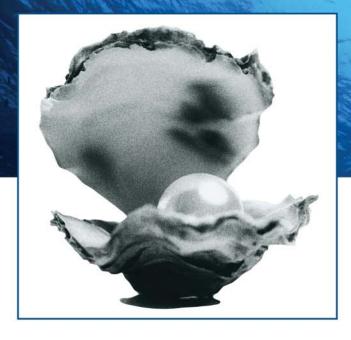


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# The Bulletin Houston Geological Society

Volume 51, Number 1 September 2008

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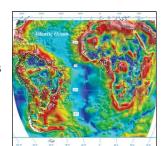
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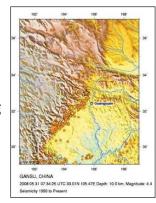
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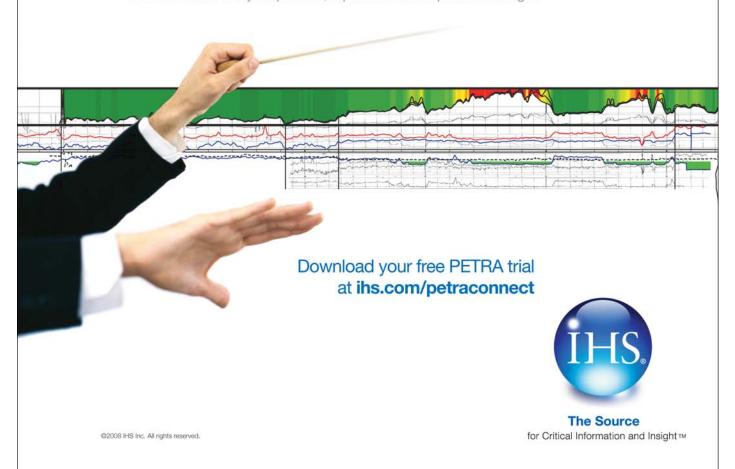
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Government Affairs         Arlin Howles Henry Wise         281-808-8629         tidenv@sbcglobal.net         D4           Guest Night         Bill Osten         281-242-7190         biln minwise@yahoo.com         D2           Houston Energy Council         Sandi Barber         713-935-7830         sbarber@seismicmicro.com         D4           HGA/HPAC         Norma Jean Jones         281-497-3857         normajiones@scs.com         S           International Explorationists         Justin Vanden Brink         281-877-9400         vandenbrink@rpsgroup.com         VP           Ad Hoc Int'l Year of Planet Earth         Ralph Baird         713-461-1784         ralph@bairdusa.com         D3           Membership         Steve Levine         713-624-9723         steve.d.levine@concoophillips.com         S           Membership Growth         Linda Sternbach         281-679-7333         linda.sternbach@gmail.com         D2           Museum of Natural Science         Inda Immega         713-661-3494         immega@swbell.net         D3           Nee Geos         Cecelia Baum         713-699-4406         sea2strasegmail.com         D           New Publications         Bill Rizer         281-679-7333         linda.sternbach@gmail.com         P           North American Explorationists         Steve Getz         713-			Mark Dennis				
Henry Wise   281-242-7190   hmwise@yaĥoo.com   D4			Arlin Howles				
Guest Night         Bill Osten         281-293-3160         bill.w.osten@concophillips.com         D2           Houston Energy Council         Sandi Barber         713-935-7830         sbarber@esimicmicro.com         D4           HGA/HPAC         Norma Jean Jones         281-497-3857         normajones@cs.com         S           Justy Wood         713-977-7319         daisymallia@sbcglobal.net         S           International Explorationists         Justin Vanden Brink         281-877-9400         vandenbrink@rpsgroup.com         VP           Ad Hoc Int'l Year of Planet Earth         Ralph Baird         713-461-1784         ralph@bairdusa.com         D3           Membership         Steve Levine         713-624-9723         steve.d.levine@concophillips.com         S           Membership Growth         Linda Sternbach         281-679-7333         linda.sternbach@gmail.com         D2           Museum of Natural Science         Inda Immega         713-268-5238         cecelia.baum@maersk.com         S           NeoGeos         Cecelia Baum         713-269-4406         sea2stars@gmail.com         D1           New Publications         Bill Rizer         281-392-0613         rizerwd@gmail.com         D1           Norminations         Linda Sternbach         281-679-7333         linda.sternbach@gmail.com			Henry Wise	281-242-7190			D4
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# It's Time to Renew Your HGS Membership

# Your membership expired June 30, 2008



Annual dues are only \$24.00 Full-time students and Emeritus members pay \$12.00

# Check your email for a reminder notice and renew online at www.hgs.org

Alternately, you may fill out this form and return with your remittance—include your CURRENT EMAIL (important)

Full-time students enrolled in a qualified geology program may be eligible to have their \$12.00 membership fee subsidized; details will be available on the HGS website soon.

Name:		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Member No.:	Type: Active	Associate Em	neritus Full-time Student
Current Email:			
Preferred Address for HGS mail and <i>Bulletin</i> :			
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Phone:		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
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Send check and form to: HGS Office, HGS Mem or fax this form with credit card number to 281-0 PAYMENT  Check #	679-5504		
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Name on Credit Card:			
Daytime Phone number of Card Holder:			
Billing Address for Card:			
City, State and Zip:			



Kara Bennett

# From the President

# HGS Looks Forward to a Busy Year

This conference, alternating

between Houston and London.

has become "the place to be"

for anyone working in Africa.

We are at the start of another HGS year, and what a year it will be! Stepping into my new role as president, I am amazed at the scope of the events we do, and honored to be walking in the footsteps of so many capable presidents that have come before me.

This will be a year of abundant technical information. It seems to

me that the pace of information keeps getting a little quicker, and I'm glad to be able to attend symposia that sum it all up and keep me up to date.

Even the summer has been busy—the July Ethics talk held jointly between HGS and SIPES was an enormous success, and Technofest '08, ably coordinated by

Deborah Sacrey, sold out. Our Student Summer Intern party at Technofest may become an annual event, welcoming Houston's student interns into our community and the HGS.

We will be starting off the Fall with the HGS/PESGB Africa Conference, September 8-10. This conference, alternating between Houston and London, has become "the place to be" for anyone working in Africa. It is well worth attending.

October 4-6 will be the GCAGS annual meeting. This year the meeting will be at the George R. Brown Convention Center jointly with the annual GSA and Tri-Societies meetings. As a member of HGS, you are already a member of GCAGS. You can attend just the two days of GCAGS talks or the full five days of joint-meeting technical talks. Be sure to register as a GCAGS member, though, because only member-registrants will get their free copy of the GCAGS transactions and an invitation to attend the President's party, which will be a fun just-for-members event costing you less than a draft beer. Also, be sure to participate in the enormous slate of short courses and field trips, organized by our HGS members as the host society. This has been a terrific organization effort by our own Leta Smith (short courses) and Gary Moore (field trips) with a great deal of help from Richard Howe.

September's HGS talks look to be exciting as well. Our General Dinner meeting speaker Nansen Saleri will talk about a subject dear to all our hearts, peak oil and the role of national oil companies. As former head of reservoir management for Aramco and current president and CEO of Quantum Reservoir Impact, he should have a lot to say. The International Group talk will be about integrating geochemistry to identify trap potential on the

unexplored south flank of the Santos Basin in Brazil, by William Dickson and Craig Shiefelbein. I always enjoy learning about new ways to integrate different kinds of data into a useable whole, so I am looking forward to this one.

This year will be a shaley one. We will start off with the Northsiders, who will hear

Jeffrey Nunneley's talk about measuring gas-in-place in the Barnett Shale at their September meeting. Then it is a two-part series at the September and October Luncheons by Stephen Trammel on "Hot US plays: Mostly Shale." This one was standing room only in San Antonio, and I am looking forward to hearing the talk since I missed it there. Mr. Trammel will be back with Part 2 in October. And, in February, we are working on a sequel to last year's very successful Mudstones Conference organized by Frank Walles.

And now, we have a couple of administrative notes. This year, HGS is going to an all paid-ahead system of reservations on the web site for the general meetings. Over the years, we have consistently lost money through no-shows at our meetings—we make very little over our costs on the dinners and lunches, and one or two no-shows can make the difference between a profit and a loss on some meetings. So we are reluctantly moving to a pay-ahead system. If you are not sure ahead of time if you will be able to attend, you may still be able to attend as a walk-up for most meetings, but the organization will not lose money paying for your meal if you are not able to make it at the last minute. For those folks who do not use the web, the office staff is cheerful and willing to help you pre-register to attend.

From the President continued on page 9

# HGS GOLF TOURNAMENT

# Monday – September 15, 2008 Kingwood Country Club

# COME CHECK OUT OUR FASTER PACE OF PLAY & BIGGER SELECTION OF DOOR PRIZES!



Come out and join us for golf, food, friends and fun at the annual HGS Golf Tournament at Kingwood Country Club. This year's format will be a four man scramble, with three flights determined by handicap. First, second, and third place awards (blind draw for 3rd place) will be awarded for each flight. There will be prizes awarded for closest to the pin (4 holes per course) and long drive (3 holes per course) as well as many great door prizes and raffle prizes for participants.

The entry fee is \$125.00 per person or \$500.00 per team on entries received before August 29th and \$150.00 per person or \$600.00 per team on entries received after August 29th. Individual entries will be grouped with other individual golfers to make a foursome. Entries are limited and will be accepted on a first-in basis.

Companies or individuals interested in sponsoring the event should contact Mark Dennis at 281-494-2522 (office), 281-705-4346 (cellular) or by faxing the HGS office at 281-679-5504.

**To enter,** fill out the entry form at the bottom of this page and mail or fax with your entry fee (payable to **HGS Entertainment Fund**) to:

### **HGS Office**

14811 St Mary's Lane, Suite 250 • Houston, TX 77079 713-463-9476 (office), 281-679-5504 (fax)

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Registration and free use of driving range

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Optional lunch 11:45 a.m. Shotgun start

4:45 p.m. Cash bar, open buffet 5:30 p.m. Dinner with awards presentation



Name	Phone	Amount Enc	losed
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Billing Address			
Credit card #			
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2.			
3			
4			
Foursome Captain's e-mail			



Michael Forlenza, PG hgs.forlenza@gmail.com

# New Editor, New Feature, and The Price of Energy

What's next for the price

of energy? There is no

shortage of opinions. The

only certainty is that the

price will remain

volatile.

The September *Bulletin* kicks off the 2008 – 2009 year for the Houston Geological Society. As the new editor of the *Bulletin*, I plan to continue to provide our members with the quality publication that previous editors have delivered. I hope that you look forward to receiving the *Bulletin* and take some time to read through the information on the upcoming activities and meetings.

September will start off an exciting fall for the Society. The African Conference, co-sponsored by the HGS and the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain, returns to Houston with the

theme, "Opportunity from Coast to Coast." This will be the 7th annual African Conference. It will be held at the Marriott Houston Westchase on September 8th to 10th.

As September draws to a close, activities will be ramping up for the joint convention of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, Geological Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America from October 5th to 9th. The HGS is the host

society for this huge conference that will draw geoscientists from across the U.S. and around the globe. Many volunteers are needed; check the HGS website for contact information to find out what you can do to help.

