairs for being the heart and soul of the meeting.

Mike Erpenbeck spoke from the heart about GCAGS and the importance of recognizing the “best of the best” with honors and awards. GCSSEPM President Mike Sweet also commented about the importance of meetings like GeoGulf.

We celebrate two types of excellence. **Service and Science.**

The geoscience is the foundation of our professional growth. And we recognize those whose service improves our professional community enriching for us all. Read more [here](https://www.gcags.org/GCAGS%20Awards/Information.About.GCAGS.Awards.html)

![Image of awards and speakers at the opening ceremony](image)

Mike Erpenbeck speaks from the heart about honoring traditions and the “best of the best.”

![Image of the Honors and Awards team](image)

The Honors and Awards team in action: Mike Sweet (GCSSEPM president), Mike Erpenbeck (GCAGS President), Charles Sternbach (GeoGulf General Chair), and Mark Schuster (GCAGS Awards Chairman)

![Image of HGS and AAPG leadership](image)

Welcome to HGS and AAPG Leadership.

The local societies bring great geoscience to a global community. Left to right: Claudia Hackbarth, AAPG President-Elect; Rebecca Dodge, AAPG Sections Vice President; Walter Light, HGS President; Paul Britt, HGS President-Elect
and the GCSSEPM Perkins Conference for promoting Gulf Coast Basins’ geoscience. Mark Shuster, GCAGS President 2021, honored service awardees. GCAGS 2021 Technical Program Chair Toti Larsen honored the winners of best papers. Sternbach ended the awards by co-dedicating the 2023 GCAGS Transactions to Peter Rose (memorial) and Mike Forrest (in honor). We chose a geologist and a geophysicist to symbolize geoscience teamwork and integration.

POSTER SESSION
GeoGulf 2023 hosted an exciting poster session in Pecan Hall of the Norris Conference Center. Students and professionals from eight universities, three research institutions, and a few companies presented their posters. The conference participants showed keen interest in the presented research, and we saw a lot of activity during the session breaks. The poster session continued throughout the conference, and Dr. Nawaz Bugti was the session’s chair.
Elaborate arrangements were made for judging the posters by senior professionals from the oil and gas industry, and Sandy Rushworth and David Rische headed the judging activity. At least three judges judged each poster presentation. Winners were recognized with certificates.

The conference participants showed keen interest in the presented research.

**ICEBREAKER**

In the Exhibit Hall, student posters featured lively interactions and an abundant taco buffet. GCAGS teamed up with GCSSEPM and hosted several book signings in the GCAGS booth, prominently in the main registration area. There was great interest in the GCAGS publications and the Transactions for this 72nd annual GCAGS meeting.

Lots of networking and good things to eat and drink at the IceBreaker.

Fun times with HGS Director Bill DeMis (Haynesville session chair) and Ursula Hammes (speaker).

Thank you to Outstanding Educator Awardee Dr. Julie Bloxson, Dr. Mindy Faulkner, Dr. Wesley Brown, and Stephen F. Austin University colleagues for strong support and student participation.

Thank you to Diversified Mudlogging, David Tonner, and Tracy Walker for exhibiting, sponsoring, and making the Moran Party and the IceBreaker a big success.

Dr. James Willis (GCAGS Transactions Editor) and Dr. Robert K. Merrill (GCAGS Journal Editor) make quite a team.

Behold the very first GCAGS Transaction from 1951 and the latest 2023 version. There’s a lot of great Gulf Coast geoscience in between.
AAPG FOUNDATION NETWORKING RECEPTION AT GEOGULF23
The AAPG Foundation, led by Chairman Jim McGhay, decided to hold a networking event in conjunction with the AAPG Gulf Coast Section Meeting, GeoGulf23, in late April 2023 in Houston. The inspiration was to take advantage of the gathering of AAPG Trustees, the large Trustee Associate contingent who live in and near Houston, and numerous geologists attending the GeoGulf conference who are potential candidates to be invited to join the Trustee Associates. Jeff Lund, AAPG Foundation Trustee and GeoGulf23 General Vice-chair, offer some comments:

“"The event was very successful. We had a private room at the Hotel Moran with hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. AAPG Trustee Chair McGhay gave remarks with slides describing the Foundation’s various outreach programs supporting geoscience students, the Foundation’s support of worthy projects, including the Imperial Barrel program, and the numerous awards the Foundation supports, such as Teacher of the Year. GeoGulf23 General Chair Charles Sternbach welcomed the attendees.

Attendees invited included the AAPG officers, key volunteers organizing the GeoGulf23 conference, many proactive young professionals who may be interested in joining the Trustee Associates, and several executives of companies who generously sponsored the conference. In addition to current Trustee Associates having a chance to network, we believe many new candidates were reached and made aware of the Foundation’s work. The GeoGulf23 All Convention Luncheon speaker, Apollo 17 astronaut/geologist, and AAPG member Harrison Schmitt attended and was excited to meet many of the Trustees and Trustee Associates.

In addition to current Trustee Associates having a chance to network, we believe many new candidates were reached and made aware of the Foundation’s work.

We believe holding networking events like this might be a welcome addition to all AAPG Section meetings and mutually benefit everyone involved.”

GIANT FIELDS KEYNOTE TALK, MONDAY SESSIONS
We encouraged attendees to Think Big. What better way, we thought, than to start with a talk on giant fields? Monday morning began with a presentation by Charles Sternbach and Dick Bishop (both AAPG past presidents) on “Gulf Coast Basin Giant and Super-Giant Fields - Analogs to help us find more” The 79 Giant Fields (>500 MMBOE) have a EUR of 107 billion BOE, which is more than half (51%) of the entire Gulf Coast Basin endowment of 210 BBOE. Eight Super Giants Fields (>2 billion Barrels) have Cretaceous reservoirs riming the GoM Basin, Tampico, and Campeche and are associated with basement highs. Trap and seal limit the giants, making seismic imaging and integrating geology and geophysics critical. Highlights of this research were published...
Bob Fryklund of S&P Global chaired a session called “Advantaged Basins” with Jim Grant (Chesapeake) and Danielle Carpenter (Chevron). They discussed the top 2-15 basins ranked by remaining liquid resources. The GoM basins rank high in the advantaged basin pantheon, including the Brazil Santos basin, the US Permian basin, and other world basins. Fryklund said, “These proven basins will drive the future because these basins provide diversified and complementary energy sources with the lowest carbon footprint.”

All-Convention Luncheon
Invited speakers Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, Apollo 17, and current NASA International space station Artemis Program astronaut Jessica Watkins jointly presented to an audience of 125 people. Charles Sternbach said, “We are uniting generations through the All-Convention Luncheon. It is great to see Apollo 17 moonwalker Harrison “Jack” Schmitt pass the rock hammer to Astronaut Jessica Watkins. Jack and Jessica inspire all geologists to “Never Stop Exploring.” By the example of these two geoscientists, we will achieve greater heights and new perspectives in the Next Century”

Harrison Schmitt talked about the science of Apollo moon landings, and Watkins talked about the current operations studying science on the space station. The audience was eager to ask questions and got personal experience stories from both astronauts. Geology is important in exploration on our planet and beyond. Geologic field training was required of the Apollo crews of the past. Artemis crews of the future are also trained in geology. Note both astronauts carry rock hammers in the group photo.

“I enjoyed the Apollo to Artemis luncheon. It was a fantastic experience engaging Harrison Schmitt and Jessica Watkins’s presentations. Apollo-Artemis – the US is once again leading in space exploration,” said one attendee.

The panel of geologists discussed how geoscience played an important role in the Apollo moon missions fifty years ago, and how geoscience will be vital in the future Artemis missions.

Four Geologists Who Want(ed) to Go to the Moon: One Did, One Will, Two Bought Telescopes. Apollo passes the rock hammer baton to Artemis. From left: Jeffrey Lund, Apollo 17 moonwalker Harrison Schmitt, astronaut Jessica Watkins, and Charles Sternbach.
Schmitt talked about the science of Apollo moon landings, and Watkins talked about the current operations studying science on the space station.

GOM TECTONICS
Jim Pindell (Tectonic Analysis), Carl Steffensen, Teunis Heyn, and Chris Piela Cox (bp) chaired a full-day series of talks, “Regional Setting of the Gulf of Mexico” which includes plate tectonics, clastic depositional trends, and Mexican basins, on Monday, April 24. It turns out there are a lot of unanswered questions about the Gulf of Mexico basin formation- this included an open discussion moderated by Brian Horn. How did the Jurassic-aged salt accumulate in the GOM? To answer these questions, scientists must model what happened at depth to reconstruct subsurface layers from the Mesozoic to Cenozoic.

CCUS AND RESOURCE PLAYS
Austin Chalk, Eagle Ford, and Haynesville resource plays sessions attracted a full room of attendees. Said one attendee, “I don’t know which one to go to. I enjoyed hearing about the latest developments in drilling the Austin Chalk trend and new insights on the Norphlet. We still have a lot of exciting geoscience work in the Gulf of Mexico.” Allen Bertagne chaired the GeoGulf session on (CCUS) carbon capture and storage. Gordon Holmes of Denbury Resources won an outstanding oral presentation award for his talk called, “CO2 Clearly Seen Using Time Lapse Seismic,” which demonstrated modeled seismic response to CO2 injection into a depleted offshore GOM oil field. CO2 seismic expression is like hydrocarbons and gas. Holmes said, “time-lapse 3-D seismic is highly effective in documenting CO2 distribution, which is mainly controlled by fluid buoyancy and facies distributions.”

UNITED WE CELEBRATE PARTY
On Monday Night, 116 entrepreneurs and young professionals including many Society of Independent Earth Scientists (SIPES

Jeff Allen, Entrepreneur, and Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES) Houston Chairman, is the master of Ceremonies. Special Thank you to Sasha Gumprecht.

HGS Director Judy Schulenberg, with special thanks to Allen Bertagne for an inspiring CCUS session.

“United We Celebrate” GCAGS and SIPES Houston members network and enjoy the Fireside Bar at the Moran Hotel. What could be better after a full day of technical presentations than good people, a fire pit, an outdoor poolside patio, an open bar, food, a geology trivia quiz with prizes, and a roving T-Rex? Special Thank you to our generous sponsor, David Tonner and Diversified Well Logging.
Katrina Cox comments, “I had an incredible time at GeoGulf 2023 co-chairing the Texas Rocks and Reservoirs session with Kelly Hattori. You are always in the right session when all you see are images of rocks during the presentations.”

Houston chapter) attended our social event, “United we Celebrate,” at the Moran Fireside lounge and patio. We thank David Tomner and Diversified Well Logging for their generous sponsorship. Jeff Allen was the Master of Ceremony for the evening and conducted an enjoyable geology-themed Trivia contest (with prizes!) devised by Sasha Gumprecht. Mike Erpenbeck, GCAGS President, made opening comments, and we recognized HGS President Walter Light and President-Elect Paul Britt.

PANELS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS
GeoGulf presented a series of high-level and insightful panel discussions on the second day — the Deepwater Business Panel chaired by Mark Leonard. Richard Sears said, “Deepwater is the cheapest and greenest source of supply, and offshore technology is the enabler and the great effort multiplier. It’s the oil business, and few things are more profitable than a properly developed, producing oil field!” Audience members brought up the need to have young geoscientists at regional meetings. One senior professional said, “We need to reach out to senior-level leaders at companies to encourage geoscientists with less than 15 years of experience to attend educational and networking programs like this.”

Deepwater fans (no pun intended) crowded the room to get involved with the “Deepwater Sediments Symposium” chaired by Jon Rotzien (Basin Analysis) with co-chairs Yuqian Gan (UT) and Diane Woodruff (Oxy). Ali Downard (Chevron) discussed the quantitative evaluation of deepwater fan hierarchy and showed results from the full physics-based forward-stratigraphic model. She said, “Aligning a geologic problem to a computational and quantitative solution leads to deeper insights.” Dr. Sumit Verma (UT Permian) presented an award-winning talk on “Seismic Attributes for Deep Water Depositional Systems.”

Verma said, “Multi-attribute analysis helps interpret complex depositional features in deepwater settings.” He illuminated different geomorphological features using coherence and coherent energy, spectral decomposition, and unsupervised clustering on a 3D seismic dataset. “I was grateful for the deepwater presentations. I get a lot out of being able to talk to the authors and question them about the various topics,” said a young professional first-time GeoGulf attendee.

Tuesday’s Salt Tectonics Session highlighted the role of salt as a trap for hydrocarbons and as a future project to mine critical minerals like lithium. Salt tectonics was hosted by David Lankford-Bravo (BP) and J Carl Fiduk. Speakers included Mark Rowan (who also taught a two-day short course on salt tectonics), professor Julie Bloxson (Stephen F Austin University), and Sharon Cornelius (University of Houston).
GEOPHYSICS LUNCHEON

Jeff Nealon, Manager of Geophysics, (Chevron) united geology, geophysics, and business: “Refocusing on the Gulf: How New Seismic Methods Drive Investments” during the GeoGulf lunch session on Tuesday, April 25. Mike Forrest, who introduced Jeff at the luncheon, summarizes the talk as follows:

“Jeff showed a seismic line in the deep water GOM, in a subsalt geology setting, with data acquisition and processing improvements from the early 90s to today. The first example was narrow azimuth streamer seismic (NAZ) data – a reliable interpretation was impossible. Later seismic with Wide Azimuth (WAZ) acquisition varying from partial to full azimuth showed considerable improvement in data quality but still with many interpretation questions. Finally, the current data with Ocean Bottom Node (OBN) acquisition and Full Wave Inversion (FWI) processing to build a velocity model generated a seismic line that best represented a geology cross section in the area, including the Jurassic age Louann Salt reflection.

Jeff’s presentation was a very effective way to show seismic data quality improvements in the GOM deep water over the last 20 years with a handful of slides – easy to remember. In response to a question, Jeff stated seismic amplitude processing is a separate step.”

GCSSEPM LUNCHEON

GCAGS members united with GCSSEPM as Daniel Minisini (Shell) shared insights from interviewing dozens of brilliant geologists. The following comments are from Mike Sweet:

“The GCSSEPM Luncheon speaker at this year’s GeoGulf meeting was Dr. Daniel Minisini from Shell. The title of his talk was “Wise Words from Celebrated Geologists. Should We Still Listen to Them?” Since 2009 Daniel has compiled video interviews with many prominent geologists to understand the reasons for their success. Daniel's videos can be viewed at https://earthscience.rice.edu/minigeology/. During his talk, Daniel showed segments of these interviews to illuminate, in their own words, how these celebrated geologists see themselves and their careers. Several people he interviewed, like Dr. Robert Folk, have since died, giving their words an added poignancy.

In many cases, their halcyon days as researchers were decades ago, leading Daniel to ask, “Could their pathways to success be replicated today?”. There is no easy answer to this question. Some attributes like dedication and passion for your work are probably timeless. Others who have focused on a scientific question for decades may find it hard to replicate today.

The geoscience profession is undergoing dramatic changes in what we do, how we do it, and the demographics of our community. As Daniel's title suggests, he challenged the audience to think if and how we can apply the wisdom of these geology giants to our professional lives today.”

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL PANEL

Attendees loved the Tuesday Entrepreneurs Session. Our goal was to unite professional geoscientists with entrepreneurs, independents, consultants, and SIPES members. Bill Fairhurst led five panelists, Walter Light, Barry Rava, Bill Fairhurst, Debra Sacrey, and Dick Stoneburner, to share how they transitioned from geoscience employees to oil & gas industry entrepreneurs. Bill Fairhurst commented: “The panelists were asked to address their transition into entrepreneurship, strategic business strategies, funding choices, and timelines. Each path was different, leading to various approaches to obtaining success, using different funding sources, and having different timelines. Most strategies were long-term, and the path to success was over a decade or several decades, strategically changed as opportunities were provided or recognized. Success occurred over similar, longer-term timeframes. None were overnight success stories; each had a plan or strategy and was action-oriented toward those plans and strategies.”
A packed audience riveted in their seats late on the conference’s second day proves this session resonated. Bill Fairhurst wrote a separate article for the June 2023 AAPG Explorer, which described six critical cognitive processes or shared traits for entrepreneurial success. We expect much interest in these kinds of panels and discussions long into the future.

FIELD TRIP TO THE COAST.
Field trip leader Erik Scott commented: “It was a great day to go to the beach and observe how sand and mud are moved around in a coastal environment. The group could see real-world examples of textbook diagrams from a beach profile, washover deposits, a wave-dominated delta, a tidal inlet, and some coastal dunes and better understand the extent of the deposits in these environments. The Texas coast is a dynamic environment, and the group can understand how quickly the coast can change at a finer scale but stay the same at larger scales through the varying energy of the sedimentary processes involved. A big thanks to Rice University Geology master’s students Austin Warren and Sean Porter for helping to make the trip go smoothly and taking the great push cores. The best thing is that we didn’t get the vans stuck in the sand!”

FIELD TRIP TO THE HILL COUNTRY
Sean Romito (Conoco) and Andrew Roark (Chevron), our field Trip chairs, did a great job. Andrew shares some comments: “The itinerary for this year’s GeoGulf Conference Field Trip to Texas’ Hill Country was ambitious: over four days, tour the “Greatest Hits” (the best exposures of every major formation) of the region’s Precambrian to Lower Paleozoic strata. Current developments made the timing of this excursion prescient; in the more than ten years since GeoGulf organized a similar trip, unconventional resources and associated geohazards have become prominent, and carbon sequestration has emerged as a major investment focus. Rocks in the Llano Uplift host unique exposures that improve our understanding of these topics. The packed agenda paid dividends thanks to careful planning, generous sponsorship from Edge Systems, and nearly perfect springtime weather.

Precambrian formations of the Llano Uplift – the more than one-billion-year-old Packsaddle Schist, Valley Spring Gneiss, Coal Creek Serpentinite, and Town Mountain Granites are the best analog for “Llano Suite” basement rocks underlying the southern half of the Permian Basin. We visited these complexly faulted, folded, and metamorphosed rocks at roadcuts and Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, where we hiked to the top of the granite dome and explored creek beds to see the contact metamorphosed wall rock. We also toured Texas Materials’ active Marble Falls Quarry and Longhorn Caverns State Park. These locations expose different parts of the Lower Ordovician Ellenburger Group. Wastewater disposal into the Ellenburger and other Paleozoic carbonates immediately above the basement is associated with induced seismicity in the Permian and Fort Worth Basins. Understanding the origins of these events is important, as these carbonate strata may also have potential as carbon sequestration targets if operators can manage injection safely.

Additionally, we drove down a string of windy, isolated country roads to reach rare exposures of the Coal Creek Serpentinite. This formation—interpreted to contain metamorphosed ultramafic oceanic crust—is an essential clue to helping understand plate tectonics in the area when these rocks formed. The unusual mineral suite of these rocks spurred interesting conversations about the chemistry of carbon sequestration and hydrocarbon generation. We even spent time on the water, kayaking several miles to view the world-famous bioherms in the Cambrian Wilberns Formation. Thrombolitic texture in these 10 to 30-ft. tall mounds is an analog for subsurface reservoirs, including the Jurassic Smackover. Thanks to GeoGulf and our sponsors at Edge for facilitating this unique learning opportunity!”
We built GeoGulf23 to leave a legacy. Our goal was to set a standard of excellence.

Charles Sternbach, General Chair

CELEBRATION OF THE VOLUNTEERS

The organizing committee chose the well-configured Norris Center, conveniently located (I-10 and Beltway 8) in lively City Center, to serve as a home base for this technically enriching, network-building, inspirational, and fun 2-day immersive experience. Our post-conference survey indicated that attendees felt the Norris Conference Center was “right-sized,” a good location, and an excellent choice.

And finally, we unite in a round of applause for attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors for their generous support. We deeply appreciate the session chairs leading the discussions and proactively recruiting outstanding speakers.

We built GeoGulf23 to leave a legacy. Our goal was to set a standard of excellence. We plan to share best practices with future GeoGulf conferences and AAPG Sections with handoff meetings, AAPG Explorer Articles, and articles like this one. The next GeoGulf conference will be April 10-12, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas. This meeting will pave the way for a continued series of excellent AAPG Gulf Coast Section designed to support the industry for many years. Thank you for contributing to this legacy.

WHAT DO THE CONFERENCE ATTENDEES HAVE TO SAY?

HERE ARE REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES:

“GOM Tectonics sessions were very informative. New ideas were presented, and nice exchange of ideas/debates.”

“I was grateful for the deepwater presentations. I really get a lot out of being able to talk to the authors and question them about the various topics.”

“Some talented and capable students and some great ideas”

“Great history of GOM tectonic history. Great presentation on transition zone mini basin formation. Excellent technical presentations overall.”