Make an effort to attend one of these conferences or one of the technical meetings this fall, it will be time well spent.

### New Feature — Geologic Website of the Month

Over the next several months, the *Bulletin* will feature websites of interest to geologists. The internet has developed into an extensive resource and repository for a wide range of information. This includes an abundance of geologic, regulatory, and mapping information found on many governmental, educational, society, and industry websites. For many geologists, online resources have become indispensable tools for our jobs. Information that once

required a visit to an academic library can now be retrieved in minutes on any computer with an internet connection. While I still enjoy the tactile sensation of handling a well-crafted book and the accidental discoveries that come from a trip to the stacks, the internet has the powerful advantages of convenience, speed, and searchability.

The scope and breadth of the available geologic information on the internet is staggering. Enter the word "geology" into a search engine and more than 33 million websites are found. Whether you

are interested in geology career opportunities, current events, images of volcanoes, or planetary science, you will find useful information. Do you remember the difference between the orthorhombic and the tetragonal crystal systems? Which is coarser a greywacke or a flysch? Who was Georges Cuvier? The answers to these questions, and to questions you may not have even asked, are out there.

Each installment of this feature will present a brief tour of a selected geology website. Some

of these websites will be straightforward sources of data while others will be more of a pleasant or interesting diversion. The month, the website of the United States Geological Survey is featured.

### The Price of Energy

Unless you have spent the last 12 months working in NORAD's underground bunker or living as a hermit on a remote mountain, you are aware of the recent rise in the price of energy. This summer, gasoline pushed past \$4 per gallon in the U.S. and the price of light sweet crude surged beyond \$147 per barrel in July. While the price has moderated since then, with the price of crude oil falling to approximately \$125 per barrel at press time, the oil market remains tremendously volatile. The price of oil soared five-fold between the start of the Iraq war in 2003 and July 2008, and nearly tripled in the 18 months after January 2007 when a barrel of crude cost \$50.48. (see the chart below)

From the Editor continued on page 9

## Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies & Gulf Coast Section of SEPM





# CALL FOR PAPERS

**58th Annual Convention** October 6th - 7th, 2008 Houston, Texas





The Houston Geological Society is proud to host the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting GSA/SSSA/ASA/CSSA/GCAGS/GCSSEPM. This joint meeting, which will run from October 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, will include GCAGS sessions on Monday October 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup>. GCAGS needs your assistance to continue our long tradition of presenting the best in geoscience from the Gulf Coast and then publishing these materials in the "GCAGS Transactions". We want you to be part of this tradition by submitting a contribution to our technical program and the "2008 GCAGS Transactions"

### **REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE \$\$\$**

The 2008 convention will differ from the usual format in several ways, because it will be a joint meeting with GSA. Note, in particular, that professional registration for the full meeting will be \$340 (\$400 on-site) but that the GCAGS activities will be confined to the first two days of the technical sessions (Monday-Tuesday, October 6 and 7) with a two-day registration fee of \$250 (\$275 on-site). In addition, a special "Early Bird" registration fee is available for one week starting June 1, of \$225 for the two days of GCAGS activities. Go to www.gcags2008.com. It's not too late to submit an abstract/paper!

### **TECHNICAL SESSIONS (Oral & Poster)**

**Energy Budgets & the Global Markets** Applied Micropaleontology **Shale Gas** 

**Hydrates and Shallow Gas** 

**Integrated Pore Pressure Predictions: Case Studies** 

Geology of the Gulf Coastal Plain: Insights into Offshore Exploration

Faults: Friend and Foe

Allochthonous Salt: Impact from Exploration to Production

**Visualization of Depositional Systems** 

Predictive Models for Deep-Water Reservoir Distributions: The Subsalt Challenge Old Fields-New Life: How New Technologies or New Ideas Have Made a Difference Advances in Seismic Imaging-Impact on Exploration through Production: Case Studies Depositional Systems: Insights from Outcrops, Shallow Seismic, or Coastal Studies

**Uncertainty Assessment & Its Impact on Decision Making Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain Paleontology** 

### **Environmental Geology & Hydrology**

### **HOW AND WHEN TO SUBMIT:**

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are due by June 3, 2008 to www.acsmeetings.org/2008, with final manuscripts due by June 24. Contact information for the technical session chairs, as well as instructions for authors for 2008 GCAGS Transactions, can be found at the GCAGS website, www.gcags2008.org. Please contact the individual session chairs listed on our website to notify them of your interest and reserve a spot in the technical program. For general questions on the technical program please contact Dr. Art Donovan, the 2008 GCAGS Technical Program Chair. He can be contacted via e-mail at: art.donovan@bp.com.

### From the President continued from page 5

It is also time to double-check to make sure you have renewed your membership for this year. Every year in October, the members who have not renewed yet (the renewals went out at the beginning of the summer, y'all...) will be dropped from our membership rolls, and the number of people who fall off the list is appallingly large. Very often people just forget, so do yourself a favor and check your membership now. If you have changed your employer or address, you can update that information on the

website while you are there, and perhaps make a contribution to

the HGS scholarship funds (HGS Foundation for undergraduates, Calvert Memorial for graduate students-both are tax deductible) if you're feeling lucky to be a geologist in this boom

Remember the old bumper sticker... "Please God let me have another oil boom—I promise I won't \*\*\*\* it all away this time..." I'm feeling remarkably lucky these days. ■

### From the Editor continued from page 7

The rise of the price of oil has been stunning, leading to wideranging repercussions. Oil company CEOs have been called before congress to provide an explanation for the rapid price increases. Truckers and fishermen across Europe have gone on strike, blocking roads and ports. The crippled airline industry has added baggage fees and surcharges, slashed service, and laid off thousands of workers under the staggering weight of billions of dollars of additional fuel costs. The sales of new cars and trucks fell to a 10-year low in June.

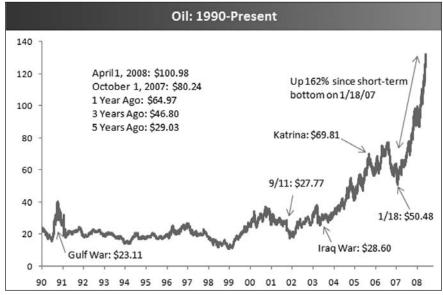
The rapid run-up in the price of a vital resource like oil sets off the search for a culprit. Who is to blame? Grandstanding politicians and media pundits wring their hands and point to a host of perpetrators, citing a new villain each week. The accused and the charges have included:

- · Speculators Rapacious financial traders are subverting the natural marketplace and reaping billions in profits. Speculators, such as hedge funds and investment bankers, are using loopholes in commodities law to manipulate the market and drive crude oil, heating oil, gasoline, and diesel fuel prices to record highs.
- · China and India The insatiable thirst for fuel from the burgeoning Chinese and Indian economies is stressing the global supply of oil leading to shortages.
- Environmentalists Liberals and tree-huggers in the United States have tied the hands of oil companies by blocking exploration and development of the vast untouched reserves of oil under wilderness areas in Alaska and off the east coast of the U.S.

• The Dollar — The weak dollar makes imported crude more

expensive and drives up commodity prices, including oil, as investors seek a hedge against the falling greenback.

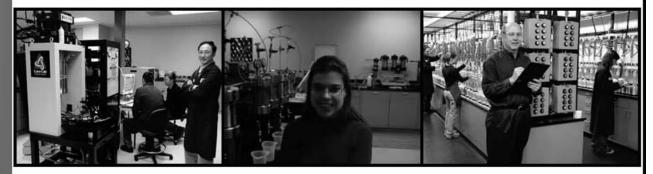
- Nigerian Rebels Violent rebel groups have destroyed pipelines and related infrastructure hampering oil production in this OPEC nation. Over the past two years, these attacks have lowered Nigeria's typical daily oil output by a quarter.
- Iran The escalating political and military tensions between the West and Iran, the fourth largest oil producer, is destabilizing the energy market. A potential conflict with Iran could lead to the closing of the critical supply route though the strategic Strait of Hormuz.



The price of light sweet crude in U.S. dollars from 1990 to 2008. Source: Bespoke Investment Group (http://bespokeinvest.typepad.com)

From the Editor continued on page 11

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### From the Editor continued from page 9

- Peak Oil The view that world oil production will soon peak, and a long, slow, irreversible production decline will follow. This is the *bête noir* of the oil industry.
- Barak Obama A recent John McCain campaign ad indicates that the junior senator from Illinois is the cause for high gasoline prices.
- Space Aliens Okay, I have not read that space aliens are causing the increase in price of oil, but this cause has as much credibility as some of the others.

Which of these is the real cause for the increase in the price of oil? Take your pick, mix and match if you would like. The reality is that some combination of these factors is affecting the price. There is no consensus on where the price of oil is heading from here.

The investment bank CIBC World Markets issued a report in June that predicted \$7 per gallon gasoline in the U.S. and \$200 per barrel oil by 2010. The International Energy Agency, the Paris-based advisor to the governments of industrialized countries, predicted in a June 2008 report that the world demand for oil should continue to climb, despite the doubling of oil prices and weakening economic growth. The report forecasts that a small decline in oil demand in the industrialized countries will be more than offset by an estimated increase in demand in developing countries. By 2013, oil demand in developing countries will account for nearly 49 percent of total global demand, the report said, compared with 36 percent as recently as 1996.

Yet, despite these dire forecasts, \$100 per barrel by 2010 seems as likely as \$200. There does not seem to be any shortage of gasoline. There are no lines at the pumps in the U.S. as there were during the price shocks and embargos of the 1970s when lines of cars snaked around the block and gasoline was rationed based on an odd-and-even license plate system. There is no shortage of \$145 per barrel oil, but there is not much \$45 per barrel oil.

Americans have enjoyed moderate fuel prices for decades compared to most industrialized nations. Since World War II, these moderate prices have supported an unprecedented expansion in affluence and mobility. This affordable mobility led to a huge expansion of the highway system and the sprawl of American cities. The number of vehicle miles driven per day increased from less than one billion in 1945 to more than eight billion in 2005. However, in April 2008, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced the sixth consecutive monthly decline in the number of miles driven in the

U.S. The Federal Highway Administration reported that vehicle miles traveled on roads throughout the country dropped by 2.3 percent in the first quarter of this year and that Americans drove 9.6 billion fewer miles in May 2008 than in May 2007.

When I worked for Texaco International Exploration in Bellaire the 1980s, we hosted a group of four geoscientists from China and their non-technical interpreter. This was their first visit to the U.S. and their first time out of China. I provided part-time chaperone duties to help them adjust to Houston. One day, while taking the group out for lunch, the interpreter asked, "Michael, why do all the cars have only one person in them?" One person per car must have looked very peculiar to these visitors. In the 1980s, China had virtually no private vehicles and most people used bicycles as their primary transportation. I did not have a ready answer to his question, but after some hesitation, I said, "Because we like it that way and we can afford it."

There is a great freedom to ownership of a private vehicle allowing individuals to go when and where they please. With a growing affluence, now the Chinese can afford their own cars and they want them. Private car ownership in that country, the world's fastest growing auto market, has risen from less than one million to more than 10 million between 1992 and 2008, according to China's National Bureau of Statistics. The growth of the number of private vehicles in developing countries is sure to continue.