“Petroleum…traps…plays…oil…gas…these were covered, and it was so refreshing. The future is bright with hydrocarbons and because of them.”

“The close call between success and failure of plays based on the nature of the sealing that results from sand/shale ratio as was so well presented by Barry Rava.”

“GeoGulf serves the population of geologists interested in fields, oil and gas, source rocks, and plate tectonics. The other AAPG meetings are not presenting traditional material—instead going green or into digitalization and data analysis. … GeoGulf was not an engineer's conference. It was for geoscientists.”

“Loved the petroleum aspects. Let's do more.”

“GeoGulf was an incredible value. More science and less cost.”

“We still have a lot of geoscience work that is exciting in the Gulf of Mexico!”
That Was Quite a Field Trip!

Visiting Galveston After Hurricane Ike in 2008

By Linda Sternbach

Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston Island on September 14, 2008. Buildings on the island were destroyed, including many old historical buildings in the Strand and along the seawall. One of the most memorable field trips HGS hosted was to the damaged areas in Galveston, only six weeks after Hurricane Ike, led by Rice University expert, Professor John Anderson. HGS was the host society for the 2008 GCAGS Convention at the G.R. Brown Convention Center. The October 8, 2008 field trip was advertised and scheduled well before the infamous hurricane started swirling in the GOM, and the Sternbachs had purchased tickets to go on this field trip to see the beach erosion and processes on Galveston. The GCAGS organizing committee watched the weather unfold in September but decided not to cancel the Convention, despite the ominous Category 5 hurricane damage and negative publicity. The City of Houston got the city back on its feet relatively quickly, and by October, services were repaired to much of Houston.

It was a sunny Saturday when we boarded the 50-person rented bus at the Brown Convention Center and set off to Galveston for the scheduled field trip. John Anderson confirmed that the roads into Galveston had just reopened, and at least one restaurant was open. The bus got down I-45 to the point near the bridge to Galveston, where we had to drive around broken material in the middle of the highway. Off to the side, an entire fishing boat was on the highway. The bus made its way over the Galveston Bridge, and people saw the debris spread everywhere on the island.

We visited the seaway area and saw the destruction of Murdochs, the tourist stop, and pieces of concrete and plastic on the once sandy beaches. The old Flagship Hotel had the top stories ripped away, and you could see inside the rooms. Later this Flagship Hotel would be torn down and replaced by the Pleasure Pier ride attractions we know today.

The field trip image that remains with me was the stop on 11-mile road in Pirates Beach. The bus took us up to the end of the road, and when we got off the bus, we could see partly crushed beach houses left and right, some with furniture exposed to the ocean. One beach house had a deep hole under its foundation where it looked like a giant hand had scooped out 10 ft of sand under the concrete foundation, leaving the house’s piers with little under it.
The beach had pieces of metal, TV consoles, wires, and furniture just tossed around by the surf.

John Anderson kept shaking his head like he couldn’t believe what he saw. He said that people need to recognize the power of the ocean and the normal passage of sand from the north part of the island to the south island. The homeowners in Pirate Beach had been trying for years to restore sand naturally moving along the island by using plastic barriers and sand traps. They had also been removing sand from the protected shallow bay and transporting it to the oceanward side to add more beaches. It became obvious that years of beach restoration had been dissolved in a matter of hours during Hurricane Ike. Anderson noted that houses in the south part of Galveston Island fared much better regarding retaining sand, using grass to stabilize the sand, not plastic barriers. The ocean has impressive power to remake the beach landscape during hurricanes, and every geologist needs to see the destruction possible before deciding to “ride out a hurricane” if they ever choose to stay along a Gulf beach.

The rest of the story is again a tribute to Houston and Galveston’s will to rebuild. A lot of the Galveston seawall was improved by newer buildings after old houses, and hotels were torn down after Hurricane Ike. George Mitchell and his companies poured millions of dollars into renovating the Strand in Galveston, and today you can’t see much of the damage done by Hurricane Ike in 2008. ■
The ocean has impressive power to remake the beach landscape during hurricanes, and every geologist needs to see the destruction possible before deciding to “ride out a hurricane” if they ever choose to stay along a Gulf beach.
David Lazor’s love of Grand Canyon Geology created a popular field trip. Dave Lazor gave HGS an enduring program. He organized decades of a geological tour inside America’s incomparable Grand Canyon in Arizona, where geologists and their families can explore the stratigraphic column of Paleozoic and Precambrian rocks for eight days, and at the same time live it up, while going down Colorado River’s white water rapids! HGS thanks Dave Lazor for all the years he put into the Grand Canyon Field Trip, a staple of HGS history with many happy participants (100s of people have participated) and fond memories. Dave Lazor was active in HGS in the 1980s and 90s and started placing ads in the HGS Bulletin back in 1994 to put together a raft tour of the Grand Canyon. Dave honed his outcrop teaching style after earning a PhD in geology from the University of Indiana. In addition to his love of rafting the Grand Canyon, Dave maintained full-time jobs in Houston with Texaco, Cities Service, Valero, and Beaumont Energy, working on Gulf Coast projects.

By 2004, Dave Lazor’s Grand Canyon Field Trip, facilitated by Hatch River Tours, was so popular that it sold out immediately, and the office maintained a waitlist for the following year. The HGS Grand Canyon geology field trip in June of 2004 was a great success, as reported by Dr. Lazor in the HGS Bulletin, with 30 participants enjoying more than 180 miles of the Colorado River, rapids, challenging side canyon hikes, and fantastic geological exposures. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 69. In addition to the three Hatch River guides, there were 18 men and 12 women.
The trip has always been guided by Hatch River Expeditions, a company started by river pioneer Bus Hatch in 1934 and still managed by the third generation of the Hatch family. The HGS field trip uses large pontoon rafts to float the river with daily stops to view the rocks and scenery. Hatch’s guides provided expert raft maneuvering, led hikes, and prepared incredibly cooked hot and cold meals during the trip.

**A GEOLOGIC MAGIC CARPET RIDE BACK IN TIME**

The Grand Canyon Field Trip tour itinerary has maintained its core quality over the last 30 years. The rocks never change, and the river seems eternal. The river raft stops are organized by youngest to older rocks, starting with the Pennsylvanian rocks at Lee’s Ferry, Arizona (mile zero). The Grand Canyon tour begins with getting on 15-person pontoon rafts and cruising the slow river waters toward the Canyon opening.

Belknap’s Waterproof Grand Canyon River Guide by Buzz Belknap (Westwater Books) is a must-have book to take with you. The book condenses the exploration of the Colorado, the geologic history, the flora, and the fauna into an 114 page booklet.

One Grand Canyon outcrop geologists must try to see and experience as a bucket list stop is Blacktail Canyon and the “great unconformity” where approximately one billion years are missing. Here the Cambrian sits at an angle (unconformable) on the Precambrian. Dave Lazor and Steve Earle give excellent lectures in Blacktail Canyon, at the historic unconformity, a short walk from the river.

The experience on the raft requires everybody to leave civilization and drift down the Colorado River. The river stops, and pull-offs get more isolated; no more cell phone and internet contact. The trip lasts eight days and seven nights, as the river rafters see older and older rocks inside the canyon, ranging from Paleozoic to Precambrian. The canyon walls get higher and higher, blocking more light each day. At the “heart of darkness,” tall canyon walls shade the oldest rocks. Older formations include the 1.7 billion-year-old Precambrian Vishnu Schist and Zoroaster Granite. Another old formation, the Shinumo Quartzite, is a highly indurated sandstone showing phenomenal soft sediment deformation.
The biggest and wildest rapids were near the end of day seven at Lava Falls, mile 179. This last rafting day takes field trip members into a dark canyon where 1-million-year-old lava flowed into the gorge and formed a natural dam across the river, flooding the canyon. A residual basalt lava tower called Vulcan’s Anvil marks the entry into white water. This lava feature was noted by Powell in 1869. The rapid water at Lava Falls is caused by a series of 15-foot elevation drops complicated by underwater basalt boulders. Only skillful guides can maneuver rafts and boats through the rapids.

Linda and Charles Sternbach joined HGS members Dawne, John Jordan, Tom Mather, Steve Earle, and many others on the 2009 trip, where David Lazor would hand over future field trip leadership to Steve Earle. We wanted to thank Dave Lazor and welcome Steve Earle as the new trip leader. Linda and John were celebrating birthdays, and the Hatch River guides baked them a chocolate cake with a Dutch oven!

The pluses were the nightly stars, the food and service of the river raft tour guides, the geologist companionship, and the rocks and fossils. To set the mood each day, we read a chapter at breakfast from John Wesley Powell’s account of his trip Down the Great Unknown that corresponded to our daily journey. The scary parts included making sure you didn’t find a scorpion under your pillow, the white-water rides, and some physically challenging climbs up the canyon walls. Bummer: no soap for the entire trip. You wear the same clothes for days, and a dip in near-freezing water is “refreshing.” Happiness: seeing your photos and videos after the trip! Check out the 2009 Grand Canyon field trip video on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/@HGSGeoEducation, Direct link: https://youtu.be/KsFjR1VW0hE?si=hsHthRGxG89EHoLk

STEVE EARLE TAKES UP THE TRIP LEADERSHIP BATON

In 2009, HGS Past President Steve Earle co-led the Grand Canyon Field trip, taking over the organizational role from Dave Lazor, who retired to Washington State. Steve Earle ensured the Grand Canyon Field Trip took place every two years from 2009 to 2021 for six trips and twelve years! Steve Earle used to work as geophysicist for Carrizo Energy a well-known Gulf Coast oil and gas prospecting company. His love of Arizona landscapes goes back to his college school days at the University of Arizona, studying the tectonics and rock types of the picturesque state.

Steve documented one of his trips in the HGS Bulletin in September 2016. He fondly remembers a seven-year-old boy on the trip who was convinced by his father that elves lived in the stop called Elves Chasm. He was always asking, “Where are we going?” and his dad said “To Elves Chasm; it is where elves live.” Past President Jim Tucker took the trip in 2016 and remembers, “Everyone had fun floating on their backs through the rapids where the milky alkaline river flowed rapidly over the rocks. Conversation filled the time before dark, and we were generally in bed around 9 PM. Then the amazing abundance of stars came out above, framed by the canyon walls.”

MATTIE REID AND ROSS HARRISON LEAD THE WAY

Steve Earle is now retired in Colorado. The newest co-leaders of the HGS Grand Canyon Field Trip now lead the trip as of 2023. Mattie Reid is a geologist at Anadarko, and Ross Harrison is a geologist at OXY, working in the Permian basin. Mattie worked at the U.S. Geological Survey in the Geology, Geophysics, and Geochemistry Science Center in Denver, CO, where she was involved in studies on the geochronology of regions with mineral deposits. Ross Harrison has an MS in Geology from TCU. Ross supported various modern sedimentology projects related to the Mississippi River Delta and Louisiana Gulf Coast at the LSU Coastal Studies Institute. We hope this outstanding geologic field experience, networking, and HGS mainstay continues long into the future!
Legends
An Enduring Idea that Showcases Excellence that Inspires Us All

By Charles Sternbach

PRESIDENTIAL GOALS
In 1999-2000 my top HGS presidential goals were to create the Legends program, pack monthly technical meetings with large attendance, invigorate volunteers, recruit new members, and leave a legacy. Little did we know in 1999 that Legends would become an enduring format for 10+ HGS programs over the next two decades (see Bulletin cover photos below). This program would later evolve into the Scholarship Night program that continues today (as I wrote in the March 2022 HGS Bulletin, pages 33-36). In total, more than 5,000 attendees have participated in these programs. Revenue to the HGS has been significant, and importantly, there remains a legacy of videos for many of these programs on the HGS Education YouTube channel (thanks to Linda Sternbach). https://www.youtube.com/@HGSGeoEducation/videos

A WILDCAT OF AN IDEA FOR HGS
The idea behind Legends was simple: as we honor the legends among us, we celebrate the potential in all of us. When I became president of HGS on July 1, 1999, I pitched my vision for an inspirational panel program to my executive committee. I suggested we start the new millennium in an upbeat way on the 99th Anniversary of Spindletop, January 10, 2000. Many wondered,

The inaugural Legends panel (2000) featured Jim Funk (moderator), Joe Foster, Marlan Downey, Gene van Dyke, George Mitchell, John Seitz, and Charles Sternbach (HGS president and organizer).
“Would anyone attend a panel dedicated to wildcatting and the art of exploration?” Our HGS Board ventured courageously forward. More than 550 attendees filled two rooms at the Westchase Hilton Hotel. As far as I know, no HGS dinner meeting has had more attendees since. As always, top-notch speakers required the right connections, and I wisely asked two friends, Byrd Larberg and Jim Funk, to assist. The mood that evening was truly inspirational. I sensed that we were witnessing history as George Mitchell foretold the “unconventional revolution,” HGS members heard it first directly from the source. Thanks to Kara Bennett, we recorded the entire program for the video archive.

THE CONFIRMATION WELL

In 2003, HGS president Denise Stone accepted my offer for me to organize and moderate a second Legends Panel. The 2003 panel had 500 attendees and confirmed the Legends Franchise was repeatable. As an organizer, I immediately invited Robbie Gries to be the first woman legendary panelist. It was also clear that a panel on wildcatting must have Michel T. Halbouty, so I visited him in his Galleria office with what I thought would be an “easy sell.” Mike said, “Sorry, Charles. No can do. I have an important business meeting in NYC that day.” After 30 minutes, Mike remained an intractable “no.” He could see I wasn’t leaving. Finally, he drew a deep breath and said: “Who else you got?” I looked at him squarely and said, “One of the panelists found a 100 MMBO oil field while still a grad student, another found several multi-TCF giant gas fields, and another has drilled 10,000 wildcat wells.” A grin swept across his face. “Charles, those folks are ok, but you need a real wildcatter!” He yelled to his assistant in the next room. “MARY!! Get NY on the line. Charles needs a real wildcatter.”

THE “THREE-PEAT” AND BEYOND

In 2006, Linda Sternbach organized the third HGS Legends Panel of legendary earth scientists: Peter Vail, Bert Bally, Peter Rose, and Arnold Bouma. The success of this program was deemed a “three-peat.” Thus, the Legends franchise went into “full development” and became a longstanding tradition of excellence. Within 15 years, the Legends programs reached “double digits.” Future leaders expanded the franchise by showcasing exemplars in creative ways. The original format thrived with innovative programs about Legendary Fields, Legendary Innovators, Legendary Volunteer Leaders for HGS and AAPG, Legendary Sedimentologists, Legendary Unconventional Wildcatters, Legendary Imperial Barrel Award Mentors, and Legendary Geophysicists.

In 2008, a sold-out 400-attendee dinner meeting organized by HGS Vice President Gary Coburn and Bonnie Milne Andrews featured personal opinions and stories from Oklahoma wildcatting legend T. Boone Pickens.

Pickens was famous for his high-stakes corporate takeover attempts of Gulf Oil and Cities Service. Plus, he published a popular book called, “The First Billion is the Hardest.” Pickens predicted oil would hit $200 at the HGS dinner meeting. At the time, oil prices were rising, and Pickens was optimistic about the future of the oil and gas business.
THE INCEPTION OF LEGENDS

But where did it all begin? On Monday, April 7, 1997, in Dallas, Texas, I attended an AAPG program called “A Legendary Tale,” organized by AAPG President Jim Gibbs. That program changed my life. I sat in the front row and took ten pages of notes (which I still refer to today). The panel included Michel T. Halbouty, Roy M. Huffington, John Masters, Bernard Duval, and Tom Jordan.

I was a young professional (at that time) looking for analogs on which to model my exploration efforts. I realized that case studies of success accelerate wisdom, and I sure needed help. I wanted more programs like the Legendary Tale, but they didn’t exist. Someone would have to create them. So, I began calling my friends and making plans. My perceived need for such programs was the impetus for starting Legends for HGS (and other programs like Discovery Thinking for AAPG). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GibLVk7udo&tt=66s

A personal note: I would later develop strong relationships with the 1997 panelists. Michel T. Halbouty and I would meet regularly. John Masters and I discussed exploration creativity. I became friends with Roy Huffington’s exploration manager, and Bernard Duval is a good friend to this day. And a few weeks after the Legendary Tale panel, Tom Jordan hired me as his Houston Exploration Manager.

SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

Seeing HGS leaders continue to evolve the Legends programs has been exciting. In 2013 as my involvement in AAPG programs grew, I passed the Legends baton to the then HGS President, Dr. John Tubb, Jr. John had the brilliant idea to add a Scholarship Night theme. That was a prophetic pivot to the future! Scholarship Night quickly became an annual HGS highlight. Fundraising soared under John Tubb’s leadership, guided by Jeff Lund at the Calvert Fund helm and Jeff’s exceptional talents. In 2019 John Tubb passed the baton back to me as the Scholarship Night chair for 2019-2022. It is wonderful to see Fang Lin and others continue this tradition into the future.

A sold out, 400 attendee, dinner meeting, organized by HGS Vice President Gary Coburn and Bonnie Milne Andrews, featured personal opinions and stories from Oklahoma wildcatting legend T. Boone Pickens. Pickens was famous for his high stakes corporate takeover attempts of Gulf Oil and Cities Service. Plus he published a popular book called, “the First Billion is the Hardest.” Pickens predicted oil would hit $200 at the HGS dinner meeting. At the time oil prices were rising and Pickens was optimistic on the future of the oil and gas business.

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Bill Zagorski, Range Resources, “the father of the Marcellus” Shale shares valuable insights in the 2012 Unconventional Legends panel.
Future leaders expanded the franchise by showcasing exemplars in creative ways.

Dan Steward, tells the tale of the Barnett Shale

ESSENTIAL QUOTES

A few quotes capture the essence behind the Legend programs. They show the power of a single idea: Geoscientists inspire fellow Geoscientists with integrated case studies of success in various networking venues (communal meal, ACE, ICE, and 1-Day Standalone Events).

“There are many good ideas and few great ideas. Implementation differentiates the two”
Edward Tufte

“Geology and geophysics are sciences, exploration a business”
Marlan Downey

“The Hero with a thousand faces”
Joseph Campbell

“Discovery is a heroic journey with new actors playing old roles.”

“As we recognize the successful among us, we celebrate the potential of all of us.”

“From prospect to discovery, professionals lead the way,”

“If a picture is worth a thousand words, a video is worth a million.”

“Web posting of professional presentations is a mind spring, a powerful lever to communication.”
Charles Sternbach (last five quotes)
TDI-Brooks has over 27 years of vessel chartering and management experience and currently operates six research vessels, Proteus, Gyre, Brooks McCall, Miss Emma McCall, Marcelle Bordelon and the Nautilus.

- Seabed Geotechnical Surveys
- Environmental Baseline Surveys
- Geochemical Seep-Hunting Surveys
- Marine Geophysical Surveys

www.tdi-bi.com
The beginning of a great idea! Kelly Latter had just accepted a job at BP Amoco, moved to Houston from UTEP, and considered forming a support group for early-career geoscientists. But how to do this? In early 2000, HGS Board member Denise Stone had a mentoring lunch with Kelly Latter. Denise was wonderfully supportive of young professionals. Denise proposed forming the Neo Geo committee. The 1999/2000 HGS executive committee listened and wisely acted on her recommendation.

Kelly Latter (BP Amoco) and Andrea Adams (Amerada Hess) were the first two co-chairs, and they built out an active committee. In a few short months, they had 120 members on their member list; 90% worked in the petroleum business, and 10% were graduate students. The members had attended at least 27 different schools, and 2/3 had some prior HGS experience.

AN INSPIRING FIRST MEETING
The first official NeoGeos meeting on September 13, 2000, featured Michel T. Halbouty. Kudos to Andrea Adams (Reynolds) and Kelly Latter for arranging such a meeting. Many HGS members also attended, including the senior author of this article. It was an extraordinary evening as Mr. Halbouty told the tales of his exploration, including his adventures in Alaska, where he faced overwhelming challenges. Mr. Halbouty proudly said, despite painstaking dry holes, “I did it!” He repeatedly emphasized the need to “trust your convictions and put your ideas into action.”

EARLY ADOPTION
NeoGeos 2002 held bi-monthly dinner meetings and a short course on wellsite methods that were hugely popular. Helena Griffiths recalls, “When NeoGeos started, it was a ground-floor effort. There were no similar groups to model, no past structure to follow, and the idea of what to do and where to take NeoGeos were endless. Over the first year and a half, the NeoGeos had many major accomplishments—acceptance within HGS, recognition throughout the Houston geoscience community, and a full schedule, jam-packed with dinner meetings, monthly socials, half a dozen field trips, and most recently our first short course. It has been a period of great growth—and quite a learning process.”

RAPID EXPANSION
Dianna Phu became NeoGeo’s Chair from Natalie Uschner in early 2006. Dianna remembers attending a co-organized event with the AAPG for a guided tour of the OTC exhibit hall. “It was an amazing event, and I enjoyed it!” She quickly took up the duties of the chair. “I was handed a small box with various NeoGeos records, leftover swag, and an email list of potential members. Our activities during my time focused on re-engaging the group, establishing central leadership for the group’s long-term success, embedding more fully within the HGS, and networking. We sought to connect with various events and industry groups to increase volunteer opportunities and connections that could provide that win-win scenario for the HGS/NeoGeos and the other groups. Much effort was put into curating an up-to-date and accurate email list between the old NeoGeos records, the HGS membership records, and the new contacts collected at various in-person events.

By the time the 2006-2007 HGS year started, the 2006-2007 NeoGeos Leadership Team included: Amanda Beardsley, Daniela Carpio, Patty Davis, Eric Erigha, Timothy Gibbons, Nigel Hicks, Michael Kacher, Chris Madere, Bo McCarthy, Leslie Neal, Thien Nguyen, and Vivian Rohrback. The NeoGeos team enabled the committee to do a lot.

In the AAPG convention 2006 in Houston, the NeoGeos members were invited to participate as session chairs alongside other conference planning leaders and industry experts, review abstracts, coordinate the schedule, and assist in the session.

We added PowerPoint slides to the other HGS pre-meeting slide decks for all upcoming NeoGeos events to advertise the committee happenings. We printed flyers listing upcoming events (NeoGeos-specific and broader HGS activities) and took HGS Bulletins with us to show off the benefits of HGS membership. We mailed welcome postcards to new members that left their contact info with us. We advertised the group as something for those new to the industry or those new to Houston. It’s a great stepping-stone into HGS either way.”

BRIDGING THE GAP
A few entries from the August 2006 NeoGeos slogan contest
• Where Strangers Become Lifelong Friends
• Rockhounds for the 21st Century!!!
• For the Geology You Don’t Even Know…Yet!!!
• Networking Towards the Future
• NeoGeos: Geoscientus Neophytus
• NeoGeos: Because the Industry Needs its Neos
• NeoGeos: From Industry Starters to Industry Leaders
• NeoGeos: Exploring and Producing the Next Generation
• NeoGeos: Add Experience, Stir, and Serve.
• NeoGeos: Where Geo Goes to Work
• NeoGeos: Explore With Us
• Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap won the leadership team’s vote and was used in all the marketing materials we produced that year.
With a vitally engaged committee, the NeoGeos were prolific. Activities included: Regular contributions of NeoGeos articles for the *Bulletin*, Resume Workshops, Career Development Workshop: Competency Mapping, Thirsty Thursday Happy Hours, and providing volunteers to assist with Earth Science Week.

The group organized a 2-day Central Texas Field Trip (March 10-11, 2007). The photo of the whole group lying on top of Enchanted Rock for a close-up look captures happy memories! An article recapping the NeoGeos event was published in the May 2007 *Bulletin*. The trip was later reprised and offered to the whole of HGS and GSH as a joint event (April 5-6, 2008).

Events included an Etiquette Dinner on March 29, 2007. This event was later presented as an encore to the whole of HGS (October 2014, at the Petroleum Club). The NeoGeos attended Verdi’s Aida with a post-show Backstage Tour for an “HGS at HGO” event (Houston Grand Opera, April 15, 2007). NeoGeos annual Family BBQ events, commonly held at Bear Creek Park, transformed into the NeoGeos-SMT beer-tasting picnic event. NeoGeos representatives engaged with OTC’s inaugural The Next Wave program.

NeoGeos held annual NeoGeos Leaders’ Meetings to coordinate strategy, event planning, leadership roles/responsibilities, etc. The committee ran booths at various conferences to promote HGS and encourage NeoGeos membership/participation, including at the annual AAPG Student Expo. NeoGeos engaged with the GSH-HGS Geoscience Day program, held annually at the BEG, participated in the HGS Road Rally, and assisted with the HGS booth at the HGMS Gem & Mineral Show.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

In March 2008, Tim Gibbons, Cecelia Baum, and Rachael Czechowskyj set up the first NeoGeos Facebook group, as they felt it would allow interaction and engagement with the NeoGeos target audience of YPs. The NeoGeos online Bulletin Board was the first collaborative online step into the Social Media realm for HGS. The Bulletin Board went online in April 2006 and was decommissioned in 2009, as other social platforms gained traction. The HGS Social Media Committee was born out of the NeoGeos, and the current HGS Social Media Chair, Lauren Robinson, leads the HGS to new heights.

**BATON PASSING LEADERSHIP PIPELINE**

Cecelia and Rachel co-chaired the NeoGeos, until the fall of 2009. Cecelia Baum served as chair for the group until mid-2010 and was elected as HGS Secretary 2010-2011. Carrie Kidd picked up the torch from Cecelia and ran with it. Sameer Baral carried the torch after Carrie from the summer of 2011 through the summer.
PROFESSIONALISM

of 2014. Sean Kimmiagar picked up the role of NeoGeos chair from Sameer in mid-2014 and led the group until mid-2016. In the summer of 2016, Sean passed the baton to Olamide Dada, who carried the group until December 2017.

In January 2018, Tim Shane officially took the reins. Alicia Staszyc also served as a co-chair. In September/October of 2018, Casey Langdon picked up the role from Tim\Alicia and carried things forward into 2020. When Casey was elected to a director role on the Board in mid-2020, Joshua Krnavek picked up the chair responsibility. At the end of 2020, Joshua gave the role to James Cassanelli, who led the group from January 2021 to March 2022. Bryan Bottoms is the current chair.

Each leader had their own style. Some had larger teams supporting them. Some managed things solo. Some focused on HGS\NeoGeos-specific event planning, and others focused on networking within the broader YP (Young Professional, loosely defined as 32 years) community. Some integrated more with the broader HGS leadership and committees, and others integrated less. Each leader succeeded in their own way.

THE NEXT ADVENTURE

Dianna Phu recalls, “It was a whirlwind of learning, fun, networking, and a lot of planning and effort. Before jumping in, I had no prior HGS leadership experience and limited attendance at HGS events. I was very much learning as I went. My observation was that the NeoGeos committee had the potential to interact with, rely on, or contribute to pretty much every single other aspect of the HGS. That significance drove me daily to make a difference with the group. I dragged my husband and kids to many events, and their support made my involvement possible. I’m forever grateful for the experience and all the connections and friendships I made. Even more rewarding for me is seeing the group now, almost 18 years later, still standing, bringing people together through relevant events and honing leaders that can step into the HGS and elsewhere to take us to the next adventure.

I know many of the NeoGeos leadership and key volunteers went on to be recognized with various awards and elected to Board positions. Some also went on to take on bigger roles within the national/international societies and to help organize major conferences. Others have since left the industry altogether. There is no doubt that the committee builds leaders.

I can only imagine what the NeoGeo founders might think of the committee’s journey. What a legacy they’ve left for us all to benefit from!”

NeoGeos Central Texas field trip (March 10-11, 2007) in front of the famous Hoover Point Cambrian glauconite green sandstone outcrop.
Scholarship Programs

A Legacy Of Support To The Geoscience Profession

By Jeff Lund, Calvert Memorial Scholarship Board Chair, and Joe Lynch, HGS Foundation Board Chair

The Houston Geological Society supports two Foundations that give money to geoscience students to help pay for their education. Through 2022, over $1 million has been provided to students across the United States. In 2021-22, a total of 27 students were being supported.

The HGS Undergraduate Foundation Fund and the W.L. Calvert Memorial Scholarship Fund are the entities that administer the programs. The HGS also acknowledges the awardee of the independent Maby Scholarship on behalf of the Maby family.

The Awards are given out each year in February or March in a special HGS dinner event called “Scholarship Night.” Student awardees, their parents, friends, and professors attend the dinner meeting. Industry and individuals have provided generous sponsorship of this event, adding additional funds to both scholarship programs. Scholarship Night chairs include John Tubb (2011-2018), Charles Sternbach (2019-2022) and Fang Lin (current).

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

The HGS Undergraduate Foundation Fund gives scholarships to students studying for a bachelor's degree in geoscience.

The Houston Geological Society Foundation was established in 1984 to provide scholarships to deserving undergraduate geosciences majors. The Foundation was incorporated in 1985 and achieved tax-exempt status from the IRS later the same year as a nonprofit Section 501c (6) organization for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes. As of November 2022, Foundation trustees are Joe Lynch (Chairperson), Angela Hammond (Treasurer), Shannon Lemke (Secretary), Kirstin Burns, Paul Hoffman, Scott Krueger, and John Schneider. The Foundation has provided over $300,000 in scholarships since its inception.

The Foundation uses a variety of means to try to raise scholarship funds. Direct donations, HGS membership dues, Vendors Corner proceeds, matching-fund donations, and golf tournaments all produce funds that help support our scholarship program. Since 2011, the HGS has also allowed the Foundation and Calvert Memorial (graduate) scholarship programs to recruit sponsors for Legends/Scholarship Night and has hosted a special dinner meeting to honor the scholarship recipients. Profits from these events are split between the two scholarship funds and are a significant funding source.

Seven universities participate in the Foundation's scholarship program: Rice University, the University of Houston, Texas A&M, The University of Texas at Austin, Sam Houston State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, and Lamar. Each fall, each university's geosciences department head is contacted. The university submits two or three nominees and notifies the

Through 2022, over $1 million has been provided to students across the United States.
PROFESSIONALISM

The Undergraduate Scholarship Foundation of the Houston Geological Society was recently pleased to announce the creation of the Paul M. Basinski Memorial Scholarship, established by Paul's wife, René Basinski. Paul was a long-time HGS member and supporter, and she could think of no better way to honor his memory than supporting the next generation of geoscientists. The Foundation provides scholarships each year to students from seven local universities.

The Paul M. Basinski Memorial Scholarship will be given to one of our scholars selected by the Foundation Trustees that demonstrates the most personal and scholastic growth, rising above obstacles to succeed. René Basinski believes this type of individual would reflect the values she and her husband, Paul, cherished. Our two major benefactors led remarkable, successful, and interesting lives. A remembrance for Robert L. Maby, Jr. can be found in the March 2009 issue (HGS Bulletin, Vol. 51, no. 7, pg. 13). A remembrance of Paul M. Basinski can be found in the HGS Bulletin, May 2018 (Vol. 60, no. 9, pg. 34).

WARREN L. AND FLORENCE CALVERT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Warren L. and Florence W. Calvert Memorial Scholarship Fund was started in 1974 with a donation from the Calvert family and awarded its first scholarship in 1978. The fund aims "to assist worthy and needy geological students in pursuing graduate studies in some branch of Economic Geology leading to a master's or doctor's degree at any accredited university of their choice." The scholarship awards are administered by a board of five HGS Members appointed by the HGS leadership. Current board members are Jeffrey Lund (Chairperson), Nicole Villarreal (Vice Chairperson), Dick Bishop (Treasurer), Judy Schulenberg (Secretary), and Paul Britt (Ex officio HGS Board representative and HGS President-Elect).

The fund's corpus and scholarship awards grow from contributions from HGS members and interest earned on fund investments. Several appreciative recipients of Calvert scholarships later donated amounts to the fund that matched or exceeded the awards they received.

Selection of recipients is based primarily on the candidate's past academic record and their potential to complete graduate degree requirements, as attested to by faculty. A recipient may pursue studies at any accredited college or university in the United States that awards graduate degrees in geosciences. Scholarship applicants must present evidence of their unconditional acceptance for graduate study at the school of their choice. Recipients are expected to be full-time students making progress towards their degree and have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in some branch of economic geology. Second and third-year renewals may be granted provided the scholar demonstrates satisfactory progress toward their degree. Individual awards can exceed $6000 per year.

The Houston Geological Society scholarship awards significantly contribute to the professional education of geoscientists, unequaled by any other local geological society.

Geologists Robert Maby and Syd Bowers unpacked their 1948 company Ford to see how much field equipment it could carry while on a geological expedition in the northern Rub’ al-Khali in the early 1950s. (Aramco Life, 09/01/2022).
To paraphrase what was stated in the August 1998 HGS Bulletin 75th Anniversary Issue, the Government Affairs Committee aims to inform our members of government activities at the national and state levels and how this activity affects all practitioners of the earth sciences. This effort includes reporting on pending and proposed legislation and the specific rule-making activities of government agencies. This information will allow our members to encourage state and national legislators to pass logical, appropriate, and beneficial legislation to the nation and our profession—the committee functions as an information resource.

Since then, the Government Affairs Committee has helped pass Texas legislation implementing the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) and the licensure of Texas Professional Geoscientists (PGs). The committee has been overseen by several people since 1998, culminating with Henry Wise and Arlin Howles overseeing the committee since September 2004. Since the Texas Geoscience Practice Act was passed in 2001, many groups have moved to disband the TBPG in almost every legislative session since then, and the Government Affairs Committee has helped keep the TBPG intact.

The most recent threat to the TBPG was in 2019 when the Government Affairs Committee, in conjunction with the HGS Environmental & Engineering Group (E&E Group) and the newly-formed Texas Geoscience Council (made up of the HGS, Austin Geological Society, AEG–Texas Section, and the AIPG-Texas Section, among others) successfully fought the Texas Sunset Committee’s (TSC’s) original recommendation of disbandment of the TBPG. The TBPG will be up before the TSC in 2024, and we are preparing for a fight to keep the TSC from recommending the merger of the TBPG with the Texas Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors.

The Government Affairs Committee published a monthly HGS Bulletin article called “Governmental Update” from November 2004 through June 2019. This article discussed government activities at the national and state levels, how this activity affected all practitioners of the earth sciences, and other matters of geological interest that were not actively published in the general news media. The committee stopped publishing this article because the source for this information stopped dissemination, and it would take far too long for one or two people to resource this information monthly.

In 2000, the Houston Geological Society began to carry “The Wise Report” on its website. It began at the suggestion of the HGS E&E Group and has always been written by Henry Wise. This newsletter, which had no formal name, was originally started and is still available as a free email to those who requested it from Henry Wise. After reading several of the original newsletters, Michael Campbell remarked that he found “The Wise Report” very informative and really enjoyed reading it, and the name stuck. “The Wise Report” covers only those legislative bills and rules of interest to Texas Geologists. When the Texas legislature is in session, it is usually published weekly so Texas Geologists can follow specific bills as they go through the legislative process and have the opportunity to make their opinions known to the various legislators about their bills. Between legislative sessions, the newsletter is published as needed to track any rule changes or other important Texas geologic information, generally anywhere from once a week to every month or two.
AAPG congratulates the Houston Geological Society on

100 YEARS

We're accelerating together into the future.
This journey is just getting started.

AAPG.org
The Educational Outreach Committee provides geoscience learning resources to students, educators, and the general public across southeast Texas. (https://www.hgs.org/educational-outreach-committee-information). Outreach activities include:

- Geoscientist visits to classrooms, scout troops, STEM events, and other public assemblages, with presentations and hands-on activities about geology and careers in geoscience using posters and rock and fossil samples.
- Field trips to explain geologic processes and the geologic profession for non-geologists.
- Assistance to other HGS committees and like-minded organizations which share our committee’s goals.
- Provision of resources, such as links to web-based programs and videos, posters, and handouts, to educators and the general public.
- Participation in other opportunities as they arise to encourage the development of educator skills in the geologic sciences and to educate the general public on geologic matters.

But none of this is possible without the participation of HGS volunteers.

From the HGS Bulletin, MARCH 2022: “All of our volunteers agree that the most fun activity is to go to a public school and talk to kids about geology. Visits can be made during regular class time or in a special STEM event. The Educational Outreach Committee of HGS maintains a list of volunteers who can attend these events. If you are interested, please consider joining this group. The larger our list of available volunteers, the more confident we can offer this opportunity to schools. Volunteers are needed for more than just showing up at an outreach event. We have collections of rocks, minerals, fossils, maps, and posters that need continual curation, and some educators like to have classroom exercises ready for delivery. Organizing and maintaining these materials takes a surprising amount of backroom time.

Interested? Please contact the new Committee Chair: Phillip Caggiano, at adventureoutfitters@hotmail.com

2022-2023 OVERVIEW

2022 began with a lunch and learn presentation at Rice University, inviting collaboration between university students and HGS Educational Outreach. In the spring, as it has since its start in 2006 as the Sally Ride Festival, the HGS participated in the Reach for the Stars Festival for Middle School girls at Rice University. HGS outreach volunteers, including committee chair Steve Johansen, participated in the Houston Water Works Festival, the Houston Nature Fest, and several scout camps. The school year ended with a field trip for engineering and geoscience magnet school students to the Houston Museum of Natural Science—sponsored by the HGS Outreach Committee. The fall of 2022 had many outreach activities—in October, there was the Earth Science Week event at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, a Spring ISD 8th grade career connection STEM event, and Bones in Schools presentations at Bendwood School for Gifted & Talented. In November, there were several activities: a La Porte ISD STEM event; an Alief ISD STEM conference for high school students; a Girls Exploring Math and Science (GEMS) day at the science museum; a career day speaker at Blue Ridge Elementary FBISD; and the annual Houston Gem and Mineral Show with the HGS outreach booth assisting with school field trips and scout badges. The HGS volunteers presented at the Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy STEM festival in December.

Bones in Schools at Westside High School with Letha Slagle, Ken Theis, 2021
HGS booth at Houston Gem and Mineral Society, 2021
In the spring of 2023, the Outreach Committee visited Dulles Middle School in the Fort Bend ISD to present rocks, minerals, and the rock cycle. There was a presentation at Porter Elementary in Montgomery County. HGS also presented at the Nature Fest at Jesse Jones Nature Center, where Rice University graduate students assisted in explaining fluvial geomorphology and groundwater. In June, the HGS outreach volunteer group participated in a Cub Scout/Webelos Scout Twilight Camp STEM event. The volunteers participated in a San Jacinto College sponsored Energy Camp activity in July.

ACADEMIC LIAISON

An Academic Liaison advisor has been listed on the HGS board since at least 1959. The Academic Liaison Committee presented to junior and senior high school students and provided speakers with slides, rocks, minerals, fossils, maps, and cross-sections. In addition, the committee judged science fairs sponsored by the schools and other organizations. In 2012, a larger overall outreach group formed as the Educational Outreach Committee and Academic Liaison became a sub-committee position. Since then, Paul Mann has held the Academic Liaison position, and his role has been interaction with colleges and universities in the Greater Houston area with geology programs: UH Central, UH downtown, UH-Clear Lake, Rice, Lone Star CC.

BONES IN SCHOOLS AND MAPS IN SCHOOLS

In 2012 Jennifer Burton, chairman of the new overall Educational Outreach committee, helped inaugurate the Owen Hopkins Bones in Schools Program. The HGS purchased three truckloads of Pleistocene fossils from the Corpus Christi Geological Society, including bones and teeth of mammoths, bisons, and other animals to be used in an earth science program initially for 5th grade but now available for any K-12 group. The bones are for the students to handle as they learn about the Pleistocene history of the Gulf Coast region. A lesson plan is available with each of the four kits of bones and displays that volunteers carry to schools in the Houston area. Schools are typically left with a fossil on long-term loan and a beautifully framed poster illustrating Pleistocene life on the coastal prairie. The specimens get the student’s attention and engage them in learning. Ken Theis is now the primary presenter for this program.

In 2008, then HGS President Linda Sternbach published information that the HGS was distributing a map of the bedrock geology of the United States to schools in Houston. The Maps in Schools program presents local schools with a copy of the USGS “Tapestry of Time and Terrain” color map (https://www.usgs.gov/maps/north-america-tapestry-time-and-terrain). The goal was to place a map of the geology of the surface of the United States in the lobbies, foyers, and cafeterias of secondary schools, where students can see it daily and become interested in geology. The program originated with Owen Hopkins of SueMaur Exploration, past president of the Corpus Christi Geological Society, and is supported by the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies. Under the coordination of HGS Director Alison Henning, HGS ordered 300 “Tapestry of Time and Terrain” maps from the USGS and distributed over 200 of them to local schools. This effort was such an effective outreach program that several local geo-societies joined HGS in the effort. SIPES members Jeff Lund and Phil Martin got involved, and Lisa Buckner represented the Geophysical Society of Houston. Deborah Straughan, a geologist at BP, and teacher Janie Schulke were on the HGS committee to coordinate the presentations to local schools.