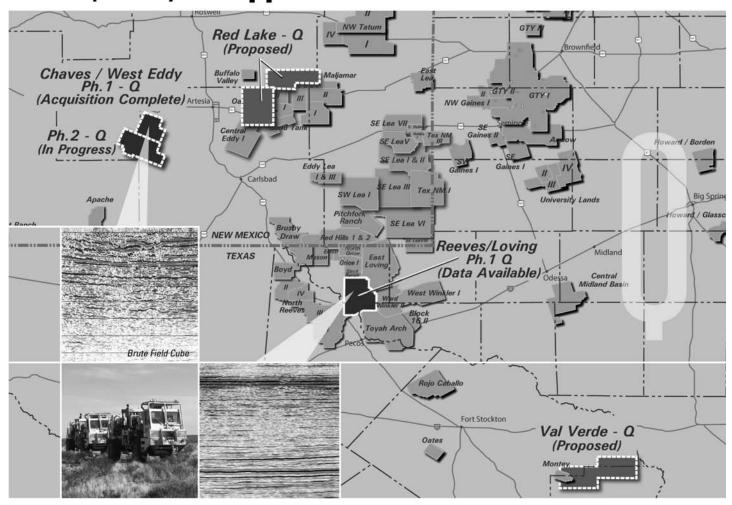
Is the growth in the energy supply needed for these additional millions of vehicles and growing economies sustainable? Or, is it perhaps time for a new paradigm? Oil billionaire T. Boone Pickens thinks that it is. In July, Mr. Pickens proposed a two-part alternate energy plan to the U.S. Senate Homeland and Security and Government Affairs Committee. The first part involves the production of 22 percent of the U.S. electrical energy needs from a \$1.2 trillion investment in wind power. The second part calls for a federal mandate to shift Americans away from gasoline-fueled cars and trucks to vehicles fueled by natural gas.

What's next for the price of energy? There is no shortage of opinions. The only certainty is that the price will remain volatile. Will gasoline rise to \$7 per gallon within a year? Probably not. However, \$1 per gallon gasoline is not coming back.

### Correction

In the "50 Years Ago" column on Page 7 of the June 2008 *Bulletin*, the name M. King Hubbard was spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is M. King Hubbert.

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# Africa: "Opportunity from Coast to Coast" PES&GB



### The 7th HGS/PESGB International Conference on African E & P Marriott Westchase Houston Hotel, Grand Pavilion Room September 8th -9th -10th, 2008

### REGISTER online at www.hgs.org or at the Door

### SCHEDULE:

- Monday Sept. 8, 4-8 PM -Registration and OPENING RECEPTION In Exhibits Area, Grand Pavilion Foyer (complimentary refreshments)
- Tuesday Sept 9, -Registration 7:30-5 8AM Continental Breakfast Talks 9AM -5 PM (North, South and East Africa) -Grand Pavilion Reception 5-8 PM Grand Pavilion Foyer (complimentary refreshments)
- Wednesday Sept 8, -Registration 7:30-1 8AM Continental Breakfast

Talks 9AM -5 PM (West Africa and South Atlantic)

Don't miss the opening reception! Monday Evening

Generous support of the sponsors provides lunch on both days, and complementary refreshments at two receptions in the Exhibits area.

Proceedings will be distributed on CD.

The conference series, organized by members of the International Group of Houston Geological Society (HGS) and Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB) covers all aspects of African E&P, with particular emphasis on new ideas for plays and prospects, the geology of the continent and its conjugate margins, and application emerging technologies.



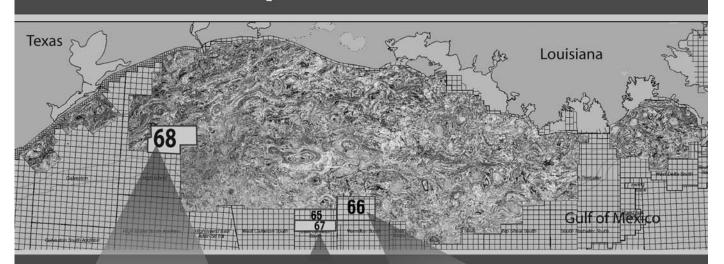
Opportunity from Coast to Coast

### Latest details available at www.HGS.org in the Event Calendar for 8-10 September

Hotel Discounts are available from link at HGS website.

Conveners include Al Danforth, Ian Poyntz, Martin Cassidy, John Dombrowski, Dave Schwartz, Tarek Ghazi, John Tubb, Ray Bate and Duncan Macgregor.

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# Africa: "Opportunity from Coast to Coast" PES&GB



### The 7<sup>th</sup> HGS/PESGB International Conference on African E & P Preliminary Program (August 1 2008)

Monday Sept 8	4-8 PM -Opening Reception and early check in	
Tuesday Sept9	9-5 -Talks, 5-8 Reception	
Wednesday Sept 10	9-5 -Talks	

TALKS:	Authors
Session 1: Regional and Overview (Tuesday)	
The Blank Space on the Map	R. Fryklund - IHS
The Pre-Rift fit of Africa and South America: Guinea Plateau to Falkland	C. Scotese, Paleomap Project, Arlington
Islands.	Texas & A. Danforth, Consultant
Session 2: NORTH AFRICA (Tuesday)	
Reconstructing the Ghadames-Illizi Petroleum System of North Africa	Michael Bourne, et.al BP, London,
Play Types and Hydrocarbon Potential of the Obaiyed Offshore Block, Egypt	Bernhard Novotny and Gabor Tari, OMV
Fluvio-lacustrine sedimentation in an intracratonic rift system, Upper Sarir Sandstone Fm, East Sirt Basin, Libya	Zbynek Veselovsky, Thomas Weihe, Szczepan J. Porebski, Bernd Frommherz, Stefano Dellepiane; Eriksfiord AS, Norway, Polish Academy of Sciences and Wintershall
Session 3: East and South Africa (Tuesday)	
The Late Jurassic – Recent Evolution of the Southern African Landscape	Markwick, P. J. and M.C. Raddadi, GETECH
Offshore Tanzania: An exciting new DW play in East Africa	Richard Higgins* and Andy Oldham, Ophir Energy
Crustal Structure and Petroleum Systems- East Africa and Madagascar	Al Danforth et.al, GX Technology
Understanding the Spatial and Temporal Evolution of the Upper Slope and Shelf Edge: the Key to Deepwater Sand-Shale Distribution.	Richard Wild, Chevron Energy Technology Company
Deep-Water Coarse- and Fine-Grained Sediments and What Seismic	Bouma, Arnold H., Texas A&M University
Analyses May Overlook	Boarna, Arriola III., Foxab Alain Oliverolly
The East African Rift System – a GIS exploration approach.	Pather A, Hutchinson IP and Lawrence SR, RPS Energy
Session 4: WEST AFRICA I Gulf of Guinea (Wednesday)	
Seismic Definition of the Volta Fan Hydrocarbon System, Eastern Ghana	Ken Nibbelink, Devon Energy and John Robbins, Afren PLC
Is Orca the next Jubilee?"	Christopher H. Bradley, Michael Neese & Robert Schaefer, Vanco Energy Company
3D Technologies employed in Integrated Exploration of the Tano/Ivorian Basin.	Robert Schaefer, Christopher H. Bradley, & Michael Neese, Vanco Energy Company
New Insights Into Petroleum Systems Of Equatorial Guinea	Andrew MORT, Chris CORNFORD, Steve LAWRENCE, Abhen PATHER, RPS Energy
Characteristics of Great Fan Plains of Offshore Nigeria, Gulf of Mexico and Comparison to East Africa from Long Offset, PSDM Data	Barbara J. Radovich, ION/GX Technology and Dynamic Global Advisors
Seismic Sequence Stratigraphic Analysis, Interpretation and Correlation of Wells in Africa.	Walter W. Wornardt, MICRO-STRAT INC
Session 5: WEST AFRICA II South Atlantic and Salt Basin	
New Ideas on Syn-Rift Plays in the South Atlantic	Ian Davison
Building the basin from the bottom-up: The role of antecedent structures	Steve Geetan and Boyd Handley, El Paso
in pre-rift reservoir deposition, rift faulting and subsequent reservoir alteration from fault borne fluids, diagenesis, and multiple episodes of	Corporation
hydrocarbon charge in the Camamu Basin, Brazil South Atlantic margin rift basin asymmetry and implications for pre-salt exploration	Joe Versfelt, El Paso Corporation
Onshore-offshore Correlation of Reservoir Sands: A Paleodrainage Assessment Model for Angola	Lauren P. Birgenheier, Greg D. Nash, Marylin P. Segall, Energy & Geoscience Institute
Seismic stratigraphy and seismic geomorphology of a slope depositional environment – case study from offshore Angola, West Africa	H. W. Posamentier, N. Drinkwater*, J. Clark, A. Fildani, T. McHargue, M. Pyrcz, B. Romans, M Sullivan Chevron
Cuvette Centrale the Last Frontier for Giant Oil & Gas Fields	Marcio R. Mello, et al., HRT Petroleum
3D beam prestack depth migration with examples from West Africa	John W.C. Sherwood, Kevin Sherwood, Hans Tieman, Karl Schleicher*, Applied Geophysical Services (a PGS company)





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# Africa: "Opportunity from Coast to Coast" PES&GB



### The 7<sup>th</sup> HGS/PESGB International Conference on African E & P Preliminary Program (August 1 2008)

POSTERS:	Authors			
A unique opportunity to better understand the Petroleum Systems of the Sirt Basin, Libya.	Thomson, J.E., Keegan, C.R. and Boutoutaou, D., Fugro Robertson			
New technology to enhance the Stratigraphic definition of the Nubian section of the Sirte Basin, Libya	Metters, S.J., Wellsbury, P., Jarvis, E.P., Smith, G.T. and Spence G., Fugro Robertson.			
Use of borehole imaging in reservoir modeling: an example from Late Miocene fan delta successions in the Nile delta (Egypt)	N. Capuzzo, B. Callaghan, Task Geoscience Ltd and J. Peck and M. McGonigal, Melrose Resources Plc			
The potential of the Central African rift basins	Mohamed Zine IHS Energy-Petroconsultants			
Coasting into the Past: Atlantic Plate Reconstructions Tested with G4 Data	William Dickson, Craig Schiefelbein and Mark Odegard			
Petroleum system characterization in a Brazilian basin: the importance of seismic and well constraints on basin modeling results	Amanda Wilson and Tim Wright, El Paso Corporation			
The Determination of Basement Configuration for Geologic Understanding of Gabon's Tectonic Framework	David M. Schwartz, Jeffrey Rowe, Serguei Goussev, and Afif Saad, Fugro			
Application of Supercritical Fluid Extraction Technique to Geochemical Evaluation of Niger Delta Sedimentary Organic Rocks	Akinsehinwa Akinlua* and Nelson Torto; *University of the Western Cape and University of Botswana			
Interpretation & Distribution of Geological Information in the Geospatial Environment	James S. Cokinos, Vsevolod I. Egorov, J. Robert Vivian, John W. Haney and Gordon W. Shields Fugro Robertson Inc.,			
Rational Methods to Focussing Resources in New Venture Exploration in Africa	Matthew Taylor and Pedro Baptista, RIG Ltd			
Dual-Sensor Streamer - Deeper towing for less weather downtime and better imaging on 2D and 3D Marine Seismic surveys offshore Africa	Per Eivind Dhelie, Edward von Abendorff, Eiving Fromyr, Andrew Long, Petroleum Geo-Services			
Seismic Response Modeling of a Tight Gas Reservoir in the Bredasdorp Basin	Wesley Scott and Fred Hilterman University of Houston and PetroSA			
Reservoir Characterization of the Niger Delta Gas Sands	Vincent Mashaba and John Castagna, PetroSA and University of Houston			
Tuning Effect on AVO Intercept and Gradient and their Cross-Plots Using Pre-Stack Wedge Models	Sbonelo NgCongo, John Castagna, George Smith, and Andrew Dippenaar University of Houston, PetroSA, and University of Cape Town			
Professional Programs in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Houston	Don Van Nieuwenhuise, University of Houston			
Holes in the Surface of the Sea; Major Sub-aerial Basins Below Sea Level	Dr. Martin M. Cassidy University of Houston			