CAREER DAY AND STEM EVENTS

By Steve Johansen

One of our most commonly received requests in recent years has been for HGS to send one or more volunteers to local area schools for presentations during STEM festivals and Career Day events. The nature of these events is highly variable, as is the target audience. It may be a STEM festival in an elementary school during school hours, with hundreds of children visiting a poster session and table of minerals and fossils. Or an evening event for junior high school students and their parents. Or a weekend event for high school students, with groups of 5 to 35 students visiting the HGS presentation for a structured hands-on event that lasts for 40 minutes. We are sometimes asked for a geologist to speak in a structured presentation for high school students to encourage
them to consider a geoscience career. The frequency and timing of these requests have been highly variable since the end of the Covid emergency. We received over 20 requests in 2022 and 2023 and had to turn down some schools because we could not find volunteers. The committee currently possesses about 20 folded Geological Highway Maps of the Texas Region, published by the AAPG. Volunteers can use these maps for classroom exercises with older school students and with scout programs, as requested by educators and scout leaders.

**COLLABORATION WITH HISD ENERGY ACADEMY MAGNET SCHOOLS By Letha Slagle**

In 2013, Letha Slagle, co-chair and then chair of the Education Outreach Committee until 2020, spearheaded the collaboration between HGS, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), and the HISD Energy Academy Magnet Schools. This program, developed and managed by IPAA, provided rigorous academic and professional experiences for students dedicated to pursuing careers in engineering and geoscience. It began with four highly diverse public high schools, including Milby, Westside, Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy, and the Energy Institute. It expanded to include more schools in Houston and other parts of Texas and finally went online nationally. The program culminated in paid summer externships onsite at various corporate partners, providing defining moments in preparation for college and careers. As liaison to this program, Letha and the HGS team provided almost all of the geologic technical content, and some of these students went on to careers in geology.

Collaboration between HGS and IPAA made the program work. Together, we provided individualized interview skills training, Geologic Map Labs, Rock Labs, and Career days. We guided geologic field trips to various sites, including the Texas Hill Country, Whiskey Bridge, and High Island. For multiple years, we sponsored days at the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences, where students toured the Energy, Paleontology, and Gems and Minerals Halls.

An annual highlight was a rock lab at the UT Bureau of Economic Geology core lab in Houston, rotating three magnet program schools through the event facilitated by Beverly DeJarnett and the HGS outreach team. Students began the day with a short presentation on rocks and minerals. Then they worked through exercises at five stations, including a hand sample/hand lens station, three core stations, and a binocular microscope station, getting a first-hand taste of what geologists do.

A sample of one of our many field trips was Galveston Island Day. IPAA/PESA sponsored the buses and a visit to the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum. From there, the students took the Bolivar Ferry and met HGS on the beach of High Island. Before the day, participating students had seen a video presentation we produced to familiarize themselves with the geology and exercises at the beach. The learning points included sandstone facies and reservoir quality, barrier island depositional processes, and salt deposition, structural and trapping processes. Activities included trenching, sieving, hand lens use on sand and rock salt, and a reservoir demonstration.

Through Covid, the program evolved. Support was provided to create a library of online programs, and now our in-person collaboration with some of the schools has resumed. The program has now moved from the IPAA, which has closed its education foundation, to be replaced by the SEG Foundation with the same team of education leaders who look forward to continuing to work with us.

We recognize so many HGS volunteers who contributed time to this program, including Beverly DeJarnett, Janet Combes, Inda and Neal Immega, Debra Balthazar, Chuck Caughey, Steven Johansen, Lanette Marcha, Steve Miller, Carrington Wright, and Sharie Sartain and others for helping educate 1000s of students with hands-on experience.

**EARTH SCIENCE WEEK**

Earth Science Week promotes the understanding and appreciation of the value of Earth Science research and its appreciation and relevance to our daily lives. The Houston Geological Society is honored to join in this yearly celebration organized nationally by AGI (American Geosciences Institute) on the second Sunday in October and runs one week. The objectives of ESW include:

- To engage students in discovering the Earth sciences.
• To remind people that Earth science is all around us.
• To encourage Earth stewardship through understanding.
• To motivate geoscientists to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the Earth.

The HGS has participated in ESW activities since it started in 1998 and has been recognized by AGI as the Society with the most continuous and largest ESW events. In 1999, geoscientists in all 50 states, Australia, Canada, and at least 20 other countries organized Earth Science Week activities in their communities, including field trips, demonstrations, lecture series, film series, exhibits, school visits, and open houses. The AGI initiated Earth Science Week on behalf of the geoscience community to provide an annual focal point for public education about the Earth and Earth processes.

The HGS Earth Science Week traditionally starts with a Family Earth Science Celebration at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on the Saturday preceding the second Sunday in October. During the first years of ESW, the HGS submitted a request to the City of Houston, and ESW was declared an official event in Houston. The mayor even came to one of the museum days to deliver the official document. Janet Combes, Inda, and Neal Immega were early leaders in the HGS EW efforts. Multiple organizations usually join the HGS with booths with different geoscience topics and activities set up in the Museum: groups included the HGS, the Geophysical Society of Houston, the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, the National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists, the Association for Women Geoscientists, GCS-SEPM and SEPM/NAMS, and student geology groups from several local universities. The conclusion of the Houston Earth Science Week is a field trip on a Sunday afternoon the next weekend. Over the years, field trips have been to Whiskey Bridge on the Brazos River, Galveston Island, High Island, Panther Creek, and the Blue Lagoon quarry. Art and essay contests were open to elementary school students from local school districts. Alison Henning was an early chair of the Earth Science Week observance and was deeply involved in many volunteer geoscience events and activities. Education was important to Alison, and she was active in numerous HGS educational outreach programs.

Due to COVID restrictions in 2020, we could not hold an in-person Earth Science Week event at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, which has been done every year since 1998. The Houston Geological Society celebrated Earth Science Week 2020 by hosting a week-long virtual experience, Sunday, Oct. 11 through Saturday, Oct. 17. The 2020 ESW’s theme was “Earth Materials in Our Lives.” Each day focused on a different area of geoscience. The week we kicked off with an AGI Earth Science Week video. Monday featured Switch Energy documentaries. Tuesday focused on AWG Geoscience Career Profiles. Wednesday’s online media highlighted National Fossil Day with the Green River fossil story. Thursday’s videos emphasized how minerals affect our lives. Friday featured videos from the “HGS Field Trip Friday” series. HGS/HMNS volunteers Sharon Choens and Inda Immega served as event Chairs. HGS/HMNS volunteers Lynn Travis and Janet Combes served as Co-Chairs, with help and advice from many of our colleagues in curating the selection of resources. Many thanks, Alyssa Cushing, for the great website.

Earth Science Week in 2021 and 2022 resumed with scaled-down activities at the Museum with HGS staffing several tables, giving out fossil and rock samples, and directions for family field trips. There is a website that describes the HGS’s activity for ESW: www.earthsciweek.org/eswhouston/index.html

ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF HOUSTON AND SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

The Engineering Council of Houston (ECH) committee, co-chaired by Sue Pritchett and Claudia Ludwig, and the Science and Engineering Fair (SEF) committee, chaired by Dorene West, work together to support the yearly Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. HGS members volunteer as judges for the Earth Science category. Several Science Fair participants are selected from the Senior division for the HGS-sponsored, research-assistant summer internship at the Houston Museum of Natural Science every year.
OUTREACH

FAMILY OUTCROP CAMP
YMCA CAMP CULLEN VOLUNTEER WORK
Camp Cullen is a YMCA camp located near Trinity, Texas. HGS has been contributing volunteers to Camp Cullen for the last couple of decades, and several HGS members have also been on the board of Camp Cullen. HGS members such as Jack Threet and Mark Leonard long ago realized the geologic potential of Camp Cullen. John Adamick began recruiting HGS volunteers to help at Camp Cullen’s Volunteer Day in 2014/2015, and there has been HGS representation at this event every year since then. These HGS volunteers typically work on the Camp’s geology-focused activities, including the quarry field trip, the geology lab with hand samples on site, and the gold mining/panning area. We chose to help Camp Cullen for several reasons. First of all, most of the kids attending Camp Cullen are from the Houston area. Also, many are from underprivileged families and attend the Camp free of charge. Last, but not least, there is a significant geology component to the Camp’s programs. Efforts have focused on the geological quarry exhibit and construction of the “mining camp” youth activity area. Work also has focused on Prospectors’ Ridge, where kids pan for pyrite “gold” in an Old West setting. Camp Cullen works hard to help local kids learn about the outdoors, and geology is part of the curriculum. One year the Neo-Geos worked on the Geological Discovery Zone at the Camp, a geology lab with age-appropriate activities designed to pique children’s interest in geology. Those activities include gold panning, fossil hunting, and other activities. Camp Cullen is now teaching over 5,000 kids a year about basic geology! In addition to week-long summer camp courses, we have begun hosting many Houston area schools during the academic year. The kids are typically in 5th, 6th, or 7th grade and stay at Camp for three days with their teachers/counselors. During that time, Cullen staff teach these kids basic geoscience (in addition to much else). Several HGS members, including Dianne Tompkins and John Adamick, have been involved in helping ensure that the classes meet Texas state requirements. HGS has had its Outcrop Family Campout several times, where members can see how much fun children of all ages have in the Geological Discovery Zone. The Outcrop Family Campout provided a weekend jam-packed with fun, including a zip line, archery, riflery, arts and crafts, Marathon pipeline slide, canoeing, Gaga ball, campfires, and basketball, as well as the Geological Discovery Zone.

HOUSTON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
The annual Houston Gem and Mineral Society Show, held at the Humble Civic Center, is an event in which HGS has participated every year since 2005 when over 3000 students, teachers, scouts, and parents visited the HGS booth at this annual event in Humble. The HGS booth included K-12 student posters, rock displays with hand lenses, 3D maps, seismic lines (Gulf of Mexico samples from ION), a well log provided by Neuralog, and giveaway samples of rock salt donated by the Hockley Salt Mine. Thursday afternoon is the set-up time. Friday is for school field trips: the 2015 show had 2,172 students, teachers, and chaperones that came through — all with a sheet of TEKS-oriented questions that included the HGS as a designated stop. In addition to the general public, about 100 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts came through the HGS 2015 booth on Saturday, working on their geology badges and patches, again with
specific questions for an HGS geologist. On Sunday, volunteers answered questions from the eager general public and helped the junior college students answer their “scavenger hunt” questions for extra credit. Many parents commented on how interesting and informative the HGS displays were and how the children could handle the rock specimens. Total attendance at the 2015 show was 5,218. Several of the show organizers made a point of telling us how much the HGS effort was appreciated.

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 HGMS show was canceled. The 2021 show was held, and the HGS booth was staffed but with limited touch (no hand lenses or 3D glasses). There were no public-school field trips, but 97 private school students and 660 home-schooled children did come on Friday with specified stops at the HGS booth. On Saturday, 83 scouts were working on geology badges. The 2022 HGMS show had a total paid attendance of 2964 = 2557 adults + 407 kids (not including vendors and volunteers). This number does not include attendees admitted free for school field trips – home schools, private schools, and some public schools – which had another 933 kids and about 480 adults. The students on Friday came with specified stops at the HGS booth. On Saturday, 97 scouts worked on their Geology badges with the HGS booth as a designated part of the process. Geology posters on geologic topics and geoscience careers, rocks to look at, samples to take home, and geologists to talk with were there at the HGS booth. Sarah Heinlein co-chaired the 2022 HGS participation with Janet Combes.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

The HGS has always had a strong relationship with the Houston Museum of Natural Science, formerly with a Special Advisor and now with the liaison committee that initiates ways to involve our membership in volunteer efforts at the Museum and provide geosciences advice to the Museum where appropriate. In 1995, HGS President Clint Moore initiated the change from a liaison officer to an HGS committee to recruit, train and certify geologists as museum volunteers. On this important HGS anniversary, we would like to honor the memory of people who were responsible for ramping up the Society’s interaction with our community: Clint Moore formalized the process of getting more geoscience

2001 Earth Science Week with Houston Mayor Lee Brown (yellow tie) at the Houston Museum of Natural Science along with volunteers from Participating Organizations: Houston Geological Society, AAPG Houston House of Delegates, Association for Women Geoscientists, Engineering, Scientific, and Technical Council of Houston (ECH), Geophysical Society of Houston, Gulf Coast Section SEPM, Houston Gem and Mineral Society, Houston Museum of Natural Science, National Association for Black Geologists and Geophysicists, Rice Student AAPG chapter, Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, Society of Petroleum Engineers-Gulf Coast Section, Texas Earth Science Teachers Association. Mayor Brown proclaimed the second week of October to be Earth Science week for the City of Houston.
OUTREACH

volunteers involved in the Houston Museum of Natural Science, worked on Guest Nights at the Museum, and got very involved in the making of several giant screen films.

By 2000 100 HGS members were volunteering at the Museum. As stated in the 1998 HGS 75th Anniversary Bulletin, the Museum of Natural Science Liaison Committee is responsible for involving and enriching our membership through the Museum and the Society programs. Traditionally, at least one society function annually is held at the Museum for our general membership to attend and reacquaint themselves with the many exhibits. The Houston Museum of Natural Science is a great learning center for “kids” of all ages. Inda Immega and Janet Combes are currently the committee chairs in HMNS’ docent program with multiple volunteers who have taken docent training and now guide people through the Museum; this is a worthwhile, low-key teaching opportunity.

The volunteer office at the Museum was able to pull some information on the number of volunteer hours in the Wiess Energy Hall, the Morian Hall of Paleontology, and the Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals.

- In 2019, 7,982 volunteer hours were logged in Wiess Energy Hall, Paleo Hall, and Gems & Minerals.
- Docent Requests for Wiess, Paleo, Gems & Minerals, and Life in Stone in 2019 are in the table below. (This overlaps with the logged hours but counts only the specific docent requests. Special events such as Gem & Mineral Show or Earth Science Day are not necessarily included because those data were cumulative in an “Other” category).
- In the five years between 7/7/2018 and 7/7/2023, 21,950 hours were logged in Paleo, Gems & Minerals, and Wiess, including the Gem & Mineral show and Earth Science Day. That works out to be about 380 docents.
- In general, there are 196 docents in the museum volunteer registration system (from all time, at least as long as recorded in the system) noted as having an affiliation with HGS. Note that the affiliation is self-reported, and there may have been lapses in data entry of that field over time.
- 56 docents have noted Geology as an area of study.

The HGS actively participates with the Museum in Earth Science Week events and the newer GEMS – Girls Engaged in Math and Science Day. During the traditional (pre-pandemic) ESW Day at the Museum, activity tables were organized by HGS in hands-on activities and demonstrations in the Glassell Hall, Wiess Energy Hall, Morian Hall of Paleontology, and the Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals. The HGS ECH and Science Fair committees have provided summer internships at the Museum for student winners at the Science Fair. In 2005 the HGS provided funding for the Museum’s Dino Days event.

SALLY RIDE REACH FOR THE STARS

In 2006 the astronaut Sally Ride worked with Rice University to establish a STEM festival for middle school girls; middle school is the typical age to attract students to science. It was originally called the Sally Ride Science Festival, and in 2016 the name was changed to Reach for the Stars! STEM Festival. Each event includes a street fair, a presentation by a woman astronaut, and science and engineering workshops with women hosts. Each

The HGMS 2014

HGS VOLUNTEERS AT HMNS

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Sally Ride Science Festival – Michelle Pittenger is talking to one of the groups of students at the HGS display area.
student attends two workshops and visits the street fair – where HGS has staffed its outreach booth for every festival. The yearly festival is sponsored by the Ride Family Foundation and Rice Space Institute, with major funding from Cheniere, plus many other donors.

At the 2016 festival, the HGS display was staffed with seven volunteers, and it was swarming with 5th-9th grade girls from all over Houston and East Texas, picking up rocks, learning about water resources and petroleum exploration, and walking away with a sample of genuine Hockley Dome salt. The HGS was part of the Discovery Fair portion of the festival – showcasing Science and Technology with dozens of hands-on experiments and displays by Rice University, Festival Sponsor BASF and other sponsors, community organizations, science clubs, and more. According to the Festival organizers, there were about 650 kids and 250 adults (parents/educators); 30 exhibits (with about 250 exhibitors/volunteers); and another 100 "general purpose" volunteers, workshop presenters, and Festival crew. In 2019 (pre-covid), 502 girls attended with 130 chaperones and over 200 exhibitors and volunteers. HGS Director Barbara Hill participated in the career panel in 2022; she said the overall messages from the panel were for the girls to be willing to try new ideas, to find their passion, and not be discouraged when things didn't work out as expected, but to keep moving forward.

**Teacher of the Year**

Through the years, the Houston Educational Outreach Project has presented an HGS Teacher of the Year Award established to honor teachers who have made extraordinary efforts or unique contributions to earth science education. Information on requirements and applications can be found at https://www.hgs.org/houston-geological-society-awards-criteria. The selected teacher is given a cash award and a plaque presented at an HGS Event. To name just a few of the recent awardees, in 2020, Astra Zeno of the HISD Young Women's College Prep Academy won the award; she has enjoyed teaching math, science, robotics, aerospace, marine science, technology applications, engineering, and computer science over her eighteen years of teaching. In 2018 Jody Gibson won the award; he teaches at the Energy Institute High School, an engineering magnet campus in HISD. HGS recognized Ilena Krupala from Bellville as its 2015 Teacher of the Year. She was nominated for and recognized as the GCAGS 2015 recipient of the Owen R. Hopkins Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award. 2008 the winner was Francisca Enih of HISD in 2003, Lexy Bieniek, who assisted in educational outreach with the HGS and the HGMS over the years.

**Energy Day**

Houston's Energy Day started in the fall of 2011. The HGS participated in several of the events and linked them to Earth Science Week's events due to the overlapping schedule. In 2019, when the HGS could not participate, the American Association of Blacks in Energy asked for rocks for their display, and HGS arranged for rocks to be displayed. Salt from the Hockley Mine was provided for giveaways. The AAABE organizer was appreciative and said, “All of the samples, handouts, and delivery of materials were all so appreciated. You have to look at the faces of our booth goers. One student knew so much we brought her behind the table to facilitate”. Info on Houston Energy Day can be found at: https://energydayfestival.org/houston/. HGS should participate in this event again.

**Scouts**

According to the 75th-anniversary issue of the HGS Bulletin in August 1998, an Explorer Scouts Committee operated two Explorer Scout Posts sponsored by the HGS - The Northwest Post

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*Cynthia Palomares describing a rock sample to students during the Sally Ride Reach for the Stars STEM Festival, 2014.*

*CAST 2003*
2004 and the Southwest Post 2005. About 40 students between 15 and 18 were active in these two troops. Central to the program was career interest and students interested in the geologic and oceanographic sciences attended lectures and field trips to various work locations to gain insights into possible careers. Scouts also participated in camping trips to locations of geologic and environmental interest. As part of the Sam Houston Area Council of the BSA (Boy Scouts of America), the posts enjoyed many regular activities held by the scouting organization. The Explorer Scout Post Leaders and Advisors (HGS members) also served as references for the scouting organization in geologic matters. The last time a scouting Committee was listed on the HGS Committees list was in the fall of 2007.

Currently, the HGS interacts with many scouts via the Houston Gem and Mineral Society Show Scout Badge Day every fall and through participating in scout fairs. For a history of geology scout badges and the input from the AAPG and HGS, see the June 2003 Bulletin article by Jeff Spencer, page 21, “Petroleum Geology and the Development of the Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge

The committee frequently receives requests from cub scouts, webelos, and boy scout groups for presentations on rocks, minerals, and geologic map exercises. When we receive a request, we arrange for volunteers to discuss with the scout leaders what kind of program they desire. We dispatch appropriate volunteers with wheeled carts full of minerals, rocks, fossils, geologic maps, posters, and PowerPoint presentations. The target audience for a presentation is highly variable; we have recently done presentations for groups as small as a dozen scouts or groups as large as about 3 or 4 dozen.

Teaming Up With Teachers
In 2003 the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST), organized by The Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT), requested the assistance of the Houston Geological Society at its annual convention. At Reliant Center, an estimated 5000-7000 science teachers from across Texas and other states were expected at the conference on October 30-November one. After initial contact with Lexy Bieniek, that year’s HGS Earth Science Teacher of the Year, the HGS board then decided that the HGS would participate in CAST and offer numerous field trips (the most popular activity at a CAST meeting), several workshops, and a session of talks. Alison Henning helped organize and lead HGS activities at several CAST (Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching) meetings, and in 2008-2009, she was an HGS representative on the Texas Board of Education to develop the earth science high school curriculum and fought valiantly to keep valid earth science in our schools.

The opportunity to connect with thousands of students through their teachers and impart some of earth science's wonder and excitement to the next generation was exhilarating. This activity should be continued when the conference is in Houston.
Science & Engineering Fair Committee
By Claudia Ludwig, Richard Howe, Mike Erpenbeck, and Dorene West

PRELUDE
Before there ever was an HGS Science Fair Committee, there was an Engineering, Science, and Technology Council of Houston (ECH). HGS is a member of ECH, and for many years there was a committee or liaison listed in the HGS Bulletin Committee Directory for ECH. ECH cofounded the Science & Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH). However, that is only one of the many services ECH provides to Houston and the engineering, science, and technical professions. The HGS Science Fair Committee was formed to manage HGS's support of the SEFH.

The current ECH team consists of 10 members (from ASME, ASCE, HGS, HMNS, AIChE, SEG, and SAME); three of the ECH team are from HGS (more than any other constituent society). The internships that HGS awards to two senior students each year are named Claudia Ludwig (long-time HGS Councilor to ECH, ECH Past President, and two-term SEFH President), and one past HGS ECH team member, Richard G. Howe (ECH Past President, SEFH President). A third internship honoring HGS’s Past President, Barry Katz, has been suspended due to budget constraints.

To further these goals, ECH established an award, given at their discretion, to recognize an Outstanding Engineer/Scientist whose work has contributed to the community and as a focal point for

ECH’S FOLLOWING MISSION AND HISTORY IS QUOTED FROM THE ECH FACEBOOK PAGE.
ECH has served the Houston Community since 1945. ECH aims to promote math and science education, enhance professional development and discussion opportunities, and serve as a focal point for informing the public on engineering, science, and technical matters. Its mission is to:

• Focus the diverse resources of its constituent organizations on significant engineering, scientific and technological issues facing the greater Houston area.
• Promote educational programs in grades K-12 in math, science, and technology subject areas and the development of engineering, science, and technical career opportunities in the greater Houston area.
• Promote the professional growth and community involvement of its constituent organizations, their members, and their respective professionals.
• Serve as a forum for communications between the professional engineering, scientific and technical community and Houston area public officials at all levels.
• Increase the general public’s awareness of the engineering, scientific, and technical community’s continuing contribution to improving the health, safety, welfare, and standard of living of the residents of the greater Houston area.
• Create and support programs such as The Science Engineering Fair of Houston and the World Congress on Superconductivity, which enhance the image of Houston throughout the nation and the world as a center of science, engineering, and technology.

Founded in 1945, ECH celebrates 50 years of service to Houston and the engineering, science, and technical professions. During this period, ECH has provided a continuing forum for dialogue among various disciplines and professional societies. ECH complements the roles of its individual Constituent Societies by emphasizing areas of common interest and providing and communicating opportunities for service and professional development. The objectives of ECH are to promote math and science education, enhance opportunities for professional development and discussion, and serve as a focal point for informing the public on engineering, science, and technical matters. Over time, as issues and interests have arisen, ECH has evolved to respond to community and professional needs. ECH has or has had numerous interdisciplinary committees to discuss issues of collective concern, such as its Environmental, Water, Flood Control, Energy, Transportation, Museum, Quality, Productivity, and Media Interface Committees. ECH has become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, emphasizing its educational and service roles. ECH also has been a catalyst in creating three affiliated non-profit organizations: the Science Engineering Fair of Houston, the World Congress on Superconductivity, and the Willow Street Foundation. Education is a major focus of ECH. The organization continues to cosponsor the Science Engineering Fair of Houston and has initiated a Science Engineering Fair Summer Internship with the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The Technical Careers committee has a strong outreach program, bringing science into elementary and secondary school classrooms. The World Congress on Superconductivity illustrates ECH’s dedication to professional and technical development. Locally, ECH provides a forum for communications among the constituent Societies through mailings, monthly roundtable meetings, and workshops or seminars on subjects of common interest.
informing the public on engineering, science, and technical matters which impact the Houston Metropolitan Area, ECH established the Houston in the 21st Century symposiums which to date consist of:

1. Flooding issues impacting the Houston Metropolitan Area (sponsored by ECH after Tropical Storm Allison, ca 2002),
2. Subsidence issues facing the Gulf Coast Region (Coastal Subsidence, Sea Level and the Future of the Gulf Coast, November 3-5, 2005, Houston, TX; cosponsored by ECH and HGS),
3. Flooding issues impacting Southeast Texas after Hurricane Harvey (Flooding in Southeast Texas: The Science Behind the Floods, June 2018, cosponsored by HGS and ECH),
4. Climate Solutions (ECH Climate Solutions Symposium held virtually on August 22, 2020), and
5. Second ECH Climate Solutions Symposium (2023 Climate Solutions Symposium: Texas, the Energy Capital of the Planet, Can and Should Lead, September 2023, University of Houston Student Center Theater).

Cospromoting ECH symposiums has allowed HGS to reach out to and gain recognition from the public.

HGS SCIENCE FAIR COMMITTEE

The Science Fair, now known as SEFH, traces its beginning in Houston since around 1960. It serves as the regional Fair for all junior and senior high school students in Harris County and 22 surrounding counties. HGS has long been associated with this Fair through its early membership in the Engineering Council of Houston (ECH). HGS has continuously shown an ECH and Science Fair Committee in the Bulletin since 1958, indicating an affiliation since the Fair’s beginning. In 2018 the ECH Committee disappeared from the HGS committee list.

Claudia Ludwig (since the 1980s), Richard Howe, and Sue Pritchett have served as Councilors from HGS to ECH (ECH Committee), and each, in turn, has served HGS as President of ECH. This group re-involved HGS in judging and special awarding judging of science fair entries. The Science Fair committee was officially added in 2013. Mike Erpenbeck in 2016 and Dorene West in 2021 assumed respective chair leaderships.

SPECIAL AWARDS

HGS sends a team of Special Awards Judges to review Earth Sciences-related projects in the Junior and Senior Divisions at SEFH each year. HGS gives two types of awards, rank and internships, that are meant to encourage students to pursue Earth science-related education and careers.

- **Rank Awards** A top project is picked for each division; 2nd and 3rd place projects are picked for the Senior Division. HGS presents these winners with a certificate and congratulatory letter at the SEFH Awards Ceremony. These winners are usually invited to be recognized at Guest Night (June).
- **Internships** Through our membership in The Engineering, Science, and Technology Council of Houston (ECH), HGS funds two summer internships at the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences (HMNS). These Finalist HMNS Summer Intern Awards are nominated by HGS but awarded to two Senior Division finalists by ECH. Students must meet work requirements (so they are not necessarily the top-ranked project winners). The awardees are invited to an ECH awards banquet, where the students showcase their projects.
- **Challenges in judging** An effort is made to remove “community bias” from our judging. Students are judged on their effort; those with fewer resources cannot compete with student projects from areas with more resources/community support. We are charged with encouraging students to participate in STEM, not to penalize students from schools/communities with fewer resources.

There are also opportunities for HGS members to volunteer as SEFH Place Judges. HGS members involved in the general/Place judging can encourage students to submit future earth science-related projects that can qualify for our sponsored internships.

HGS gives two types of awards, rank and internships, that are meant to encourage students to pursue Earth science-related education and careers.

SEFH judging is in early February each year. Each January, a request for volunteers for Special Award Judges and SEFH Place Judges is published in the HGS newsletter. Past Special Award Judge volunteers are contacted by email. The chair and Special Award Judge volunteer to review the list of science fair projects and abstracts online and pick Earth Science-related projects to judge at the Science Fair.

Many of our judges volunteer every year; special thanks go to recent annual judges Mike Erpenbeck, Jim Tucker, David Miller, Dwaine Abraham, Martin Cassidy, David Risch, Sandy Rushworth, Marsha Bourque, Judy Schulenberg, Patricia Walker, and Sharma Dronamraju.

Judging occurs Saturday morning, the committee chair delivers our list of awardees to Sue Pritchett (SEFH Board of Directors Secretary) and Carolyn Summers (SEFH Board of Directors and VP Astronomy and Physical Sciences HMNS), who make the final decision on HGS-sponsored intern awards. The chair sends letters/emails to each of the top project winners’ parents and teachers and contacts the parent to congratulate them by phone; a report is written for the newsletter. The chair and judges are invited to the ECH Awards Banquet in May, where we try to get pictures of our sponsored students/interns and their project boards for the newsletter. If possible, the chair visits the students while working at HMNS and gets more pictures for the newsletter. The goal is to encourage students to pursue Earth science education and careers, provide support, and become members of HGS in the future.
Maps in Schools
Outreach Program of HGS and SIPES Houston
By Jeffrey Lund

OVERVIEW
Maps in Schools is a major outreach program of the Houston Geological Society and the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES) Houston Chapter that began in 2009. Since then, more than 24 schools (mostly in greater Houston) have received framed maps, had a lecture on the geologic phenomena the map illustrates, and, in several cases, asked for repeat presentations. Nearly 40 such presentations have been made. Maps have been placed in elementary, middle, and high schools (public and private) and community colleges, primarily in the greater Houston area.

The map is called “A Tapestry of Time and Terrain.” It is a creation of the US Geological Survey. The map is a large, colorful geologic map with shaded topographic relief of the continental US, color-coded to the geologic column, with an absolute time scale. HGS provides high-quality geologic maps covering the lower 48. SIPES Houston pays to frame the maps and adds a dedication plate describing the origin of the gift to each school.

The Corpus Christi Geological Society and the Corpus Christi SIPES Chapter, under the leadership of the late Owen Hopkins, a well-known petroleum geologist in Corpus Christi, inspired this outreach effort. Following the lead of our colleagues in Corpus Christi, the SIPES Houston Chapter, and HGS began placing the USGS geologic maps in local schools in 2009. Early on, the maps were presented as rolled, unframed maps. Still, soon it became apparent that a framed map that could be prominently and permanently displayed would be more effective in drawing student attention. SIPES Houston Chapter has supported the project financially at a cost of about $400 per map.
Unframed maps have been sent to schools in Massachusetts, South Dakota, New York City, and Tulsa because shipping a framed map is prohibitively expensive.

Initially, progress was slow, largely because of the reluctance of schools to understand we had a message of significance and the “red tape” administrations deal with in the current environment of bad things happening in schools. Covid also slowed down the ability to visit schools dramatically.

THE PRESENTATION

The presentation we make at each of the schools consists of five parts:

1. Introductory Comments
   What is Earth Science, and why are we giving your school a map? (answer: to stimulate interest in geoscience!)

2. Show a DVD
   The AGI DVD entitled “Why Earth Science: Because We Live on Earth,” which is a very professional 10-minute overview of geoscience, including geoscience careers, volcanoes, the Chixulub impact and dinosaurs and geologists as astronauts.

3. PowerPoint Presentation
   30 slides describing the geologic map, features observable on the map, geologic time, careers in geoscience, and fossils. A new addition is discussing pioneering British geologist William Smith using the book “The Map That Changed the World” by Simon Winchester. A copy of the book is donated to the school.

4. Fossil Collection Review
   A quick review of part of my fossil collection and a discussion of how fossils help define geologic periods.

5. Questions

IPAA/PESA ENERGY ACADEMIES

Due to a connection to IPAA made for us by HGS/SIPES member Evelyn Medvin, we connected with the IPAA/PESA (Independent Petroleum Association of America and the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association) program coordinated by their Energy Education Center. IPAA/PESA has established and supported five “petroleum academies” that teach engineering, geosciences, leadership, and math students in the Houston Independent School District and the Fort Worth Independent School District. The program began at Houston’s Milby High School and has grown to include five schools, culminating in The Energy Institute High School, which opened with 200 students in 2013. The Energy Institute High School will add 200 students each year until a total enrollment of 800. This institution is unique for not only HISD but the nation! The Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy, also part of HISD, is the nation’s first all-girls engineering and geoscience program at the high school level.

The five schools involved are:

- Energy Institute High School, Houston
- Milby High School, Houston
- Southwest High School, Fort Worth
- Westside High School, Houston
- Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy, Houston

I am happy to say each of the schools (including Fort Worth) has received a framed map from us, and four of the schools have requested and received a presentation on earth science and the geology observable on the map. The map delivery to faculty and administrators and presentations have been done primarily by HGS Past-President and SIPES Board Member Jeff Lund and HGS/ SIPES member Elizabeth de Leon-Maestas (aka EA).

IPAA PROGRAM EVOLUTION

IPAA program has changed its name to the “IPAA Energy Workforce Education Center.” Their educational program has been working with educators for nearly 20 years with a professional staff supporting programs, resources, and advice to member schools to enhance STEM education, especially energy-focused programs.

The “Maps in Schools” program joined the IPAA program when we connected to the Houston ISD high schools hosting “Petroleum Academies” and presented them with maps. That was an unplanned synergy!

As you might expect, Covid placed a huge damper on the ability to visit and make presentations at schools personally! IPAA has adapted effectively, and the newest feature of the IPAA programs includes a “Virtual Exploring-Energy Program” featuring a video library. The library provides content including STEM topics, energy, leadership skills, and industry-animated tours to high school educators and students in middle and high schools.

Thanks to HGS/SIPES Houston members Linda and Charles Sternbach, the “Maps in Schools” PowerPoint presentation has been recorded with audio. It is one of the library’s main geoscience content videos. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohDHhtZTxo0)

The goal for the program is to have annual return visits as classes of students see the colorful map in their classroom or hallway and wonder what it means. For example, we have returned five years to speak to the entire 7th grade at Duchesne Academy.

Many thanks to everyone involved and several recent Houston SIPES Boards for their support at the expense of framing the maps!
Guest Night Captivates at the HMNS Museum with Stars, Mars, and Dinosaurs (and more!)

By Linda Sternbach

THE STORY OF GUEST NIGHT

From 2003 to 2019, more than 7,800 HGS members, their spouses, and families attended seventeen 400-person HGS Guest Nights at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. How did this happen? First, the HMNS was a perfect venue that continuously evolved, adding exhibits and floor space. Second, a concerted effort was made to engage attendees with IMAX movies, new exhibits, and world-class speakers. It helped that many HGS members were also Museum Docents. Clint Moore, Inda and Neal Immega, Janet Combes, and many other HGS leaders championed the HMNS museum, recognized as one of the top science museums in the United States.

Impressed by the first-floor Wortham IMAX theatre, Clint Moore created HGS Guest Night as an evening private museum event for members, friends, and families. The first Guest Night was in 1992. The HGS rented the lobby area with the sole dinosaur relic of the time, the Diplodocus skeleton (nicknamed Dippy), for an HGS award ceremony, followed by the experience of seeing a large screen movie on a screen taller than a three-story building.

The HMNS Museum continued to evolve in the 2000s, adding an updated Energy Exhibit, which included the GeoVator ride down a well borehole, revising the Gems and Minerals, and retiring older chemistry exhibits. Guest Night was revamped starting in the late 1990s to include rented floors of the Museum, so the night included: catered dinner, time to look at Museum exhibits, followed by the IMAX movie.

Clint Moore created HGS Guest Night as an evening private museum event for members, friends, and families.

Guest Night chairs from 1992-2002 included Clint Moore and Bill Osten. Then, in 2003 former HGS Bulletin Editor Linda Sternbach and past HGS President Charles Sternbach had a new vision for the Guest Night Committee. They decided to “kick it up a notch” and presented the first “full-sized” HGS Guest Night in 2003.

GUEST NIGHTS FROM 2003 ONWARD

2003 Dr. Harrison Schmitt, Apollo 17 Astronaut  
Return to the Moon

2004 Dr. Gordon McKay  
The NASA Mars Rovers: Robot Geologists on Mars

2005 Dr. David Applegate  
Earthquakes and Tsunamis!

2006 Dr. Jeff Fox  
The Deepwater Ocean Drilling Program

2007 Dr. Bob Bakker  
Amazing Fossils from the Permian of Texas — New Insights and Ideas on Reptiles and Dinosaurs  
Solving a 287 MMY Crime Scene

2008 Dr. James Reilly, NASA Scientist and ISS Astronaut  
My Strolls Among the Stars

2009 Dr. Michael R. Waters  
In Search of the First Americans Recent Discoveries and the Role of Geology in the Pursuit of the Past  
Held at the Houston Downtown Aquarium

2010 Dr. Patricia Dickerson  
Big Bend — Where the Rockies Meet the Appalachians, Discoveries, Enigmas

2011 Derek Main  
Wildfire Paleoecology Along the Cretaceous Coast of Texas

2012 Susan R. Eaton  
A Geoscientist in Antarctica: Following in Shackleton’s Footsteps 100 years Later

2013 Dr. Dawne Sumner  
The Mars Science Laboratory Mission, A Roving Geochemist on Mars!

2014 Pasquale Scaturro  
A Trip Down the Nile

2015 Dr. Jeff Karson, Syracuse University  
Exploring the Ultra-Deep Ocean Seafloors of the World

2016 Dr. David Kring  
Origin of Life on Earth and Connection to Lunar Impacts 3.8 Billion Years Ago

2017 Dr. Don Corrick  
Big Bones in Big Bend

2018 Paul Bernhard, Designer of the Weiss 3.0 HMNS Energy Hall and the GeoVator operator

2019 John M. Moody  
La Brea del Sul: Discovery of Ice Age Fossils in Tar Pits of Venezuela

2020+ No Guest Nights
notch” by inviting global experts, world famous geoscientists, and captivating speakers. In this new format, Guest Night programs benefited from dedicated committee chairs Bill Osten, Dave and Suzy Reynolds, Pete Emmet, and David Orchard.

Combining top-notch speakers and HMNS innovations As program chairs know well, the challenge to recruiting great speakers is identifying and connecting with them. Guest Night June 2003 took the event to a new level with guest speaker Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, Apollo lunar module pilot and Apollo 17 moonwalker. The story of how Jack Schmitt came to speak at Guest Night goes back to the AAPG Houston ACE meeting in 2002, where Michel T. Halbouty introduced Dr. Harrison “Jack” Schmitt to Charles and Linda Sternbach. This introduction later helped the Sternbachs invite Dr. Schmitt to speak to HGS at the HMNS. In June 2003, the Guest Night was a complete sell-out, with 425 people and a long waiting list. Everyone wanted to meet the only geologist yet to walk on the Moon. This event was the first time the tall screen was used for a slide show instead of just an IMAX movie. Bill Osten delighted in giving out door prizes in a raffle, including mineral specimens and fossils.

Featuring notable speakers in engaging venues made Guest Night a highly anticipated annual event from 2003 to 2019. The recipe for success was “a speaker with an adventure story that included paleontology, geoscience or archeology, coordinated with Museum exhibits on energy, space, stars, Mars, and dinosaurs.” Popular Guest Night speakers include:

- Dr. Gordon McKay (manager, NASA Johnson Space Center) on the first Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity.
- Dr. David Applegate (USGS) on Tsunamis after the 2005 tidal wave that devasted Indonesia.
- Dr. Bob Bakker, the dinosaur expert, and author, spoke in 2007 for HGS and again in 2014 at an HGS-organized event for AAPG Annual Meeting.
- Dr. James F. Reilly, Jr returned from space on the Shuttle Atlantis and lectured in 2008.

Later Guest Night themes included: Big Bend geology (2010 and 2017), The Mars Rover Curiosity with a talk and video from NASA’s Dawn Sumner (2013), and Rafting the Nile with Pasquale Scaturro (2014). Pasquale told how he was nearly shot several times in hostile territories and how getting the rafts and IMAX equipment over waterfalls was quite challenging! Jeff Karson (2015) told us about deep ocean exploration in a submersible down to 13,000 below sea level to see ocean floor vents and oceanic crust being formed. Dr. David Kring (2016) told us about the important role of impacts in the origin of life and the plans for future landing sights on the Moon. Paul Bernhard (2018) explained how he designed the Weiss Energy Hall 3.0. Many will remember Paul as the driver of the GeoVator dressed in blue coveralls. He told us of the thousands of VIP tours he gave, including one to President George and Barbara Bush.

FINDING THE SPEAKERS

How did Guest Night round up so many extraordinary and famous speakers? Here are a few stories, starting with NASA. Booking a NASA scientist can be challenging as the agency has rules, etc. In the case of Gordon McKay, the connection came during a Lunar and Planetary Society conference in Clear Lake attended by the Sternbachs. After McKay gave a talk on the Mars Rovers Spirit and Opportunity, he gave his business card to Charles Sternbach, leading to a personal connection.