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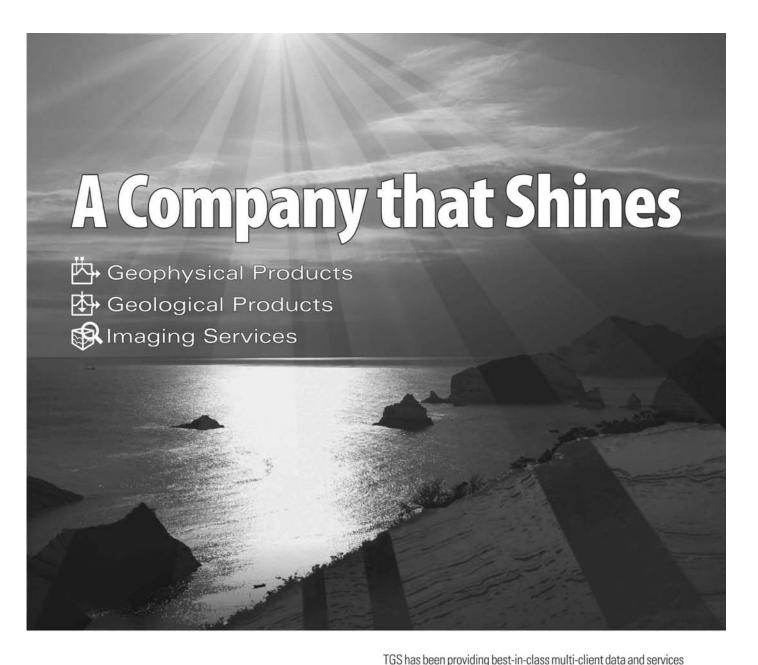
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### Monday, September 8, 2008

Westchase Hilton • 9999 Westheimer Social Hour 5:30–6:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$28 Preregistered members; \$35 non-members & walk-ups

To guarantee a seat, you must pre-register on the HGS website and pre-pay with a credit card.

Pre-registration without payment will not be accepted.

You may still walk up and pay at the door, if extra seats are available.

# HGS General Dinner Meeting

Dr. N. G. Saleri Quantum Reservoir Impact, LLC

### Brave New World of Oil

The prevailing viewpoint

among many energy

analysts points to an

extended period of

uncertainty and stagnation

in oil supplies.

The topic of future oil supplies is both highly controversial and emotionally charged given the global anxiety spurred by high prices. The prevailing viewpoint among many energy analysts points to an extended period of uncertainty and stagnation in oil supplies.

The theme of the this presentation suggests an alternative scenario—a period of growth in oil supplies despite the massive challenges posed by restricted access to potentially productive areas due to increasing resource nationalism, global warming concerns, and shortages of human resources. This new era will

require a change of paradigms across the industry as they pertain to organizational structures, national oil company engagement models, and bolder standards of performance in recovery and sustainability.

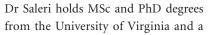
The majority of foreseeable challenges for the oil and gas industry are amply outweighed by a boom on several fronts the infusion of venture capital, burgeoning innovation and new thinking, and the rapid spread of new technologies for the subsurface extraction process. These new

technologies are exemplified by a new generation of wells and smart systems—key ingredients to the reinvigoration of many Saudi oil fields including the giant Ghawar, Abqaiq, and Shaybah fields, and others.

### **Biographical Sketch**

Dr. Nansen G. Saleri is Chief Executive Officer and President of Quantum Reservoir Impact, LLC based in Houston. He joined Saudi Aramco in 1992 and was the head of Reservoir Management from 1998-2007. He oversaw the company's Maximum Sustained Capability (MSC) commitments at 10.8 million barrels per day and strategic planning for its oil and gas

assets. Previously, Dr. Saleri worked for Chevron (1974–1992) and served as Manager of Reservoir Engineering, Houston, Texas. His opinion editorial "The World Has Plenty of Oil" was published in *The Wall Street Journal* in March 2008.



BSc from the Bosphorus University in chemical engineering. He

received the 2006 John Franklin Carll Award, given annually by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), for his outstanding contributions to modern reservoir management. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Houston and has been an SPE Distinguished Member and Lecturer, Co-Chairman of the SPE European Forum, Keynote Speaker at the Fifth, Sixth and Eighth International Forums on Reservoir Simulation (1994, 2001 and 2005), a member of the SPE

Speakers Bureau (1994–1997), and Member of SPE Fluid Mechanics Committee (1996 to 1998).

He has authored numerous technical papers and has been a featured speaker at nearly 100 industry and 'think-tank' gatherings, including the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Washington, DC, MIT, Johns Hopkins School of Strategic and Advanced International Studies, Stanford University; Texas A&M University, Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA), King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the American Petroleum Institute.





**Luncheon Meeting** 

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Greenspoint (former Sofitel) 425 North Sam Houston Pkwy E

Social 11:15 AM, Luncheon 11:30 AM

Cost: \$31 pre-registered members; \$35 for non-members & walk-ups; Emeritus/Life/Honorary: \$14; Students: FREE

The HGS prefers that you make your reservations on-line through the HGS website (www.hgs.org).

If you have no internet access, you may call the HGS office at 713-463-9476. Please provide your name, phone number, membership ID number, and the name and date of the meeting you wish to attend.

Jeffrey E. Nunneley Marathon Oil Company

# Gas in Place Identification from Mudlog Gas Barnett Shale — Fort Worth Basin

otal gas in place (GIP) within a shale is commonly identified

L by directly measuring the volume of gas given off from sections of full core sealed in canisters at the well site. GIP is usually measured in standard cubic feet per ton (SCF/ton) and includes free gas in pore spaces, adsorbed gas, and gas dissolved in liquids in the pores.

Gas which is liberated from a rock during the drilling process is frequently measured on a mudlog. The low permeability of a gas-bearing shale allows for little migration

of formation fluids into the well bore during drilling. Under these conditions, the gas measured on a mudlog directly relates to the total gas present in the volume of rock ground up and removed from the well bore during drilling. Measurements of mudlog gas can be normalized for penetration rate and mud flow rate and volume to yield total gas from the mud system in parts per million. The volume and density of the rock ground up while drilling can be calculated from wireline logging measurements collected after drilling is completed. That combination of borehole volume and rock density allows for the calculation of the ground up rock mass responsible for the measured gas in the mud system and for conversion of the measured values into common units.

GIP values from a canistered section of a Barnett Shale core have been compared to the GIP values calculated from a normalized mudlog. The two values have a favorable relative relationship.

GIP is usually measured in standard cubic feet per ton (SCF/ton) and includes free gas in pore spaces, adsorbed gas, and gas dissolved in liquids in

the pores.

that of the canistered core data. A calibration factor must be applied to the mudlog gas calculation to match the magnitude of the canistered core data. This calibration factor is mainly related to the sampling process of the mudlog detector which is inefficient and samples only a portion of the total gas present within the volume of the mud system.

### **Biographical Sketch**

JEFFREY NUNNELEY is a geologist with

Marathon Oil Company in Houston where he is responsible for

The mudlog calculated data are more variable in magnitude than

generating exploration opportunities onshore in the southern region of the United States. He began his career in Dallas with Enserch Exploration and has also worked for El Paso Production Company. He has over 29 years of experience in trend evaluation and prospect generation across New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and offshore Gulf



of Mexico. Mr. Nunneley has a BS in geology from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Dallas. He is an AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist and a licensed Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas.

# SIPES Continuing Education Seminar The SIPES Continuing Education Seminar

will be held Thursday, September 25 at the Marathon Oil Conference Center from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Tentative topics include talks on the Deep Bossier and other Mesozoic East Texas plays, cases studies and resource plays. Details will be announced when available.

# Geoscience Technology Training Center

(GTTC)

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ArcView GIS Basics (CENGG 2101100)	24 hrs	WTHF	9/24-9/26	8AM-5PM	77419	\$399
	or	WTHF	12/3-12/5	8AM-5PM	77427	\$399
New Course! GeoGraphix ARIES	Check t	he GTTC	website for co	ourse inform	ation	
GeoGraphix GESXplorer (CENGG 2102100)	24 hrs	MW	9/8-9/24	6-10PM	77415	\$399
	or	TTH	11/18-12/11	6-10PM	77426	\$399
GeoGraphix SeisVision (CENGG 2109102)	24 hrs	MW	10/6-10/22	6-10PM	77421	\$399
Well Log Analysis: PRIZM (CENGG 2109116)	16 hrs	MW	11/17-12/3	6-10PM	77424	\$260
SMT {2d/3dPAK} (CENGG 2109103)	24 hrs	TTH	9/9-9/25	6-10PM	77418	\$399
	or	MW	10/27-11/12	6-10PM	77422	\$399
New Course! SMT (EarthPak)	Check t	he GTTC	website for co	ourse inform	ation	

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The GTTC is located at the Lone Star College-Greenspoint Center, 250 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, just east of the intersection of I-45 North and Beltway-8, next to Bennigan's.

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

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

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

### **Luncheon Meeting**

John Morris and Jeff Requarth Savannah Oil & Gas, L.L.C.

# Perseverance and Technology: Significant Recent Exploration Success North and South Winchester Fields Wayne County, Mississippi

Although the North and

South Winchester fields

are small in area...they

are expected to produce

over 11 million barrels

of oil-equivalent

hydrocarbons.

iscovered in 2006, North and South Winchester fields in Wayne County, Mississippi are currently producing from 10 wells at a combined daily rate of over 4,000 barrels of oil and 11 million cubic feet of gas. These two Smackover "salt wall" fields are situated along the steeply dipping east flank of the northsouth trending Winchester salt ridge. These "salt wall" traps place the upper Smackover reservoir against Louann Salt, which serves as an effective lateral seal. The vertical seal is provided by overlying Haynesville evaporites. The final components of the petroleum

system include a world-class source rock in the lower member of the Smackover Formation and a reservoir compartment comprising extensively dolomitized grainstones of the upper Smackover.

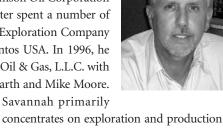
Winchester field, which lies between and within one-half mile of both North and South Winchester fields, was discovered by the LL&E #1 Jordan well, completed in 1968. The authors drilled a successful offset to the Winchester Field in 1989, followed by four development and exploratory dry holes in the area. It was not until the completion of a 43 square mile

3-D seismic survey shot in 2005 that the authors were able to image the steep (20 to 60 degree) flanks of the Winchester salt ridge, accurately map the Smackover structure, and plot locations for the discovery wells. Although the North and South Winchester fields are small in area, each less than 300 acres, they are expected to produce over 11 million barrels of oil-equivalent hydrocarbons.