In the case of Astronaut Jim Reilly, he was a friend of both Past HGS President Jeff Lund and HGS member David Reynolds. The Sternbachs were thrilled to attend the Launch of STS 117 Atlantis from Cape Canaveral on June 8, 2007. The launch was extra special since Jim had invited us to attend, and he was on board! We knew that Jim would make a great Guest Night speaker. We first contacted Reilly by personal email, but as a NASA employee, we needed to involve the NASA Astronaut Appearance Office. It could have been a snail mail problem, but they did not respond to our request letter. Fortunately, Jim Reilly retired from NASA just before the Guest Night in 2008, so he could speak without NASA’s permission. One week before Guest Night, we did get a letter from the Astronaut Appearance Office denying permission for Jim Reilly to speak at our event. Reason: he had retired from NASA. Problem solved!
Bob Bakker is a fantastic speaker and one of Guest Night’s most popular speakers because of his humorous stories, recreations of Permian reptile life, and innovative hand-drawn cartoons drawn on white paper, which he often gives to children. Charles Sternbach first met Bob Bakker on a field trip to Montana in 1994, so we reconnected using postal mail and email when we wanted to get Dr. Bakker to speak at Guest Night 2007. However, if you want to find a world-class paleontologist, there is a better way than mail, email, and telephones. Look for them in preparation labs and on outcrops!

And that’s what happened! The Sternbachs stumbled into meeting Bakker in person while on a trip to Dinosaur Ridge Museum in Morrison, Colorado, in 2006. We entered the Museum to look at the fossils, and Charles noticed Bob Bakker’s name on the museum scientist list. We asked about Bob Bakker, and the lady at the front desk said, “Bob Bakker? He’s here on site today. He’s out back.” So, we walked around the back of the building, and Bob Bakker was there looking at some fossils in a rock pile. After some dinosaur discussion, we introduced ourselves. Charles reminded Dr. Bakker of their trip together to Montana in 1994. We pitched the idea of him coming to Houston and speaking at the HGS Guest Night in June, which, fortunately, was possible in his busy schedule. As the time to finalize plans approached, we tried unsuccessfully to reach Dr. Bakker with emails and phone calls. Neal Immega, who digs fossils on Bakker’s field trips to Seymour, Texas, provided second-hand personal contact. As planning deadlines loomed, Linda Sternbach took time off from her job downtown to go to HMNS at noon one day on a “hot tip” that Dr. Bakker was doing a paleontology show for kids in the Museum basement. She said, “Remember me from Colorado? Can we confirm you will be at Guest Night because we are booking the Museum and putting out ads?” Well, he confirmed his appearance and travel arrangements to Houston, and the rest is sold-out Guest Night history, where Bob Bakker gave one of the best and most entertaining paleontological talks we ever saw.
Many Guest Night speakers got involved in the HGS event through recommendations of HGS members and interested people. Dr. Jeff Karson, who wrote a book on the Oceans of the World and talked about diving to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean in a submersible vehicle (the ALVIN) at the 2015 Guest Night, was recommended by the chair of the Syracuse University Earth Science department, where Linda Sternbach studied geology as an undergraduate. John Grotzinger of Cal Tech recommended Dawn Sumner (2013 Mars Curiosity scientist). We connected with rafting legend and author Pasquale Scaturro, an adventurer who also summited Mount Everest and was on the cover of Time magazine, through a geophysicist friend in Denver who co-managed an international seismic business with Scaturro. Often all it takes to connect with well-known speakers is a chain of contacts leading to emails, a phone number, or showing up on the right outcrop.

**THE SPIRIT OF GUEST NIGHT**

One of Dave Reynold’s favorite memories of Guest Night was the 2012 presentation by Dr. Derek Main, who described the paleoenvironment of the Arlington dinosaur dig site where he worked. Derek showed great slides and painted word pictures of what the setting of this Cretaceous estuary looked like. Dr. Main highlighted all the discoveries he and his co-workers made, including predator alligators, turtles, and proto-hadrosaurs in a setting much like Galveston. When Dr. Main opened the floor to questions, the first question came from a 10-year-old girl whose question showed that she thoroughly understood the presentation. That is what Guest Night should do—inspire our youth to explore the geosciences and share some top-notch speakers with our friends who might never have taken a formal class in geology.

**THE FUTURE?**

Will there be future Guest Nights at the HMNS in a post-Covid world? It’s certainly possible. The HMNS is a fantastic museum and well worth a private event so HGS members and guests can enjoy learning about science. Guest Night provides meaningful experiences that further HGS’s mission of public outreach, education, professional fellowship, and dissemination of science.

It helps the event enormously to have generous corporate sponsors to defray Museum rental and catering. Thousands of Guest Night attendees purchased tickets costing $60 for a lecture, movie, museum access, dinner, and beverages. Few attendees knew the actual ticket value was $120 or more. A huge thank you goes to generous sponsors who, for many years, supported Guest Night. The challenge of creating future Guest Nights requires planners to solve the financial aspects of such an event. The inspiring history of Guest Night shows that the immense benefits to HGS members, the community, and students are enormous.

**GUEST NIGHT VIDEO ARCHIVE**

Many Guest Night Videos can be found on the HGS Education channel.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKVec9Dk-Sc&list=PLs6d6cNggaUZXyNc9OuE-lCR0ZkRdOYz6

[Image] Janet Combes and young person

[Image] Dr. James F. Reilly, STS astronaut (who would later serve as USGS chief) with his good friend Dave Reynolds
HGS has a long tradition of Social Events, including the Shrimp and Crawfish Boil, Skeet Shoot, Tennis, and Golf Tournaments. These events promote fun, networking, and camaraderie among geoscientists.

**SHRIMP PEEL**

**Cooking up a tradition** Honorary life member Howard Kiatta recalled seafood parties in the southwest Louisiana area that would become the origin of the HGS Shrimp Peel.

“These oil industry events became famous in southern Louisiana. They were known as the FSLG & ES, or Fine Southwest Louisiana Geologists and Epicurean Society. In 1959, it was re-formed and carried on in Houston’s “sin alley” as an annual event. In 1964, the name became the FSLG&CES, or Fine Southern Louisiana Geologists and Crawfish Eating Society…With some creative and big thinking, they came up with their Big Pot Recipe, which debuted on May 10, 1969, when the group returned to Louisiana. The city park of New Iberia treated somewhere between 700 (plus) attendees to 325 gallons of that special gourmet gumbo, which was cooked in a huge eighteenth-century sugar kettle.”

The SHRP named the HGS Handicap and GSH Handicap races for our societies. Members could meet Jockeys and horses in the winner’s circle. Enthusiastic marketing echoed a popular home stretch refrain, “Go Baby Go.” Charles Sternbach recalls standing with the 1999/2000 Executive Board at the start of the HGS Handicap. “We were within a few tens of feet of the gate on the other side of the railing. When the starting gate opened, alarm bells blared, chaos ensued, and the horses thundered forward. We experienced a calvary charge at close range! Almost as exciting as drilling an oil well.”

Sam Houston Racetrack Events were held at various venues for many years, including the St. Arnold Brewery. Lee Shelton proposed hosting the HGS/GSH shrimp peel at the Sam Houston Race Park (SHRP) on October 30, 1999. The HGS Board acted decisively to actuate Lee’s proposal. We thank Lee and his team for organizing fun-filled years of “eating lots of boiled shrimp with cold beverages, watching horse races (right on the home stretch), and door prizes between races.”

The SHRP Shrimp Peel offered a great venue for team building. “If you are looking for an opportunity to show your team some appreciation for their hard work or just to want to build esprit de corps, consider bringing out your team. This event is a sure winner, and your employees will appreciate it. For you folks in the service business, consider getting tickets for your clients to show you appreciate their business.”
Bear Creek Park. The next generation of the Shrimp Peel moved to Bear Creek Pioneers Park, holding a very successful event starting in 2017. We are grateful to the organizers for this fun innovation and to HGS Office Manager Andi Peoples for all her hard work making this a successful annual event. Michael Salazar is the current chair for this event, and the tradition of good food, good folks, and fun continues!

SKEET SHOOT AND SPORTING CLAYS

A Straight Shooter Tom McCarrol 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 41 years the event has been held. Thank you, Tom!

Tom organized many programs and wrote in 2008, “The 25th Annual Skeet Shoot Goes Off with a Bang! "Well, the $140/bbl oil must have a good effect on the HGS membership because they showed up in record numbers (164) on June 28 to participate in the 25th Annual HGS Skeet Shoot at the Greater Houston Gun Club in Missouri City. Gun Club Manager Kevin Dougherty had the fields and grounds in top shape and made sure that registration and scoring went off without a hitch. The weather cooperated, with no rain and some cloud cover to break the worst of the heat. The shooters shared prizes and gave back to HGS. Thanks also to generous sponsors. Nice going, all of you!"

Aiming for the future! The current chair of the Skeet Shoot Sporting Clays committee recently chaired by Howard Woods, with new chair David Perez. This tradition continues with enjoyable annual events.

GOLF AND TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

The HGS Social Committees also include the Tennis Tournament chaired by Constantine Platon and the Golf Tournament chaired by Jimmy Bagley and Kenneth Baucum. Thank you for all these wonderful programs that keep fun HGS traditions alive!
In 2006, Norma Jean Jones, President of the Houston Geological Auxiliary, and her Board voted to initiate a study to determine if a merger of the Petroleum Auxiliaries in the Houston Area was possible. This action was needed to overcome the loss of membership and the difficulty in filling all offices/committee chairs and continue to have quality programs and facilities to house their socials. Winona LaBrant Smith was asked to begin this investigation. Edie Bishop agreed to co-chair this assignment. After numerous phone calls to Auxiliaries in other cities who had already accomplished this feat, a “Brain Storming” luncheon was held at the Junior League. Leaders of Geophysical, Land, Engineering, and Geological were in attendance. Following a pleasant meeting, a vote passed unanimously to pursue this idea. A formation meeting was held, and the Houston Petroleum Auxiliary Council, HPAC, was born. Officers were elected in 2006 for the 2006–07 term, and the movement was underway with Lynn Schoenberger, Geophysical, as the first Chair of HPAC.

A successful trial luncheon/style show was held in the first year at Junior League. In the second year, three joint functions were hosted to determine the feasibility of this venture, with all four auxiliaries participating under the leadership of Sheri McQuinn as the 2007–08 Chair. At the end of the second year, a vote was taken by the membership of each of the four auxiliaries. It was determined that HPAC would be officially formed, and the Auxiliaries would become one group. To maintain a close relationship with each of the four professional Associations (Engineering, Land, Geological, and Geophysical), a member whose husband is affiliated with one of the four professional associations will be appointed as liaison to that association. Liaisons allow HPAC members to continue long-established relationships with the four represented professional Societies. The Land, Geological, and Geophysical voted overwhelmingly to join the movement.

The Engineering Auxiliary had a unique problem; their Scholarship Fund (a very important part of their functions) is written as part of their By-Laws. They cannot disband and join HPAC, as a group, without losing this fund. They join HPAC on an individual member basis.

A Nominating Committee was formed by appointment of the HPAC Board, with one member from each of the auxiliaries forming this group. They were Mary Harle, Geological; Linnie Edwards - Chair, Geophysical and June Harrison, Land. The Nominating Committee met and selected members from various groups to hold the offices for the first year. The HPAC Board approved the appointments, and after operating for two years on a “trial basis,” HPAC began its first official year with Phyllis Carter at its helm as President. Other officers included Millie Tonn, 1st Vice President; Nan Pye, 2nd Vice President; Paulette Williams, Secretary; Wanda Shaw and Holly Dodds, Co-Treasurers and Lois Matuszak, Editor. 

ORGANIZATIONAL CHAIRMEN AND PAST PRESIDENTS

CHAIRMEN
- Winona LaBrant 2005-2006
- Lynn Schoenberger 2006-2007
- Sherilyn “Sheri” McQuinn 2007-2008

PRESIDENTS
- Phyllis Carter 2008-2009
- Millie Tonn 2009-2010
- Edie Bishop 2010-2011
- Kathi Hilterman 2011-2012
- Mickey Murrell 2012-2013
- Barbara Peck 2013-2014
- Sally Blackhall 2014-2015
- Norma Jean Jones 2015-2016
- Bernadine Billard 2016-2017
- Donna Parrish 2017-2018
- Shirley Gordon 2018-2019
- Nancy Hill 2019-2020
- Sandra Pezzetta 2020-2021
- Sally Blackhall 2021-2022
- SaraNan Grubb 2022-2023
- Kathi Hilterman 2023-2024
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Congratulations to the Houston Geological Society

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of exploring the world and improving lives

Congratulations from Dr. Tom & Evonne Smith to the HGS for outstanding achievements.

Happy Centennial from Ikon Science to the Houston Geological Society. When you’re caught between a rock and a hard place, contact us for all your subsurface data analysis and knowledge management needs. www.ikonscience.com
1999
The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 10,000 for the first time.
The world worried about the Y2K bug and celebrated the start of the new millennium.

HGS
First HGS Jerry Cooley Award, the society’s highest honor, given to its namesake.

First Legends Night, George Mitchell and Charles Sternbach

2000
The dot-com bubble burst, leading to a significant decline in the stock market.
Minute Maid Park, home of Major League Baseball’s Houston Astros, opens.

HGS
First Legends Night held with an overflowing crowd at the Westchase Hilton.
First Robert E. Sheriff Lecture with U of H.
GCAGS Held its 68th Annual Convention at GRB, Houston, Larry Bartell Chair.
Initiated in the spring of 2000, the “NeoGeo” program held its first meeting on September 13, 2000, encouraging new industry geological professionals to become active in our society.

HGS held the first “Dry Hole Seminar” on Nov 8, 2000, organized by Kevin McVey.

Spindletop 100th Anniversary Field Trip Dan Smith, Clint Moore, Charles Sternbach, Craig Moore, Jeff Lund, Paul Hoffman

2001
The NEAR Shoemaker spacecraft lands on the asteroid 433 Eros, becoming the first spacecraft to land on an asteroid.
Tropical Storm Allison devastates the Houston area.
The September 11 terrorist attacks kill nearly 3,000 people and trigger a global war on terror.

Enron is found to have accounting scandals. The company goes bankrupt.

HGS
AAPG Annual Convention, March 2002, chaired by Jeff Lund, Theme – “Our Heritage: Key to Global Discoveries”

2002
The Winter Olympics are held in Salt Lake City, Utah.
The human genome is published in full.
The Houston Texans joined the NFL, playing at the newly opened Reliant Stadium.

HGS
HGS Held a 100th Anniversary Field Trip to Spindletop with Michel T. Halbouty, January 10, 2001.
Inaugural APPEX (precursor to Summer NAPE), Aug. 2001, chaired by Chuck Noll

2003
The space shuttle Columbia explodes over Texas, killing all seven astronauts aboard.
The human genome project is completed, revealing the entire sequence of human DNA.
Halliburton’s headquarters move from Dallas to Houston.

HGS
Formation of the Northsider’s Group.
First HGS/PESGB African Conference was held in Houston.
“Disappointing Seismic Anomalies” held Oct 21, 2003, at the Marathon Building, co-chaired by Kevin McVey and Evelyn Medvin.
2004

NASA lands the Opportunity Rover on Mars.
Facebook was founded by Mark Zuckerberg.
Freak snowstorm hits, causing record Christmas snowfall in the Houston region.
Unconventional horizontal drilling by Mitchell Energy in the Barnett Shale of the Fort Worth Basin was kicked off and soon changed the US energy business.

HGS

Major redesign and upgrade to the HGS website.

2005

Hurricane Katrina causes catastrophic damage in Florida and Louisiana. Houston welcomes more than 125,000 displaced residents.
YouTube is launched by three former PayPal employees.

HGS

HGS and ECH co-sponsor "Coastal Subsidence, Sea Level and the Future of the Gulf Coast,” a conference to increase awareness of subsidence issues.

2006

Pluto was reclassified as a “dwarf planet” by the International Astronomical Union.
Twitter is founded and launched by Jack Dorsey.

HGS

HGS hosts the AAPG annual meeting and exposition at the George R. Brown Convention Center chaired by Charles Sternbach Theme “Perfecting the Search, Delivering on Promises”

2007

A mummified dinosaur is found in North Dakota, revealing details of its skin and muscles.
Steve Jobs announces the iPhone.

HGS

HGS office moved to St. Mary’s Lane.
Frank Walles and team launched the first ever "Applied Geoscience Conference: U.S. Gulf Region Mudstones as Unconventional Shale Gas/Oil Reservoirs, Fractured, and Non-Fractured,” was held at the downtown Houston Doubletree Hotel, October 1 and 2, 2007, with 180 attendees.

2008

Scientists find ice on Mars, using the Phoenix lander, which confirms the presence of water on the red planet.
Hurricane Ike passes through Houston causing flooding, wind damage and widespread power failures.

HGS

GCAGS Held its 69th Annual Convention at GRB, Houston, David Rensink Chair.
GSA and other societies joined GCAGS

HISTORICAL NOTE

HGS Presidents Awarded AAPG Sidney Powers Medal
Paul Weaver 1958
J. Ben Carsey 1985

HGS Presidents Awarded AAPG Halbouty Medal
John Amoruso 2007
Daniel Smith 2011

Guest Night James Reilly and Dave Reynolds

Mudrocks Committee Matt Boyd, David Tonner, Frank Walles, Paul Basinski, Kirk Barrell, Tony D’Agostino
2009

Bitcoin is launched by Satoshi Nakamoto.
The H1N1 virus causes the 2009 swine flu pandemic.

HGS Maps for Schools and Bones for Schools programs are highlighted.

2010

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill occurred in the Gulf of Mexico.

HGS Establishes social media connections via Facebook and Twitter.

2011

The Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami devastate Japan and trigger a nuclear crisis.

HGS AAPG Annual Convention, chaired by Steve Levine, Theme “Taking Geoscience to Greater Heights”

2012

NASA lands the Curiosity rover, the largest Mars rover yet built, which explores the planet’s geology and climate.

HGS Technofest held in July.

2013

Oil prices peak at $108 per barrel in June before plunging 75% over the next 18 months devastating the Houston-area energy industry. Nearly 80,000 energy-related jobs are lost.

HGS Applied Geoscience Conference for Mudrocks System: Characterization to Improve Exploitation of Unconventional Oil and Gas Reservoirs was held in February.

HGS Past President’s Luncheon

Grand Canyon Field Trip John and Dawne Jordan, Linda and Charles Sternbach

HGS Past President, Stephen Levine, welcomes the 2011 AAPG Convention to Houston.

HGS Field Trip to NASA at AAPG Convention. Retired astronaut James Reilly (right) would later become Director of the U.S. Geological Survey 2018-21.
Scientists perform the first robotic landing on a comet, using the Philae probe from the Rosetta spacecraft, which explores the surface and composition of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

HGS AAPG Annual Convention, April, chaired by Steve Brachman, Theme “Ideas & Innovation: Fuel for the Energy Capital”.

Dr. Bob Bakker speaks to HGS and AAPG to showcase the new HMNS Paleontology Hall

Houston’s Ellington Airport receives a commercial spaceport license by the Federal Aviation Administration.

HGS GCAGS Held its 70th Annual Convention at GRB, Houston, Larry Bartell Chair.

In 2015 the Petroleum Club of Houston, where many HGS luncheon meetings and special events are held, moved to Total Plaza from its longtime home in the Exxon Building.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the Wolfcamp shale in West Texas is the largest continuous oil and gas deposit ever discovered in the United States, containing 20 billion barrels of oil and 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

HGS HGS – PESGB hold 15th Conference on African E&P in Houston

Hurricane Harvey devastates Houston, flooding homes and roads with over 50 inches of rain over 4 days.

The Houston Astros win the World Series.

Lifted by the shale oil boom, the United States overtakes Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the world’s largest oil producer for the first time since 1973.

HGS June 6-7 HGS holds the Flood Conference: “Floodin in Southeast Texas: The Science Behind The Floods”, at the University of Houston.

Guest Night features Paul Bernhard, Designer of the Weiss 3.0 HMNS Energy Hall and “The GeoVator operator”
COVID-19, a novel coronavirus, emerges in China and begins to spread globally, causing a pandemic.

**2019**

- HGS GCAGS Held its 71st Annual Convention at Marriot Westchase Houston, Mike Erpenbeck Chair, Theme “Where the Entire Greater Gulf of Mexico Comes Together!”

**2020**

- Wildfires burned more than 8.2 million acres in the American West.
- HGS On Feb 10th, HGS holds another popular Scholarship Night, raising nearly $50k, featuring Artemis Astronaut Jessica Watkins.

**2021**

- Winter storm Uri resulted in widespread power outages and water supply interruptions for several days in Houston.
- HGS AAPG and SEG cohost IMAGE meetings in 2021, 2022, 2023 and are planned through 2025.

**2022**

- The Houston Astros win their second World Series.
- The world population reached eight billion people.
- HGS The 21st annual HGS-PESGB Africa Conference was held 26-28 September 2022

**2023**

- ExxonMobil relocates its corporate headquarters from Irving to its campus north of Houston.
- OpenAI launches GPT-4, a large language model for ChatGPT, which can respond to images and can process up to 25,000 words.
- HGS GeoGulf2023 GCAGS Held its 72nd Annual Convention at Norris Conference Center Houston, Charles Sternbach Chair, Theme “United We Explore the Gulf of Mexico, and Beyond”

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

### HGS Presidents Who Chaired AAPG Conventions

- Carlton Speed, Jr. 1957
- Edd R. Turner 1971
- Anthony Reso 1979
- Richard S. Bishop 1988
- James O. Lewis, Jr. 1995
- Jeffrey W. Lund 2002
- Charles A. Sternbach 2006
- Stephen Levine 2011
- Steve Brachman 2014
- David Rensink 2017

### HGS Presidents Also Elected AAPG Presidents

- James Gibbs 1990-1991
- Richard S. Bishop 1998-1999
- Daniel Smith 2002-2004
- David Rensink 2020-2011
- Paul Britt 2016-2017
- Charles A. Sternbach 2017-2018

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*HGS Takes Geoscience to Greater Heights by hosting a memorable AAPG 2011 All Convention Luncheon with astronauts from three generations – Harrison “Jack” Schmitt from Apollo 17, Scott Carpenter from Mercury, and James Reilly from ISS. Charles Sternbach moderated the panel. Linda Sternbach is also shown. Houston and HGS look upward to space exploration, the new technology it creates, and the Artemis astronauts (and future generations) who will leave geoscience bootprints off Earth.*
HGS has adapted to many technological advancements, particularly in the last thirty years, to fulfill its mission better. As HGS Bulletin Editor 1997–1998, President 2007–2008, website committee chair, and video committee chair, I worked with many HGS leaders and committee members to advance publishing and digital communication to further the mission. These are a few stories and milestones along that journey.

HGS TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCES

The history of the HGS is recorded in print as old Bulletin issues and as PDFs made from the Bulletins, stored online under the domain www.hgs.org. The leaders of the HGS from 1973 to today were technologically in tune with their times. They succeeded (and struggled) to keep Society communications relevant in a changing digital environment over the past 30 years.

In this article, we will list some key dates, changes, and innovations and mention people at the forefront of creating the monthly content of the HGS Bulletin, HGS.org webpage, and recent social media accounts.

1994 HGS OFFICE GETS AN IBM PC

Many computer-savvy HGS members also belonged to the HAL-PC computer group composed of scientists building computer applications and using Microsoft PC personal computers connected to the early world wide web and dial-up Internet. The Office Committee, and the Computer Applications Committee, helped install an IBM personal computer in the HGS office on Harwin Avenue for the HGS office secretaries. Membership records (up to 4000 members’ names and addresses) were typed into the first Microsoft databases for dues renewal and creating mailing labels for the HGS Bulletin.

HGS TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCES

The Society hosted a “GeoTech” Conference at the Astro Village in 1987-89, organized by Sandi Barber. The Emerging Technology Committee began in 1995 when Thom Tucker and others felt the need to feature technological options open to HGS members. HGS president Clint Moore asked Charles Sternbach to chair E-Tech in 1996. Charles enthusiastically accepted the assignment and formed a dynamic committee and added regular meetings to the Emerging Technology. Each of the five programs had 100+ attendees.

Thanks to the vision of team members Shawn Porche, Rosemary Mullin, and Dan Morris, the group proposed a new summer event featuring vendors and technological software. “Technofest” held its first meeting on July 24, 1997, and was proclaimed a popular success and money maker for HGS. Shawn Porche and Rosemary Mullin ran annual successful events from 1998 to 2005. This initiative was followed by several years of Technofest (2005-2009) at the Westin Galleria, headed by Deborah Sacrey, Bonnie Milne-Andrews, and Robert Pledger. Software vendors presented their petrophysical and geophysical products in booths, and attendees enjoyed buffet food and technical talks. Technofest was a regular annual success for HGS for 12 years. Thousands of HGS members accessed the latest software in a rapidly evolving technological field. And HGS made a lot of money.
Technofest was a regular annual success for HGS for 12 years. Thousands of HGS members accessed the latest software in a rapidly evolving technological field.
HGS BULLETIN MAJOR CHANGES
February 1976: the first black and white photo was presented on the cover. Before this time, the Bulletin was mostly text-only on the front cover, and the entire Bulletin looked like it was typed in the Courier font by a secretary, copied, stapled, and mailed to members.

September 1995 First Color Cover Photo Bulletin cover and interior revamped by editors John Turmelle and Gail Bergen. The new layout had a bold banner at the top, a cover photo, and coming attractions. The first all-color cover appeared in September 1995. The Bulletin benefited from the work done by the Computer Applications Committee headed by Craig Moore and Paul Britt. Membership records (up to 4000 members' names and addresses) were typed into the first Microsoft databases for dues renewal and creating mailing labels for the HGS Bulletin.

The first email addresses appeared in the Bulletin in January 1997. The Bulletin Editor Dave Orchard moved the publication from a home office environment to his Manzanita Alliances company. Dave, a geologist who was changing careers, started a new print services and language translation business housed in the Amoco building on the Katy Freeway at Dairy Ashford. Manzanita took care of the Bulletin layout and delivered the printed design three weeks in advance to "MyPrinter," who took care of the monthly Bulletin printing. The Bulletin was often 50+ pages long and held together by three staples in the middle. The office staff tried to keep the mailing labels up to date. Email addresses then back reflected the corporate email of the time (very long) and the upcoming AOL-PDQ-Concentric, and Earthlink new email-hosting online services. For example, Dave Orchard's email was orchardm@txpcap.hou.xwh.bp.com, and incoming Bulletin Editor Linda Sternbach's email was lsternbach@aol.com. The Computer Applications Committee used HAL-PC (Houston Area Users Group) email addresses.

1997: First HGS webpage and formation of an E-Zine The Mars Pathfinder lander made the news in 1997, and editor Linda Sternbach and the Computer Applications Committee were excited to record the breaking news in the Bulletin and online. The computer committee had started a domain with a basic webpage, www.hougeosoc.org, with sidebar menus. They announced plans to make an E-zine where the website would have its own editor in charge. The Bulletin committee transferred by hand and by mail Word 2.0 documents graphics in jpeg and gif (using 3.5-inch square disks) relating to the Mars Pathfinder landing. The HGS webpage duplicated content in the Bulletin, plus some additional material from the E-zine administrators. However, duplicating the print Bulletin and sending all material to an E-zine with a separate editor was too much work. The first HGS website was soon retired.
The HGS.org domain name was purchased around the turn of the Century in 2000, under Bill Osten, as head of the new Website Committee. Bill researched options on webpage design and recommended HGS sign up for a “content management” website using Schipol, a website design company located on the Katy Freeway at Kirkwood. Schipol offered non-profit organizations a series of website modules, including membership, credit card services, an online calendar, and an online ballot module for elections. There was a yearly fee, and Schipol also administrated the renewal of the domain www.hgs.org. HGS office staff secretary Lilly Hargrave became the point person in charge of updating the website with monthly activities and handling problems using credit cards for meetings and dues renewal.

In March 2005, HGS Editor Arthur Berman wrote: “The End of a Stage. The Bulletin is no longer intended to stand alone as a print document. At the beginning of the 21st Century, we find ourselves in the midst of the biggest advance in communication (the World Wide Web) since the invention of moveable metal type for the printing press in 1455… We can communicate more effectively and offer readers more, much more, and at a lower cost by linking future printed Bulletins into the web of electronic information that is already available. Rather than a contraction, it’s an expansion that cannot be achieved through the print medium alone.”

HGS TECHNICAL CONFERENCES

June 2008  HGS improves the website with a front-page redesign. HGS forked over additional money to Schipol in 2008 to get a new design of top menus that dropped down and had a light green and black look. The website committee comprised Bill Osten, Dianna Phu, Robin Heim, and Gordon Shields. The improved website could send mass email reminders to members about events, voting, and dues. Members and non-members were able to register for meetings. Hypertext links were embedded in the emails, but people needed to sign in to the website to pay for meetings. Online registration freed up the office staff, decreasing the number of people making meeting reservations by phone and fax. Many members still paid for meeting fees by checks instead of trusting credit cards, keeping the Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect busy running paper checks to the bank. The HGS Bulletin went digital in addition to print and has been a downloadable pdf since 2008.

WE NEED A NEW WEBSITE 2011!

HGS was making significant money on conferences in the 2008-2011 era, and many people suggested moving away from Schipol’s control of hosting the website and moving towards creating a new website HGS could administrate on its own using an in-house “webmaster.” Past President Sandi Barber organized a committee to hire a website developer. The basic decision was between using WordPress, mostly for blogs at the time, or creating an open-source web code using CiviCRM. Presidents Martin Cassidy and Steve Earle approved funds and the contract to design a site from the ground up. The new website finally launched in August 2012. HGS was fortunate to hire an onsite webmaster, Troy Fearnow, who is experienced in website administration and debugging HTML code. Troy helped fix passwords and user issues, making the new website workable.

Online videos and social media started in 2005-2012, along with HGS YouTube Channels, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. Mike Allison, Board Member/computer expert, suggested HGS try video recording meetings using a home video recorder, microphone, and computer movie-making software. Previously Mike Allison pioneered the HGS video by recording Guest Night 2005, a program about “Tsunamis,” and this video is still online. The first dinner meeting video was created at a dinner meeting in 2012, featuring UH professor Janok Bhattacharya. Making this video taught the Video Committee of Mike Allison, Linda Sternbach, and Thom Tucker that poorly recorded sound and dim lighting can’t be fixed later. After trial and error, the video committee recorded almost 200 videos from 2012-2021.
The HGS YouTube channel started at the suggestion of then webmaster Gabby Hernandez at the HGS office, but this first channel was lost as we attached it to Gaby’s email, and she left our employment.

A second YouTube channel called HGS GeoEducation in 2011 was created using an HGS email, and this is the YouTube we see today online. Since 2011, the HGS YouTube channels have 2600 subscribers, 230 recorded individual videos, and many subject playlists by theme. The most popular video is Dr. William Sager of U of H talking about the “Largest Volcano in the World,” undersea in the Pacific. The most popular video has 160,000 views. The second most popular video series is Art Berman’s dinner meeting videos discussing oil prices and shale plays, which have gathered 5000 views.

HGS social media sites started with Twitter (@HouGeoSoc ), administrated by Dianna Phu. Popular HGS social media sites include HGS Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Dianna Phu and Lauren Robinson administrate these sites.

**END OF PRINTED BULLETINS-2018**

The last printed Bulletin issue mailed to members had the cover image of the “Big Bones in Big Bend” Guest Night theme of June 2018. HGS President John Jordan decided the mailing cost of the printed Bulletin was a cost the Society could not afford. Other local societies have also discontinued printing and mailing newsletters, so HGS is not alone in this decision.

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

As of 2023, the HGS shares information from the Bulletin to the website www.hgs.org. The website can be updated in real-time and adds timeliness to Bulletin content. The Bulletin presents beautiful covers, inside photos, and expanded dinner meeting articles. With innovative communicators and new technology, it seems likely that HGS will adapt to new media to further its mission.
Dear HGS: Congratulations on making it to 100 glorious years!

I know the next 100 years will be even more spectacular. You do so much for the geological community here in Houston and beyond – I can’t image being in the oil patch without the HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Your Friend,
Deborah K. Sacrey
Auburn Energy
Past HGS President
President-Elect
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS

Certified Petroleum Geologist  Exploration—Exploitation

John B. Tübb, Jr.  PhD.
Consulting Geologist

President 2010-2011
Houston Geological Society

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Past Presidents from the Last 25 Years

Memories, Highlights, Advice to Future Presidents, and What are They Doing Now?

By Charles Sternbach, Kara Bennett, Craig Dingler

JON BLICKWEDE 2019-2020
Advice Among other things, I would urge a President-elect to formulate a plan to lobby the local employers (especially the major oil companies and large independents) to return to the old policy of encouraging their geoscientists to join and actively participate in the HGS—including paying for their employees' membership fees and event registration costs.

CHERYL DESFORGES 2018-2019
My term had many events that impacted HGS into the future, and some things took more than one year. As President-Elect, I established virtual communications to improve HGS communications internally and externally, resulting in HGS using the Zoom platform. The adoption of Zoom prepared us for the Covid era. The Constitution and Bylaws needed to be modernized to allow the Board to vote over Zoom, and revisions my ad-hoc committee proposed were approved by members the year following my term. During my term, I successfully led HGS' involvement in lobbying the Texas legislature during Sunset review to retain the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

JOHN ADAMICK 2017-2018
One of my favorite memories was the planning and writing of Bulletin articles. I thought I would dread the deadline each month, but it was fun trying to develop germane articles. I also enjoyed working with my board member team and the office staff. They were great. Last, but not least, I enjoyed Scholarship Night. I had been involved in that event for years, but it was great to be President during the event that year.

JOHN JORDAN 2016-2017
I began my term as President-Elect working with Wayne Camp to move the Mudrock Conference out of hotel venues into the Anadarko Tower (The Woodlands) greatly increasing the profitability. I also worked with the HGS planning team hosting the Africa Conference. Almost immediately after I became President, the HGS hosted the 15th annual Africa Conference. It was a great success but made no profit. After that event, I continued the effort started by Deb Sacrey to get the annual Shrimp Peel social event up and running again by moving the venue to Bear Creek Park making the Shrimp Peel/Crawfish Boil a money-maker. Finally, I reduced office overhead by 25% to 30% through staffing changes.

DEBORAH SACREY 2015-2016
Advice Delegate! The President's role is substantial, and you can't do everything yourself. Quickly learn who you can trust and delegate to them as much as possible. Also, remember that you are dealing with Volunteers! They give personal time to work for HGS, so always treat them respectfully.

MARTIN CASSIDY 2012-2013
My favorite memory from my term is working with our officers and education-related committees to accomplish many events. The Bones in Schools was a great start and will mature one day. The conferences went well and made money. That is satisfying.

JOHN TUBB 2010-2011
I have had hearing loss problems for most of my life. Although I had Hearing Aids during my year as President, I still had hearing issues during the HGS Meetings. After my year as President, one of the ladies on the Board told me, “John, it took us only one meeting to understand that if you weren't looking at us, you didn't hear us.” After about two meetings, I built a pedestal to use during the meetings to allow me to stand up and move around to be closer to the person talking.

My Board gave me an amethyst mineral at my President’s Night meeting. In addition to the mineral, the Board members collected money from themselves and bought me a handgun called “The Judge.” After my year, I had a “joke picture” of me standing on my pedestal using “The Judge” as a gavel.

KARA BENNETT 2008-2009
I’m thoroughly enjoying living in Virginia. I grew up in the DC area and missed the seasons the whole time I was in Houston. I’ll be teaching a fun course in geological hazards for the local
CRAIG DINGLER 2003-2004

Advice

My life since retirement has been dull or serene, depending on your point of view. I spend the mornings online checking news feeds doing research and writing articles. The efforts of the mornings are seen on my website (www.daverensink.com). Covid knocked out all of our travel plans, and we have not yet gotten them back on track.

LINDA STEWART-BAACH 2007-2008

Linda is still working in the oil and gas exploration business with Star Creek Energy in Katy, TX. Linda also served in leadership roles in AAPG as Vice President of Sections 2020-22 and is HGS Vice President 2023-2024. She was GCAGS GeoGulf Technical Chair for the 2023, 2019, and 2015 GCAGS conventions.

During my term as HGS President, Gary Coburn, Bill Howell, and I organized a January HGS dinner talk with T. Boone Pickens, a highlight of the year with hundreds of attendees. The HGS was settling into its newly acquired Dairy Ashford office on St Mary's Lane, and the HGS website was upgraded to include more features. HGS sent AAPG funds for their new IBA student contest program. Steve Earle was Bulletin Editor and published an official statement that HGS supports academic science being taught in schools and not creation science. The Board met in person at the HGS office, and I think in-person meetings contributed to a sense of community and connectivity. Plus, we all remember some lighter moments and jokes. Luckily, the oil industry was picking up due to the "shale plays." HGS could add new members using a membership drive, and money was not too tight.

STEVE BRACHMAN 2006-2007

Advice

Figure out what you want to accomplish as HGS president, and go for it. Gain allies in your quest among the other board members. And—listen to them. Delegate, Delegate, Delegate.

DAVE RENSINK 2005-2006

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STEVE LEVINE 2004-2005

I enjoyed working with the many HGS volunteers who assisted in community events such as the science museum, a scholarship fundraiser dance and auction, a science fair, and the African-American cemetery restoration. My best moments include the HGS construction of a new white picket fence at the Evergreen Cemetery in the Third Ward, editor Art Berman's massive HGS Bulletin publications, and the help of so many wonderful volunteers.

CRAG DINGER 2003-2004

Advice

It helps to have some experience on the Board and in leadership positions so you learn how the Society functions and who is helping run the subgroups. The HGS is run from the bottom up, with the movers and shakers at the committee level. So, the Executive Board and I just facilitated the work done by all of our volunteers and ensured we could budget the activities.

DENISE STONE 2002-2003

It seems impossible that I was President of HGS 20 years ago. However, 2002-2003 was a great year, an enriching and positive experience. Good memories include my great Board, the positive words of the Legends Night Legends, the happiness of HGS Scholarship recipients and their families, and the professional growth of the members. I remember the challenge of selecting a topic for the monthly President's Column. Recently, I reviewed several of my old columns to see if what I said held together after 20 years. Here's a quote from the March 2003 column; "...as long as there is a world economy to fuel and no better energy source on the horizon, there will be need for oil and gas and the technical talents of petroleum geoscientists." Although each day brings new economic challenges for the industry, I believe this still holds. I sincerely congratulate HGS, my favorite society, on this 100th anniversary.

I'm retired and living in Centennial, Colorado. I volunteer on the Rocky Mountain Assoc of Geologists (RMAG) Field Trip Committee. I'm learning the geology of the very complicated Rocky Mountains.

PAUL HOFFMAN 2001-2002

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CRAIG MOORE 2000-2001

Advice

Find dynamic speakers with interesting exploration topics that will draw members to turn out in large numbers.

CHARLES A. STERNBACH 1999-2000

I focused on three major things: 1) creating Legends programs, 2) packing the house at technical meetings, and 3) growing the membership. Since 2000, HGS has held 12 Legends panels with more than 5,000 attendees. Our technical meetings averaged 220 attendees by focusing on discoveries, new plays, and technology. And we improved HGS membership from 3300 to almost 5,000 in the year 2000. I am grateful to countless volunteer leaders who have made me a better person. Service and Science at local, regional and global levels keeps me creative.

Advice

Foster a supportive culture and vision to inspire volunteers to create long-lasting initiatives. Use your President columns to publicly praise outstanding volunteers and contributors. During my term, I gave nearly 100 "hout-outs" to others that energized our EC and swelled the ranks of volunteers. Be courageous and act on initiatives that support our mission. Succession planning is important. I am proud that most of my Board members became HGS presidents with great accomplishments.

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HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MISSION STATEMENT
To enrich earth science through technical education, networking opportunities, and community service.

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

SLOGAN
A local geoscience society with global reach.
Greetings, Fellow Geoscientists, and HGS Members!

The Board of HGS officers and I thank you for supporting the Houston Geological Society with your membership and participation in the scheduled events. We also thank all the committee chairs and volunteers who helped us accomplish our mission. We encourage you to join us and reconnect with your local geological community. Finally, we thank our numerous sponsors who have generously supported HGS over the past year.

During the fiscal year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023), the board had three objectives to rebuild from the devastating effects of Covid-19. I am proud to say we achieved all three.

1. STABILIZE AND INCREASE MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

With new members trickling in monthly, we accomplished this goal, and our numbers appear to improve. The Houston Geological Society (HGS), as of mid-May 2023, had approximately 1760 members.

In addition to a limited telephone campaign, membership and membership renewals were promoted at the registration table at each event. We also instituted a QR code to facilitate the application/renewal process.

2. REBUILD OUR PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Rebuild by restoring face-to-face events, technical dinners, and Continuing Education classes, minimizing Zoom meetings, and working diligently to promote our social/fundraising events. We accomplished this goal. Our attendance numbers, while low by historical standards, appear to have stabilized. The number of individuals attending dinner meetings ranged from 22 to 68. We held our technical dinner meetings for all but two months. In addition to our long-standing Vendor Corner Sponsorship at dinner meetings, we instituted The President’s Table Sponsorship as a second dinner sponsorship opportunity to offset costs further. We also had at least one significant event every month. These combined events, our renewed understanding of costs, and our revised pricing structure contributed to our financial stability.