This talk will review the Jurassic "salt wall" play in the Mississippi Salt Basin and the geology, geophysics, and engineering of North and South Winchester fields. Finally, the authors will discuss the persistence of the "lone prospector" and how much smarter we all appear with the help of a properly acquired and processed 3-D seismic surveys.

### **Biographical Sketches**

JOHN MORRIS earned a BS in geology from Long Island University. He began his career with Damson Oil Corporation in Houston. He later spent a number of years with Weeks Exploration Company and eventually Santos USA. In 1996, he formed Savannah Oil & Gas, L.L.C. with partners Jeff Requarth and Mike Moore.



concentrates on exploration and production in the southeastern states. John is a Registered Professional Geologist with the State of Mississippi and a member of HGS and AAPG.

JEFF REQUARTH earned his BS in geology from the College of Wooster and his MS from Bowling Green State University. He began his career with Amoco Production Company in Houston, Texas. Through the 1980s and early 1990s, he worked for and managed a number of small exploration companies. In 1996, Jeff, along with his partners John Morris and Mike

Moore, formed Savannah Oil and Gas, where he serves as President. Savannah has concentrated on exploration, development, and property acquisition in the southeastern states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Jeff is a member of AAPG, HGS, and OEI. He is a Certified Geologist through AIPG and Registered Professional Geologist in the State of Mississippi.





The Houston Geological Society Continuing Education Committee Presents

# An Overview of Exploration Risk Analysis for Senior Management

This seminar synthesizes the key concepts and applications of risk analysis (RA) for the upper echelons of your organization, regardless of their disciplines, to illustrate exploration as a profitable long-term business.

The seminar identifies key management issues, common misconceptions and pitfalls (as well as their consequences), and the inherent power of systematic RA methodology to design and enhance the predictability of portfolios which optimize corporate goals. It highlights the critical management tasks necessary to cause progressive improvement in exploration performance and addresses concerns about the constraints on management decision-making imposed by systematic RA procedures.

Because the course integrates fundamental topics such as Uncertainty, Reserves Estimates, Chance of Success Predictions, Economic Measures, Portfolio Management, Profitability Forecasts, and Performance Tracking, we strongly encourage the participation of senior decision-makers with diverse backgrounds, such as Geoscience, Engineering, and Finance.

### **Course Outline**

- 1. Risk Analysis: What and Why
- 2. Statistics: The Language of Uncertainty
- 3. Coping with Uncertainty and Its Consequences
- 4. Prospect Reserves: The Size of the Prize
- 5. Chance of Prospect Success
- 6. Economic Measures and Consequences
- 7. Managing Exploration by Managing the Portfolio
- 8. Choosing New Theaters: Play Analysis
- 9. Acquiring Petroleum Rights: Methods and Consequences
- 10. Performance Tracking: The Simple Secret Essential Management Role in RA Implementation

**Course:** An Overview of Exploration Risk Analysis for Senior Management **Instructor:** Mr. Gary P. Citron, Rose & Associates, LLP. www.roseassoc.com

Date: Thursday October 30, 2008

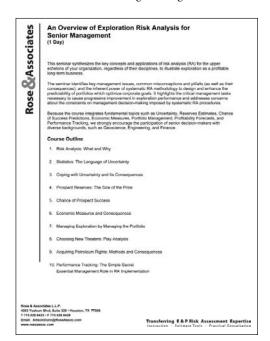
**Time:** 09:00am – 04:00pm

Location: Houston Research Center, 11611 West Little York Road, Houston, Texas 77041

Please make your reservations on-line through the Houston Geological Society website at www.hgs.org

A Certificate of Continuing Education will be provided for this seminar.

For more information about this event, contact Ken Schwartz at kenschwartz@mail.com or 281-690-0995.



**Dinner Meeting** 

Westchase Hilton • 9999 Westheimer Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$28 pre-registered members; \$35 for non-members & walk-ups; Emeritus/Life/Honorary: \$14; Students: FREE

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If you have no internet access, you may call the HGS office at 713-463-9476. Please provide your name, phone number, membership ID number, and the name and date of the meeting you wish to attend.

William Dickson

Dickson International Geosciences Houston, TX, USA and

Craig Shiefelbein

limits of different petroleum systems were mapped, and a pre-salt

Geochemical Solutions International Shenandoah, TX, USA

### Lacustrine Kitchens

# Keys to Exploration Success in the Pre-Salt Play, Santos Basin, and Potential along the Eastern Brazil Margin

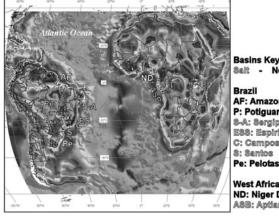
n a poster exhibited at the 2005 AAPG convention in Calgary,

I the authors presented findings from the integration of geochemistry with detailed mapping to reveal trap potential on the unexplored south flank of Brazil's Santos basin (Figure 1). Pre-salt basins and individual paleo-lakes were imaged, migration pathways were defined, the

play was predicted. Geochemical links were shown between these lacustrine

kitchens and the recent discoveries in the Santos basin Following a subsequent series of significant discoveries in the Santos basin, it was time to test the predictions against the facts. Aided by more and better data (Figure 2), the earlier correlations were first re-examined within the basin and then, along the eastern

Brazil margin, where similar data supported analogous conclusions. The key findings were the widespread evidence for lacustrinesourced oils, frequently partially masked by multiple phases of migration from the same source or from younger marine source intervals. Many structural compartments were mapped from potential field data then correlated to geochemical indicators from oil samples and piston cores. These compartments showed subtle geochemical variations among a small number of basic oil families with distinct spatial extents. Oil family trees, constructed by sorting oil indicators in multivariate space, demonstrated genealogical relationships and extents, while potential fields, piston cores, remote sensing, literature, and other material illustrated spatial extents. Geochemical links were shown between these lacustrine kitchens and the recent discoveries in the Santos basin (Figures 3 and 4). Similar potential exists in the related basins along the eastern Brazil margin.



No Salt

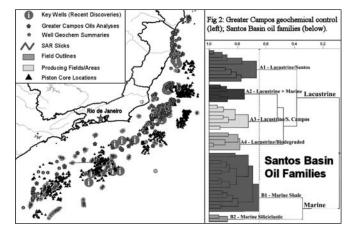
AF: Amazon Fan P: Potiquar

8-A: Sergipe-Alagoas ESS: Espirito Santo C: Campos

e: Pelotas

West Africa ND: Niger Delta ASB: Aptian Sait Basin

*Figure 1: Basin locations and total sediment thickness (Red = thick; Blue* = *Thin*) *including South Atlantic conjugate margins. Santos* Basin (S) is due south of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



### **Biographical Sketches**

WILLIAM DICKSON is the founder and VP-Technology for DIGs (Dickson International Geosciences) in Houston, Texas. His company has worked principally in the production of super-regional basin studies of Southeast Asia and the Atlantic margins and related projects. Mr. Dickson has worked around the world for over 25



years on international and frontier exploration projects with

**HGS International Explorationists** continued on page 27

Salt Piercements

Salt Bodies

SAR Slicks

Field Outlines

Producing Fields/Area

### **HGS International Explorationists Dinner Meeting** continued from page 25.

General Source Are □ Lacustrine Basin
 □ Lacustrine Lacustrine Basin 53 fault scar

Figure 3: Map showing Santos Basin discoveries, geochemical control, and salt bodies on gravity first vertical derivative (1vd) image.

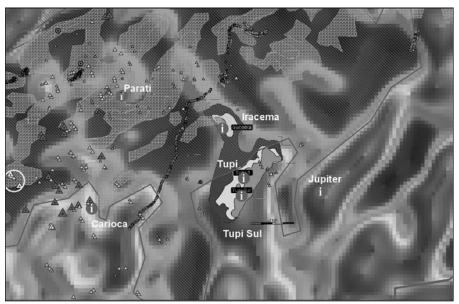


Figure 4: Closer view of Tupi area with overlay of published map of Tupi & Iracema discovery outlines on gravity 1vd image.

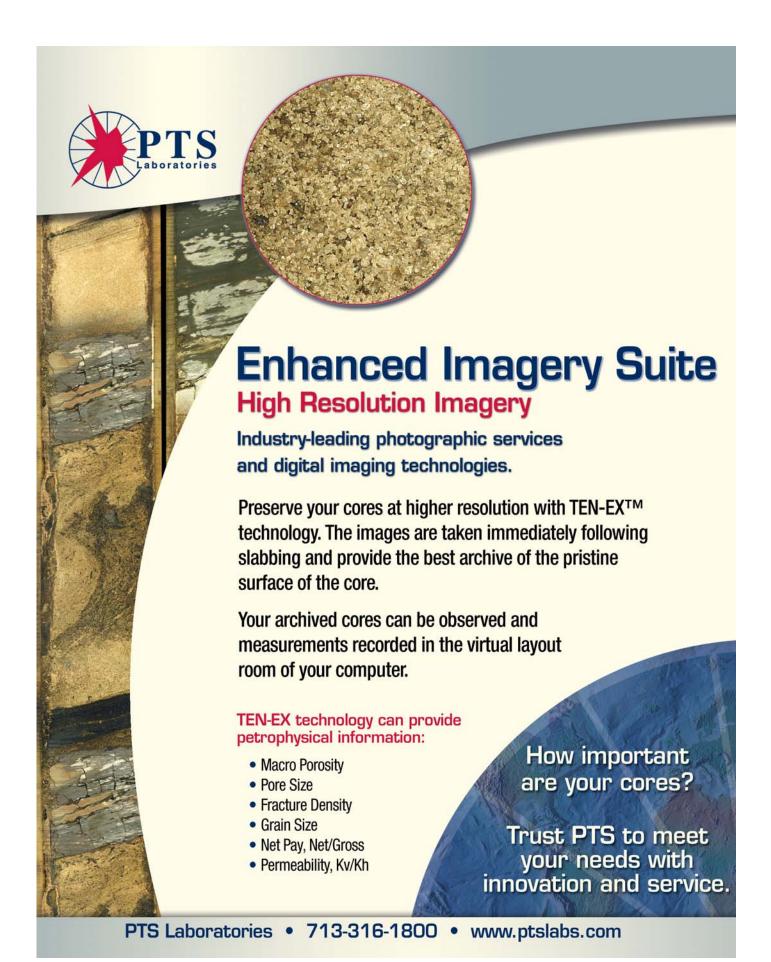
major and independent exploration companies and was significantly involved in commercial discoveries in Egypt and the North Sea. He is a member of AAPG, EAGE, PESGB, SEAPEX, SEG, SPE and local societies in Houston (HGS, GSH) and Calgary (CSEG). He has authored and/or contributed to numerous papers on aspects of South Atlantic and SE Asian geology. He continues to develop the use of multi-disciplinary E&P evaluations with contributions from a range of associated companies specializing in potential fields, geochemistry, remote sensing, and seismic interpretation. Visit www.digsgeo.com for a current list of studies, associates, and related publications.