3. RETURN HGS TO FINANCIAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Our annual membership dues are excessively low, currently $36.00/year. According to the bylaws, dues increases are limited to 20 percent every two years. (The last dues increase was in April 2022). The low professional dues create a financial challenge to the HGS budget. The membership dues should be higher for our professional Society and one of its size. The low dues and the bylaws-limitation forced our leadership to look at alternatives to achieve financial sustainability. We discovered we needed to significantly raise our event pricing as costs have increased dramatically over the last three years. After determining what our actual costs were for each event, we priced the event in such a way as to cover our expenses, including our internal General and Administrative expenses (the cost of staff and maintaining a physical office). To our knowledge, the analysis of event-related GA expenses has never been performed. To track GA time/expenses by event, we instituted time sheets by our administrative staff and determined GA expenses on a person-hour basis. We still need more run time on the clock to use the time sheets effectively and to accurately project the administrative time for future events. However, our collected data will help the budgeting process this coming year. Even with the challenge of bylaw-constrained dues, we have achieved financial sustainability. By revising the prices of all in-person events (technical dinners, Continuing Education, and social) and limiting Zoom events, we may end the year close to a break-even position. Wherever we end up financially for the year, we should finish better than our beginning-of-the-year projection of an $80,000 deficit.

Significant Events that also contributed to our income stream (2022-23):

- Student Jobs Expo (09/19/22).
- Golf Tournament (10/17/22).
- Scholarship Night Dinner (2/13/23).
- Annual Crawfish-Shrimp Boil (4/21/23).
- Grand Canyon Field Trip (6/1/23).

I want to thank those members, board members, and sponsors for their efforts in achieving our goals. We can all be proud to be members of The Houston Geological Society and that we will be celebrating the Society’s 100th Anniversary this year.

Keep up the great work!

Walter S. Light, Jr.
President 2022-2023
Gerald A. Cooley Award Winners

The Houston Geological Society Executive Board recognizes that some outstanding HGS members continue to serve well above and beyond the call of duty. Some HGS members have received every recognition and accolade that the society offers. Of these, a few continue to generously donate a considerable amount of time and effort to the Society’s activities, volunteering for the routine, time-consuming, essential jobs that make the HGS run. The purpose of this award is to honor those rare few. It is intended to be the highest recognition given by the HGS and thus will seldom be presented. Because of his generous volunteer efforts through the years, Jerry Cooley embodies the philanthropy and graciousness that this award is meant to recognize.

A few words about Jerry Cooley: Jerry joined the Houston Geological Society (HGS) in 1953. He was elected treasurer in 1980-1981, secretary in 1981-1982, vice president in 1982-1983, president-elect in 1983-1984, and president of HGS in 1984-1985. He has chaired the Exhibits Committee and Office Management Committee. He received HGS Honorary Life Membership in 1987, the HGS Distinguished Service Award in 1993, and the HGS President’s Award in 1996. Because of his unique, unselfish, longtime commitment and service to the HGS, the Gerald A. Cooley Award was created in 1998, with Jerry being the first recipient in October 1998.

Gerald A. Cooley Memorial, Sharie Sartain and Dixie Cooley Hicks, AAPG Bull., V. 84, No. 1, pp. 151-152.

The Cooley Award is the highest recognition given by the HGS, and thus will seldom be presented.
### RISING STAR Awardees

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.

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Dana Morgan, Linda Sternbach</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Watkins</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Sharma Dronamaraju, Lee Shelton</td>
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<td>Andrea Adams, Janet Combes, Alison Henning, Kelly Latter, Kevin McVey</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Mike Barnes, Lee Backsen, Mike Cline, Stephanie Matthews, Bobby Perez</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Parrish Erwin, George Klein, Tom Miskelly Jr., Ken Nemeth</td>
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<td>Valdis Budrevics, Jennifer Burton, Sherrie Cronnin, Elizabeth Fisher, Jim Grubb, Natalie Uschner</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Mike Allison, Mike Jones, Frank Walles</td>
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<td>Matt Cowan, Dianna Phu</td>
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<td>Sameer Baral, Sharon Choens, Marc Fagelman, Paul Riegler, Wayne Xu</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Enrique Guasch, Steven Macalelo, Ellya Soudale, Michael Salazar</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Crystal Alavares, Taras Brynzdia, Sean Kimiagar</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Bryan Guzman, Cassee Lemons</td>
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<td>Rich Germano, Firas Jarrah, Ian McGlynn, Sydney Weitkunat</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>Nicole Arres, Judy Schulenberg, Tim Shane, Alicia Staszyc, Lisa Neelen</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Jeremy Andrews, Casey Langdon, Bryan Flynn, Rebecca Morgan, David Orchard, Mark Herkommer, Ceri Davies, Lauren Robinson, Jason Simmons, Marcus Zinecker</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>Jake Shultz, Lanette Marcha, Tiffany Kennedy</td>
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<td>Amanda Johnston, Mark Hamzat, Dorene West</td>
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<td>2023</td>
<td>Bryan Bottoms, Alexandra Price, Rachel Lishansky, Bryan Ott, Angel Callejon</td>
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### President’s Awardees

Each year certain individuals stand out for their efforts and/or their unique contributions to HGS. It is intended that this award be a small token of the president’s esteem and appreciation. In order for the award to maintain a high standard, no more than five awards are given in any one year and executive board approval is required.

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>David M. Eggleston, Cldve E. Harrison, John H. Hefner, Richard R. McLeod, John W. Sauri</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Marilyn M. Gruebel, George E. Kronman, Edward McFarlan, Jr., Santiago M. Reynolds, Cyrus Strong</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>F. Kenneth Aiken, Houston Geological Auxiliary, Claudia P. Ludwig, W. Don Neville</td>
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<td>Barbara P. Bentley, John M. Biancardi, William C. Eisenhardt, Bruce A. Falkenstein, Stephen G. Starr</td>
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<td>John Chronic, Sue van Gelder, Andrew Lattu, Jo Ann Locklin, Robert Rieser</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>John A. Adamick, David Fontaine, John Merritt Gorman, Jim Lantz, Martin J. Oldani</td>
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<td>Saul Aronow, Dwight (Clint) Moore, Doug Selvius, Pinar Yilmaz, Morad Malek-Aslani (Posthumously)</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Ann Ayers Martin, Paul Brit, Joe Eubanks, Annette Mather, Lynn Feldkamp</td>
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</table>

Continued on page 91
HGS HISTORY

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE Awardees

This award honors members who have rendered long-term valuable service to the society.

1979-80 Sabin W. Marshall, Edd R. Turner
1980-81 James A. Wheeler, Dewitt C. Van Siclen
1981-82 Clyde G. Beckwith
1982-83 Walter Boyd
1983-84 Dean Grafton
1984-85 Stewart Chuber, Anthony Reso
1985-86 Martha Lou Broussard
1986-87 John Amoruso
1987-88 John H. Hefner
1989-90 William F. Bishop, Carolyn Miracle Ross
1990-91 George Kronman
1991-92 Richard S. Bishop, Daniel L. Smith
1992-93 Charles R. Noll, Jr., Gerald Cooley
1993-94 Claudia Ludwig
1994-95 Cy Strong
1995-96 Dwight (Clint) Moore, John Biancardi
1996-97 Ann Ayers Martin
1997-98 James Ragsdale, Gregory Gregson, Paul Britt
1998-99 Ken Atiten, Daniel Bonnet, Jeffrey Lund, Deborah Sacrey
1999-00 John Adamick
2000-01 Sandi Barber, Steve Brachman, Charles Sternbach
2001-02 Bill Osten
2002-03 W. N. “Mac” McKinney, Bill Champion, Donald Scherer
2003-04 Larry Bartell, Al Danforth, Richard Howe, Inda Immega
2004-05 Craig Dingler, Linda Sternbach
2005-06 Paul Babcock, Steve Henry
2006-07 Glenn Lowenstein, Ken Nemeth
2007-08 Janet Combes, Cheryl DesForges
2008-09 Paul Hoffman, Frank Walles
2009-10 —
2010-11 Mike Deming, Steve Getz, Martha McRae, Rene Mott
2011-12 Marvin Smith, John Tubb, Mike Allison
2012-13 John Dombrowski, Patricia Santagrossi
2013-14 Martin Cassidy, Steve Earle, Dianna Phu, Scott Thorton
2014-15 Denise Stone
2015-16 Alison Henning (Posthumously), Sharon Choens, Mike Deming, Tom McCarroll, Bonnie Milne-Andrews, Dianna Phu, Robert Pledger, Shari Sartain, Thom Tucker
2016-17 Charles Revilla, Neal Immega, Weixin (Wayne) Xu
2017-18 Rosemary Laidacker, Evelyn Medvin, Carl Normam
2018-19 Matthew Cowan, Bill Dupre, Walter Light, Jr., Letha Slage, Sue Pritchett, Henry Wise
2019-20 Elliot Wall, Tarek Ghazi, Umesh Prasad
2020-21 —
2021-22 Casey Langdon, Ceri Davies, Dianna Phu, Elliot Wall, Michael Salazar, Sharie Sartain, Janet Combes, Martha McRae, Kenneth Mohn, Joe Lynch
2022-23 Cheryl DesForges

PRESIDENT’S Awardees

continued from page 90

2013 Paul Babcock, Michael Cameron, Linda Sternbach, David Tonner, Michael Van Horn
2014 Jennifer Burton, Donna Davis, Mike Forlenza
2015 Mike Erpenbeck, Christina Higgenbotham, John Jordan, Sue Pritchett, Dave Reynolds
2016 John Jordan, Larry Quandt
2017 Phil Towe, Tami B. Shannon, L. Taras Bryndzia, John Breyer
2018 Stephen Adeniran, Gustavo Carpio, Sean Kimiagar, Walter Light, John Tubb, Jr.
2019 —
2020 Casey Langdon
2021 —
2022 Steven Johansen, Sharon Choens, Steve Earle, Letha Slagle, Barbara Hill
2023 Paul Britt, Caroline Wachtman, Bill DeMis, Dianna Phu, Bruce Blake, Amanda Johnson, Lanette Marcha, Galen Threadgold, Michael Salazar

August 2023 Houston Geological Society 100th Anniversary Special Issue 91
**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Honorary Life Membership is one of the society’s most prominent awards. The Executive Board of the HGS elects from time to time persons to this honor who have distinguished themselves in the science of geology, or who have contributed outstanding service to the success and welfare of this organization.

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<td>*Ray C. Lewis</td>
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<td>*Albert G. Wolf</td>
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Houston Geological Society 100th Anniversary Special Issue

August 2023
<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PRESIDENT</th>
<th>PRESIDENT ELECT-VICE PRESIDENT</th>
<th>SECRETARY</th>
<th>TREASURER- TREASURER ELECT</th>
<th>EDITOR- EDITOR ELECT</th>
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<td>2023-24</td>
<td>Paul Britt</td>
<td>Penny Patterson, Linda Sternbach</td>
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<td>Walter Light</td>
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Continued on page 94
### HGS Leadership Through the Years

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Steven Thornhill</td>
<td>Tamara L. Braun</td>
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<td>1982-83</td>
<td>Peggy J. Rice</td>
<td>Matthew W. Daura</td>
<td>Gerald A. Cooley</td>
<td>Joan E. Carlson</td>
<td>Donald R. Scherer</td>
<td>Richmrdd S. Bishop</td>
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*(Prior to 1991, the HGS Bulletin Editor position was not a member of the Executive Board of Directors.)*
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<th>FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT</th>
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<th>TREASURER</th>
<th>EDITOR</th>
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<td>1974-75</td>
<td>Sabin W. Marshall</td>
<td>Anthony Reso</td>
<td>Stewart Chuber</td>
<td>E. Dunaway</td>
<td>Jeffrey V Morris</td>
<td>Bob Harris</td>
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<td>1960-61</td>
<td>William A. Gorman</td>
<td>Philip R. Allin</td>
<td>Benjamin T. Simmons</td>
<td>Clark Edgecomb, Jr.</td>
<td>Thomas M. Burke</td>
<td>W.R. Canada</td>
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YEAR | PRESIDENT          | FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT | SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT | SECRETARY | TREASURER  |
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<td>William A. Poe</td>
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<td>David B. Remick</td>
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Continued on page 96
### HGS LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS

*continued from page 95*

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Alva Ellison: Charter member, first vice president, and author of “Rockhounds of Houston: an Informal History of the Houston Geological Society” that covered the first 25 years.

Emma Jane Coffman Miller and John Miller, with son John C. Miller (circa 1930). The Millers were Charter members of the HGS and Mr. Miller served as president in 1937. Their son followed in the family footsteps and was a successful petroleum engineer. (Photo courtesy of Katherine King.)
<table>
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### HGS DIRECTORS  continued from page 97

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<td>Robert A. Harris</td>
<td>Howard W. Kiatta</td>
<td>M. M. (Ozzie) Osborne</td>
<td>Elgean C. Shield</td>
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<td>Martin M. Sheets</td>
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<td>Carey Croneis</td>
<td>Marion S. Roberts</td>
<td>Ben F. Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959-60*</td>
<td>Shirley L. Mason</td>
<td>Albert M. Tobert</td>
<td>Marion S. Roberts</td>
<td>James A. Wheeler</td>
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*Prior to 1960, the Executive Board of Directors was the Advisory Committee.

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Former presidents Barry Katz and James Ragsdale  
Former presidents Jon Blickwede and Cheryl Desforges
Office Managers and Directors

In Grateful Appreciation

By Charles Sternbach

We thank the HGS staff over many years for their cheerful demeanor with diligent efforts and for providing long-term continuity and balance to our organization.

During the last 25 years, many contributors like Annette Mather, Lilly Hargraves, Jackie Jordan, and Alyssa Cushing, to name a few, have contributed greatly to the success of HGS. We especially want to recognize our long-term office managers and directors who have anchored the society. We include previous write-ups about them in the HGS Bulletin and a few funny stories where available.

JOAN HENSHAW, 1997-2007

"Joan Henshaw is retiring this month after ten years of service to the HGS. Joan was born Joan Allen on October 1, 1936, in Georgetown, a little north of Austin, Texas. She was an only child raised by a father who tried his best not to spoil her. She grew up in Houston and Austin. Joan married in 1956 and had three girls: Debra, one of the top salespeople at Channel 11; Brenda, a marketing representative for Diamond Offshore Drilling; and Vicki, a home care specialist in Orlando, Florida. Joan has seven grandchildren. She continually worked while raising her children, first as a group secretary and then as a private secretary to one of the life insurance agents at Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. Joan then worked for Randall’s in the Group Insurance Department. She left there to work at Southern States Log Library for eight years. When Southern States and Gulf Coast log libraries merged in 1996, she applied for the HGS/GSH Office Manager position, which had just become available.

The team hiring Joan was Jeff Lund, Jim Ragsdale, and Deborah Sacrey, then the Office Management Committee chair. You might call Joan a real “survivor” because her apartment building burned to the ground less than a year after coming to work for the HGS, and she lost virtually everything she owned. The HGS helped raise money and goods to make her world whole again. A year later, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She managed to get through the Chemo and radiation therapies and still does her job for the HGS/GSH. Her biggest challenge now is to sell her condo and move to Lake Jackson to be with her long-time friend, Jack, whom she has known for 45 years. Retirement will be difficult for Joan, a very active person who has loved working with many HGS members in various capacities during her ten years at the office helm. We will all miss her." (Originally published in HGS Bulletin February 2007)

SANDRA BABCOCK 2007-2013


"Sandra brings more than 16 years of experience, having worked as an administrative assistant in the Laredo Community College, the Alief School District, and the Pregnancy Help Center-Katy/West Houston. Her skills and experience with Microsoft Office and QuickBooks will be put to use by both societies, as might her fluency in Spanish. In her “spare” time, Sandra has been extremely and actively involved as a volunteer in community and church functions.” (Originally published in HGS Bulletin April 2007)

Sandra has a daughter, a son and daughter-in-law, and one grandchild.

My funny story: When Charles Sternbach reached out to me and asked for a picture and a “funny story,” it was the funny story I struggled with. I have so many funny stories but one of my favorites is on my first day of work with HGS, I answered a phone call from a member that wanted me to help him with his login, certain event registration, and renewing his membership. Did I mention it was my first day of work (*smile*)? After completing each task, I asked the gentleman if I could further assist, and he said, “No, I just want to say your husband did well getting this job for you.” I said, “Excuse me, my husband?” He replied, “Yes, your husband, Paul,” to which I replied, “Sir, I don’t know who Paul is; my husband’s name is Jeffery.” The gentleman thought Paul Babcock was my husband. Paul has since become “my brother from another mother.” Thank you, HGS. I was very blessed and fortunate to have the privilege of serving such great people, many of which I get to call my friends.
HGS HISTORY

ANDREA (ANDI) PEOPLES, HGS EXECUTIVE OFFICE DIRECTOR, SINCE OCT 2014

Hometown: Juneau, Alaska

University: University of Alaska

Fun Facts: I used to “climb” rocks in Alaska…Does that make me a Geologist in training?

Quick Bio: I grew up in Juneau, Alaska, by way of Tennessee. I met my husband of 31 years at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. We moved to Texas in 1992. I am an avid hunter with a great deal of experience with gun and bow hunting. On the weekends, you can typically find me with my family at our deer lease—if you can find me in my camo ;). I have three daughters, including a chef who is a culinary instructor at a high school, a diesel mechanic turned mom, and a college senior at A&M. I am also very active with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as a member of the Transportation Committee. You could say I am a very busy lady. (Originally published Oct 2014).

Andi says, “I have seen many changes over the past 9 years in the industry and in the HGS membership. I have grown fond of all of you.”

We thank the HGS staff over many years for their cheerful demeanor and diligent efforts and for providing long-term continuity and balance to our organization.

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IF YOU CAN’T CATCH FISH YOU PROBABLY CAN’T FIND OIL

Houston Geological Society 100th Anniversary Special Issue August 2023
What the Future of HGS May Look Like
By Lauren Seidman Robinson

In my final year of graduate school at Baylor University, I joined the American Associate of Petroleum Geologists student chapters and the Geological Society of America. When I started my oil and gas career in Fort Worth with EOG Resources in the summer of 2007, I continued my relationship with those organizations as a professional (memberships I continue to hold today). It was not until I moved to Houston four years later (2011) and started working for Marathon Oil that I joined the Houston Geological Society (HGS). My goal was to support this local professional geology chapter and gain access to their technical publications. At the time, Marathon was located in the Galleria. I was working on an exceptionally active asset, making it difficult to attend the downtown HGS meetings during the workday and the west side meetings after work hours.

It was not until 2015, while working downtown for EP Energy that I began being a truly active member of HGS by attending luncheon meetings and continuing education courses. Between HGS and the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES) meetings (I mention SIPES because there is a substantial overlap between HGS and SIPES members), I have never met an assemblage of more friendly and supportive fellow geologists. The people are what kept me coming back.

As a result, I jumped at the opportunity to be a co-chair of the Social Media Committee in the fall of 2017. At the time, I intended to help the committee for a few months in their time of need. It is now the summer of 2023, and I am still going strong with Social Media. Additionally, I also volunteer on the Continuing Education committee. All in all, I never knew how rewarding it was to volunteer. I find giving back to HGS incredibly rewarding because of the caliber of its members. I have met some interesting people and made strong friendships since joining HGS. That is what I enjoy the most—the people. At a job and in life, the people make it or break it for me.

It is important to examine what changes HGS has experienced throughout the years as we contemplate the future. After all, examining the history of the earth and the processes that continue to change it is part of what we are good at as geologists. Throughout the next 100 years, there will undoubtedly be lots of changes. And, as much as we might speculate, there is no way to know what they will be.

For HGS, let's blend what we have done successfully in the past and welcome the changes that technological advances will inevitably bring. It would be wonderful to continue having both in-person and virtual meetings. Virtual meetings are an effective way to get the technical information across to a large local group (especially given the traffic situation here in Houston) and engage with colleagues across the United States and globally. Even so, nothing can replace the excitement and energy of in-person meetings as they are not just about meeting people and “getting a job” but about continuing to build that supportive network for the rest of one’s career. As we all can appreciate, a good mentor can mean everything and does not even need to be part of a formal program. Finally, in-person meetings are also a great way to engage volunteers.

In closing, we must change with the times (e.g., social media and apps). This change will make us attractive to younger prospective members and show that we are not a collection of “old and intimidating” professionals stuck in our ways but a young and vivacious group willing to lean into change. No matter what, let’s continue to focus on what we are passionate about—geology. ■
HGS 100th Anniversary Gala
Sponsorship Opportunities

All levels receive recognition at the event (verbal, in the program, and signage), on HGS website, and with the recap in the HGS Bulletin.
Please submit company logo (jpg) for recognition

Sponsorship will still be accepted after the Gala. HGS has many opportunities to make a difference, including our outstanding Scholarship Funds

GOLD $10,000
Includes a table for 8 with tickets

SILVER $5,000
Includes a half table with 4 tickets

BRONZE $2500
Included 2 tickets

FOUNDERS $1000
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