CRAIG SCHIEFELBEIN has 30 years of experience in petroleum geochemistry, chemometrics, and data analysis. He is a graduate of the University of Tulsa (MSc, organic geochemistry and BSc, chemistry). His 15 years as a research scientist with Cities Service Oil Company and Conoco, Inc. involved the understanding of oil generation and destruction processes with pertinent results incorporated into maturity and basin modeling programs. During three years as a Senior Project Geochemist for Core Laboratories, he was responsible for the hydrous pyrolysis laboratory, interpretive technical service projects, and large-scale regional studies in West Africa and South America (Sub-Andean). Subsequently, Mr. Schiefelbein was Vice President and Chief Geochemist at GeoMark Research, Inc. where his responsibilities included supervising their analytical laboratory and performing interpretive technical service projects. He developed and managed several large-scale regional oil studies in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Alaska, and the basins of the circum-Pacific, south central Asia, and south Atlantic margins.

He is co-founder and president of Geochemical Solutions International (GSI), a geochemical service company established in 1998 to provide geochemical technological services to the

oil and gas industry for use in the exploration, production, refining, transportation and marketing of natural hydrocarbon resources. Since 2000, GSI and DIGs have been collaborating on projects that integrate GSI's extensive geochemical data with high quality geophysical database focused on petroleum systems definition of the south Atlantic margin.





# EGGLASIO WINDS ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF the 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 categories including functionally, see periods.) ACTUAL STATE (120 TO FIRST IN 19 OF THE 13 CATEGORIES IN 19 OF THE 13 CAT





### Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Greenspoint (former Sofitel) 425 North Sam Houston Pkwy E

Social 11:15 AM, Luncheon 11:30 AM

Cost: \$30 pre-registered members; \$35 for non-members & walk-ups; Emeritus/Life/Honorary: \$15; Students: FREE

To guarantee a seat, you must pre-register on the HGS website (www.hgs.org) and pre-pay with a credit card.

Pre-registration without payment will not be accepted.

You may still walk up and pay at the door, if extra seats are available.

HGS General

### **Luncheon Meeting**

Stephen Trammel
Senior Product Manager, IHS

# Hot U.S. Plays: Mostly Shale

*Unconventional gas resources* 

will play an increasing role in

the U.S. energy mix.

Unconventional oil and gas plays in the U.S. onshore and in the Gulf of Mexico, especially on the ultra deepwater, Lower Tertiary trend, continue to attract high leasing bids for acreage. With some notable exceptions for the oil plays in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and the Bakken play in particular, the industry is focusing on gas exploration including unconventional shale gas

reservoirs. Companies are evaluating the potential of these shale gas reservoirs across the country and throughout the stratigraphic column.

Higher natural gas prices have stimulated increased drilling activity, but gas

production has only risen to an undulating plateau. A shift to lower volume unconventional gas plays demands that further drilling increases will be needed to sustain current production levels.

Challenges facing the industry include rising capital costs, uncertainties about the regulatory climate, questions whether the higher gas prices will hold, manpower/rig shortages, periodic transportation bottlenecks, energy security needs, and growing anti-hydrocarbon sentiments and policies in support of climate change targets. These trends could restrict future oil and gas developments and limit access to potentially large resources due to these environmental issues.

What are the implications of these trends on North America gas supplies? Unconventional gas resources will play an increasing role in the U.S. energy mix. Most areas with strong drilling activity are targeting unconventional gas. In these areas, about 75% of the current gas-related rig count is working these plays. Of the top 25 U.S. gas fields ranked by production, 20 are classified as unconventional.

A strong upside for gas production from unconventional reservoirs exists through the relentless pursuit of new technologies and process improvements. However, a collaborative process among all stakeholders is critical to manage local community concerns, balance climate change policies with gas supply needs, and reach a compromise on access restrictions to areas of high resource

potential. If these challenges are overcome, we may reach a tipping point in the U.S. at which gas production from unconventional reservoirs and from new Gulf of Mexico hubs like Independence, can offset the decline in conventional gas production. This presentation will focus

on industry activity committed to developing gas resources in the lower 48 states including both onshore plays and the Lower Tertiary trend in the ultra deepwater Gulf of Mexico.

### **Biographical Sketch**

STEPHEN TRAMMEL is Senior Product Manager for IHS where he is responsible for current activity reports, unconventional resources, and other development for U.S.-based products. He is a regular speaker and writer on a variety of industry topics and was recently chosen to participate in the Expert Source Program for IHS which delivers strategic thought leadership to



the oil and gas industry in the form of insight and analysis. Mr. Trammel studied English literature and art at the University of Colorado, and English and geology at Texas Tech University.

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# Geologic Website of the Month

# WWW.USgS.gOV Michael Forlenza, PG

The Geologic Website of the Month is a new Bulletin feature. Over the next several issues, this feature will present a brief tour of selected websites of interest to geologists. Some of the selected websites will be straightforward sources of data, information, and mapping resources while others will be a pleasant or interesting diversion related to the earth or planetary sciences.

The initial installment of this series features the website for the granddaddy of all U.S. geologic organizations: the United States Geological Survey. The USGS was established on March 3, 1879, when President Rutherford B. Hayes signed the bill appropriating money for sundry civil expenses of the federal government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1879. At its inception, the USGS was charged with the "classification of the public lands, and examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain." This task was driven by the need to inventory the vast lands added to the United States by the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The USGS is administered by the Department of the Interior.

The mission of the USGS has expanded over the years. Currently, the USGS states that its mission "is to serve the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life."

For many veteran geologists, the first connection with the USGS was non-digital. The iconic 7.5-minute quadrangle maps on heavy stock paper were indispensable tools for most geology students. Even today, I keep a roll of USGS topographic sheets bundled in the corner of my office. I still relish the look and feel

of these crisp paper maps at 1:24,000 scale with the clean fonts and elegant cartography.

Cartography and the USGS have moved into the digital age. Through innovative ventures with the private sector, the USGS provides access to digital images and geospatial information in one of the largest data sets ever made available online.

The USGS homepage is well organized and graphically appealing with numerous clickable links to the vast resources found on the extensive website. In a large section at the center of the homepage are the current features of interest. Wind power, lead in the environment, and climate were featured in July. The right side features a map of the U.S. on which each state is clickable leading to a state-specific USGS webpage with dozens of links to local information, real-time data, and reports.

The left side of the homepage indicates the five primary "Science Areas" of the USGS: biology, geography, geology, geospatial, and water. The geology link brings up the Geology Research and Information page that provides access to original research, maps, news items, software, connections to other geological surveys, and an extensive library of geologic publications. Available publications include the classic USGS numbered series reports dating back to 1880.

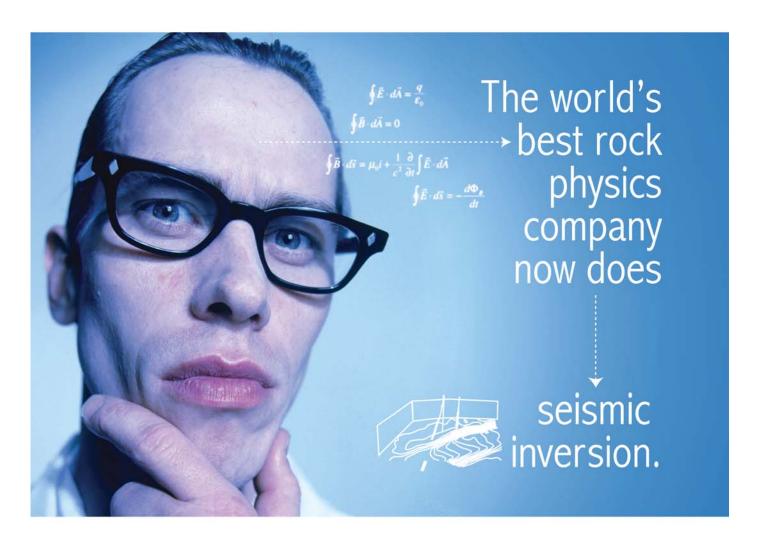
The Education pull-down tab at the top of the homepage leads to a wealth of resources for students and teachers. These resources are broken down by grade levels: K through 6, 7 through 12, and college undergraduate.

The depth and breadth of the USGS website is staggering, and one

can easily get lost while tracking down information on groundwater levels in the Ogallala aquifer, the 1868 Hayward fault earthquake, or an assessment of undiscovered oil and gas resources of West Greenland–East Canada. Fortunately, a click on the USGS logo header will return the homepage.

One of the best aspects of the USGS website is the absence of any advertisements or pop-up messages. This is a government website, so the presentation is not as slick as that of some of the glossy high-tech websites that scientists may typically use. Some of the website's organization will seem cumbersome or arcane. Still, a visit to the USGS website is informative, entertaining, and well worth a half an hour or more. Be careful though—you may learn more than you bargained for.







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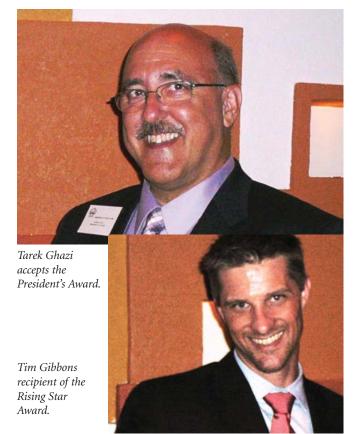
# A Celebration of our Volunteers — HGS President's Night 2008 Carmelo's Italian Restaurant on June 21



Claudia Ludwig (left) receives the Gerald A. Cooley Award from President Linda Sternbach.



Janet Combes (left) and Cheryl Desforges (right) recipients of Distinguished Service Awards with President Linda Sternbach.

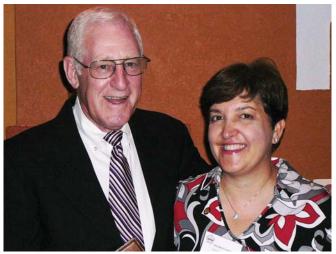




Bill Osten accepts the Honorary Life Membership Award.



Henry Wise (left) and Arlin Howles (center) receive the President's Award.



William Howell accepts the President's Award.

A Celebration of our Volunteers continued on page 35





The 2007-2008 HGS Board of Directors



Mike Jones (left) and Tom Mather (right) receive the President's Award.



Left to right, Lee Shelton, Linda Sternbach, and Kent Horstmann (Knowledge Reservoir)



Passing of the ceremonial rock hammer to incoming HGS President Kara Bennett from outgoing HGS President Linda Sternbach.



Linda Sternbach and Tom Miskelly

### When a Fault System Re-Awakens Observations on China's Longmenshan Thrust Belt

Dr. Franz L. Kessler, ICGR - Institute for Creative Geology Research

n May 12, 2008, China's most powerful earthquate in 58 years occurred along the Longmenshan Thrust Belt in Sichuan Province. The 7.9-magnitude earthquake caused widespread destruction and killed more than 69,000 people. The Longmenshan Thrust Belt constitutes a series of Mesozoic

overthrusts that offset the Tibetan Plateau on the northwest from the Gansu Plain to the southeast (Figures 1 and 2). The possibility of a severe earthquake along this thrust belt had been anticipated in academic circles, but there was little evidence that it would happen so soon and with such devastating consequences.

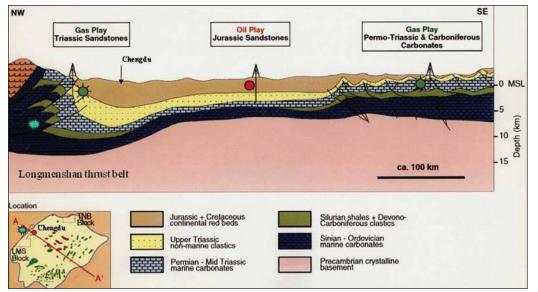


Figure 1: Geological cross-section through the Longmenshan Thrust Belt to the northwest, and stable Paleozoic and Mesozoic foreland. Although the thrust belt's origin is clearly Mesozoic, there remain questions about Tertiary and Quarternary tectonic activity. From the point of human settlement history, the thrust belt re-awoke to life in 2008. Courtesy of Tai-Ran Jiang Miri, Malaysia

### Longmenshan/Gansu Faultbelt, Historical Quakes and 2008

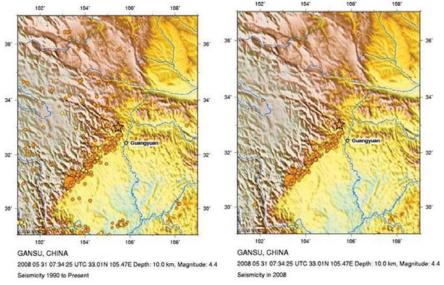


Figure 2: Relief maps of the Longmenshan Thrust Belt area. The star indicates location of the city of Chengdu. The SW-NE Longmenshan Thrust Belt forms an obvious landscape element that separates lowlands south and south-east of Guangyuan from the Tibetan Plateau. Seismic activity, as recorded since 1973 by the USGS, indicates scattered events of shallow and intermediate depth, but without emphasizing the fault belt area.

Li Yong, a geological expert at the Chengdu University of Technology in Sichuan, quoted in an International Herald Tribune article of May 30th, 2008, stated:

"The line of the middle fault is as clear as a string. It suggests continuous and strong movement. Such a long and clear lineament should trigger a big quake. Other scientists have had similar ideas."

In July 2007, Li co-wrote a paper that raised the likelihood of a 7.0-magnitude earthquake in this same area, along the Longmenshan Thrust Belt.

He spoke again of the dangers associated with this fault zone at a conference in China only a month before the disaster struck.

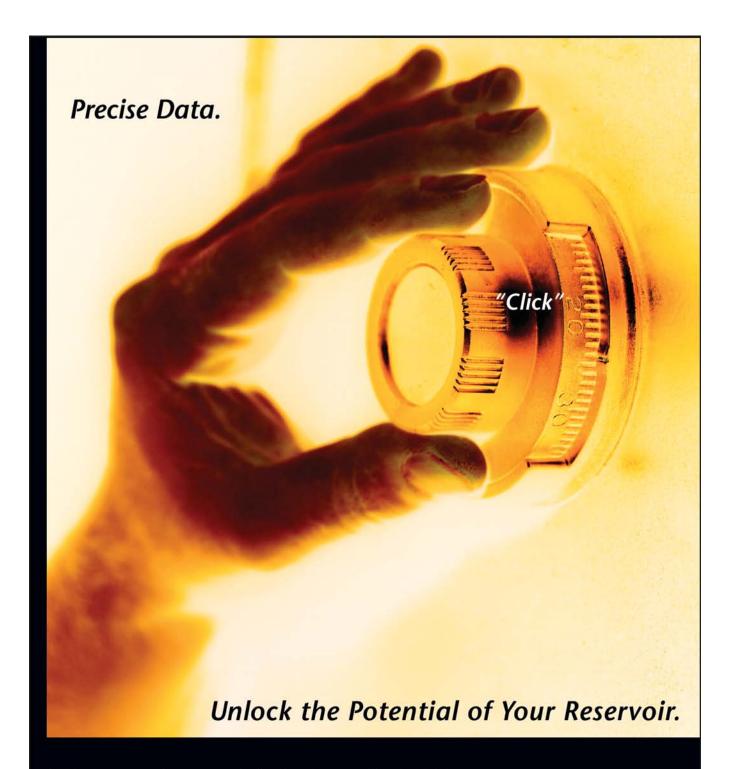
Seismic activity in the area was sparse from 2004 to late 2007 (Figure 3), with no strong seismic evidence to indicate an imminent fault reactivation in the thrust belt area. Hence, the Longmenshan Thrust Belt provides an excellent example for a sudden rejuvenation of an older fault system.

The following conclusions are offered:

• The 'awakening' of the thrust belt occurred in an extremely short time span. This could be significant for other dormant fault belts.

When a Fault System Re-Awakens

continued on page 41



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### September 2008



Sunday Tuesday Wednesday

	1 Labor Day HGS Office Closed	you can make your reservations on-line at www.hgs.org	3
7	8 7th HGS/PESGB African Conference Marriot Houston Westchase Hotel Page 13 HGS General Dinner Meeting "Brave New World of Oil," Dr. Nansen G. Saleri, Page 19	9	10
14	HGS Golf Tournament  Kingwood Country Club  Page 6	HGS Northsider's Luncheon Meeting "Gas in Place Identification from Mudlog Gas, Barnett Shale—Fort Worth Basin, Texas," Jeffrey E. Nunneley, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Page 21	17
21	HGS International Explorationist's Dinner Meeting "Hot U.S. Plays: Mostly Shale," Steven Trammel, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Page 25	23	24
28	29	30	

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4	5	6
11	12	13
18 SIPES Luncheon Meeting "Perseverance & Technology: Significant Recent Exploration Success – Winchester North & South Fields, Wayne County, Mississippi," Jeff Requarth and John Morris, Petroleum Club, Page 23	19	20
25 SIPES Continuing Education Seminar Energy Opportunities – 2008 Marathon Auditorium Page 21 HGA/HPAC Brunch, Lakeside Country Club Page 72	26 Houston Gem & Mineral Society – 55th Annual Show Humble Civic Center Page 59 GSH Tennis Tournament Houston Racquet Club	27
Reser The HGS prefers that you make your rese www.hgs.org. If you have no Internet access	Members Pre-registered Prices: General Dinner Meeting\$28 Nonmembers walk-ups\$35	



### **Upcoming GeoEvents**

### October 5 - 9

Geological Society of America / Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies / Gulf Coast Section of SEPM 2008 Joint Annual Meeting, Houston,

Texas

### October 11 (11:30 AM – 4 PM) Earth Science Week - GSA-HGS-

IYPE Event Annual Family Energy Festival Houston Museum of Natural Science

### October 18 (10 AM - 3 PM)

Earth Science Week - GSA-HGS-IYPE Event Public Geology Field Trip High Island

**Thursday, October 23** Geoscience Day (GSH – HGS)

The HGS prefers that you make your reservations on-line through the HGS website at www.hgs.org. If you have no Internet access, you can e-mail reservations@hgs.org, or call the office at 713-463-9476. Reservations for HGS meetings must be made or cancelled by the date shown on the HGS Website calendar, normally that is 24 hours before hand or on the last business day before the event. If you make your reservation on the Website or by email, an email confirmation will be sent to you. If you do not receive a confirmation, check with the Webmaster@hgs.org. Once the meals are ordered and name tags and lists are prepared, no more reservations can be added even if they are sent. No shows will be billed.

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### When a Fault System Re-Awakens continued from page 36

- Data clearly indicate that seismic precursor activity was extremely brief; there was neither strong seismic evidence nor sufficient time for disaster prevention.
- Prediction of earthquake risk needs to be carried out

plate-wide, given that risk cannot be calculated nor earthquakes forecasted based on analysis of isolated areas only.

Author's email: armadillo32@hotmail.com

### Longmenshan/ Gansu Faultbelt, Precursor Quakes 2004 to 2007, and Jan- May 2008

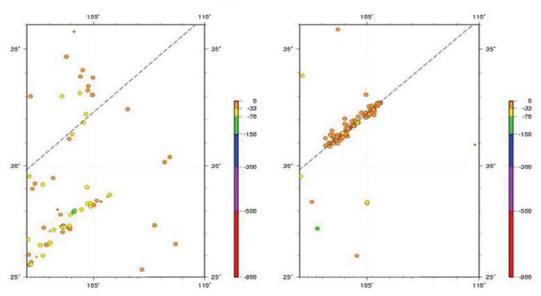


Figure 3: Location of earthquake foci in map view. The position of the Longmenshan Thrust Belt is indicated by the dashed line. In early 2008, four months before the big quake, seismic activity suddenly awakened. Quake foci are taken from the USGS database. Color scale indicates depth of earthquake foci in kilometers.

When a Fault System
Re-Awakens
continued on page 43

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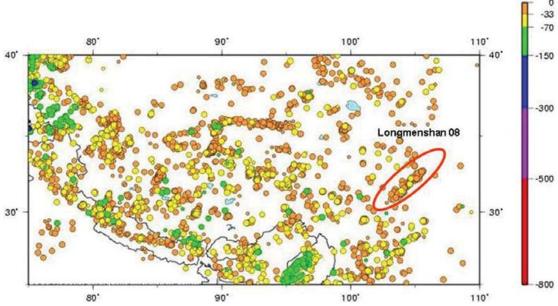


Figure 4: Map view of the Tibetan Plateau, USGS database. Color scale indicates depth of earthquake foci in kilometers. Most quakes are relatively shallow, apart from a few clusters at 70-150 km focal depth. Earthquakes plotted for the time interval of January 2000 to May 2008 include the Longmenshan cluster (lower right). Several active lineaments are recognized. An analysis of stress patterns plus improved geodetic measurements may help to pinpoint areas of future earthquake activity.





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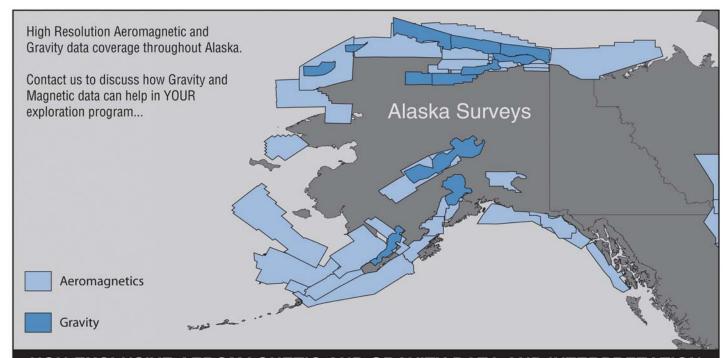
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### A Look Back at Our Oil Heritage The Graying of Petroleum Historians Jeff Spencer (jspencer@blackpoolenergy.com)

**T**n 2009, the petroleum industry will Leelebrate the 150th anniversary of Colonel Drakes's oil discovery near Titusville, Pennsylvania — the event traditionally regarded as the start of the industry in the United States. People interested in the history of the oil age are organizing a number of events commemorating this sesquicentennial anniversary.

this group hopes to enhance the American public's perception of the U.S. petroleum industry by focusing on the historical achievements of early oil pioneers

Sarnia and Petrolia, Ontario, Canada. The Petroleum History Institute and the Petroleum History Society sponsored the meeting, which was hosted by the Ontario Petroleum Institute. "Oil Springs, Ontario 150 Years — Back to the Future" was the theme of the symposium, which included two days of oral and poster presentations, followed by an oil heritage tour throughout Lambton

One of these events was the International

Oil Symposium held May 7–10th, 2008 in

County, Ontario. One of the many highlights of the tour was visiting the oil producing properties of Fairbank Oil, a fourth generation family operation which is currently run by Charles Fairbank III (Charlie). Here Charlie "pumped oil in the same place using the same technology" as his great-grandfather.

Symposium attendees represented museums, historical groups, and several authors, who are trying to preserve our oil heritage and document its history. The attendees were not a large group, and not a young A Look Back at Our Oil Heritage continued on page 47



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group, but it was certainly a passionate group! It was also a concerned group. Discussions included not only the "graying" of petroleum historians, but also the lack of interest in our oil heritage, not just by the general public, but also by much of our own industry. Local historians are clearly doing much of the historical research with little financial support from the industry or co-operation in making industry archives available for research.

The 2009 annual International Oil Symposium will take place in Titusville, Pennsylvania from May 14-16. The following month, June 7-10, the AAPG's Annual Convention will meet in Denver. Several members of the AAPG's history committee are also members of the Petroleum History Institute. These members plan to work together to include oil history/heritage as part of the 2009 AAPG Convention.

"Celebrating the Story — Progress from Petroleum" is the theme of Oil 150, a group from the oil region of Pennsylvania (www.Oil150.com). Despite a negative public image, this group hopes to enhance the American public's perception of the U.S. petroleum industry by focusing on the historical achievements of early oil pioneers and the men and women who followed in later



decades. Representatives from Oil 150 attended the 2008 Symposium and will be very much involved in the 2009 Symposium.

Several excellent websites contain information about North America's petroleum heritage. These include: www.albertasource.ca/petroleum, www.petroleumhistory.org, www.petroleumhistory.ca, www.aoghs.org,



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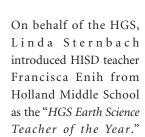
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### HGS Guest Night 2008 Life Without the Big G

ccording to the theory of universal gravitation: Gravitational Aforce (F) =  $G * (m_1 * m_2) / (r^2)$  where the big G is the gravitational constant, m<sub>1</sub> and m<sub>2</sub> are the masses of the two objects for which you are calculating the force, and r is the distance between the centers of gravity of the two masses.

Sound drearily boring? Not so! Remove the big G and the fun begins! With the removal of "the big G," the 2008 Houston Geological Society Guest Night kicked off another successful event. In the Houston Museum of Natural Science IMAX theater. a sellout crowd of 400 enthusiastic listeners were entertained by former NASA astronaut, Dr. Jim Reilly as he joyfully, yet thoughtfully, recounted his Space Shuttle missions to the International Space Station and shared his views of the scientific significance of future planned Moon and Mars missions.

The evening's events included a super buffet dinner and drinks in the Cullen Hall of Gem and Mineral's sparkling exhibit, and were hosted by HGS President Linda Sternbach and Guest Night Chairman Bill Osten.



Ms. Enih was presented with a globe award and a check for \$1500. Four students from local junior and senior high schools accepted awards for their outstanding science poster projects from the spring 2008 Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. The winners included:

- · Heming Bai, Clear Lake High School, for "The Effects of Concrete Lining on the Bayou" in the category of Environmental Science;
- · Victoria Baldwin, Academy of Science & Technology, the Woodlands, for "The New Water Treatment "Plants?" in the category of Environmental Science; and
- Katarina Brown and Emily Hansen, Seabrook Intermediate School, Clear Creek ISD, Junior team winners for

"Reflecting Ra: A Study of Affecting Earth's Temperatures" in the category of Botany, Environmental Science, and Zoology

Dr. Reilly's talk began with the very entertaining story of his youthful dream to become an astronaut and to travel into space and of his journey through the academic world. Dr. Reilly, after receiving numerous rejection letters, finally saw his dream



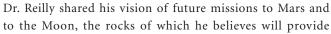
realized when he was accepted into the astronaut training program in 1986. At that time, he was working in the oil and gas industry as a geologist for SantaFe/ Ensearch in Dallas, Texas.

Following the descripion of his personal journey, Dr. Reilly discussed the tremendous rate of technological developments in the form of the speed of human transportation from

the 1600s through the present, comparing the rate of military and governmental developments to that of the commercial sector. Superb photographs and video clips were shown highlighting the spectacular nature of the space shuttle launch, docking and life on the International Space Station. Dr. Reilly's video clips of eating and sleeping techniques of astronauts aboard the space station were fun to watch underscoring the difficulties of operating in the Zero-G environment. Dr. Reilly dramatically recounted his personal experience flying over the arctic Aurora Borealis while in on a space walk illustrated by beautiful photographs of the views of Earth taken while precariously perched outside the space station. Dr. Reilly's entertaining video clip entitled "Worse Than Locking Your Keys in the Car" drew hearty laughter from the attentive audience.







significant knowledge of our Earth's origins and first billion years of evolution. Provided by tantalizing clues unveiled in the analysis of the Allen Hills meteorite, the question remains as to whether or not future missions will uncover evidence of past life on Mars. The talk ended on a pensive note as Dr. Reilly quoted T.S. Eliot who observed, "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

The evening was capped by the IMAX 3D movie presentation "Grand Canyon: River at Risk" which emphasized the need to conserve water in the western states.

The Houston Geological Society Guest Night 2008 was a resounding success and accolades and thanks go to our generous sponsors BHP Billiton,

Fairfield, SCA, SMT, and TGS NOPEC.

Interested readers may access the images from Dr. Reilly's presentation and several embedded video clips by logging onto www.hgs.org and following prompts to the 2008 Houston Geological Society Guest Night page. Also posted to the HGS website is the slideshow that ran before Dr. Reilly's presentation entitled "Cities at Night World Tour." Credit for this file goes to Dr. Don Pettit of NASA.









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### 25th Annual HGS Skeet Shoot Goes off with a Bang

TA7ell, the \$140/bbl oil must be having a good effect on the

WW HGS membership, because they showed up in record numbers, 164 to be exact, on June 28th to take part in HGS' 25th Annual 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 the 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.



When the smoke cleared, Tim McGinty of ATP Oil & Gas was the "three-buckle winner"—he not only shot a perfect skeet score of 50, but was also half of the winning two-man flurry team. He topped it off by winning a commemorative belt buckle in the raffle. Then, during the awarding of the door prizes, Tim donated one of his trophy buckles to auction off to further benefit HGS. The spirit of giving back caught on with Alan Warwick of Century Exploration; he topped all the other bidders for Tim's buckle, then donated the buckle back to be given to the high-scoring lady shooter, Liz Edwards (44 out of 50). Tim then gave Alan his third buckle to repay Alan's generosity—nice going, all of you!

### Other winning shooters were:

Two-man Flurry: **Jeff Darrington/Terry Edwards**—Winners by coin flip

Tim McGinty/Clark Walraven—Runners Up

Class "C" Runnerup-**David Type** Class "C" Champ-**Dixon Millican** 

Class "B" Runnerup -Rob Sawyer Class "B" Champ-Winn Sellers

Class "A" Runnerup-**Jeff Darrington** Class "A" Champ-**Dietrich Landis** 

Class "AA" Runnerup-Barry Boyce Class "AA" Champ-Richard Light



Liz Edwards and Alan Warwick

The High Over All (HOA) race ended in a tie with two perfect

scores of 50: Tim McGinty and Dennis Moore, from Corpus Chrsiti. Great shooting, guys!

Huge thanks are due to our generous sponsors: Halliburton, for the BBQ lunch and caps, Schlumberger, for the towels and gift cards, and Geokinetics, for sponsoring a field and the ammunition. Other field sponsors were Drake Directional Drilling,

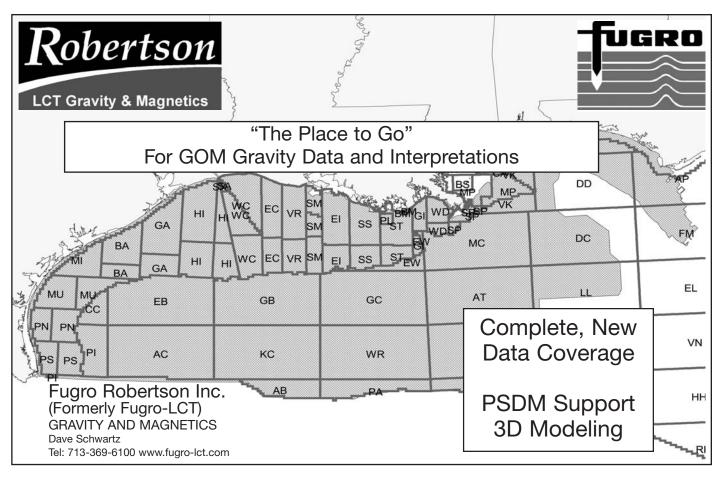
Fairfield and Seitel Data. ATP Oil and Gas also sponsored the caps and donated the John Warner Memorial Cowboy Hat for the second year running. Beverage Sponsors were APEX Oil and Gas, Ameritex Minerals, Knowledge Reservoir and Petrolog. Other Ammunition Sponsors were CL&F Resources, Mariner Energy, and Sanchez Oil & Gas. Cheyenne Petroleum, Houston Energy, and Spartan Petroleum were Gold Sponsors, and Carr Resources, Dante Stefani, Alan Warwick, Russell Wilson, and Bob West were Silver Sponsors.

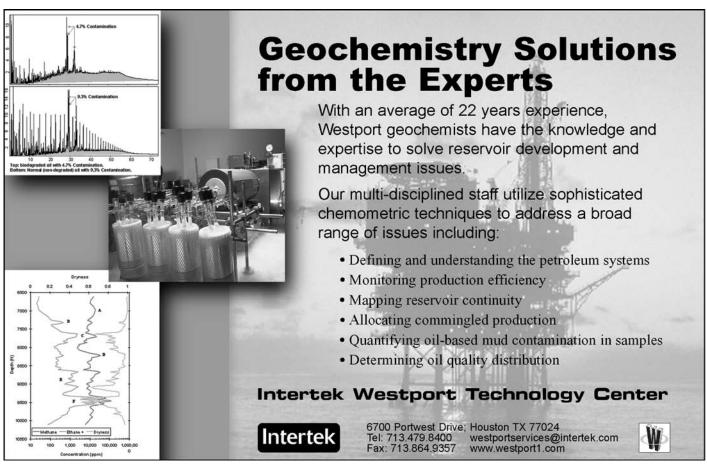


Haliburton Cooking Team



McCarrol (L), McGinty (C), Moore (R)





### HGS Community Outreach Projects for 2008-2009

The HGS Community Outreach Committee is dedicated to assisting charitable organizations in the Houston-metro area in a variety of projects. Aside from helping our community and improving the lives of others, these projects are opportunities for participants to get to know others in our organization as well as the organizations we support. As these activities will typically be non-geologic in nature, members are encouraged to bring age-appropriate family and friends along.

Our initial project will to assist the Montgomery County Foodbank located in Conroe, Texas. This private, non-profit organization serves as a clearinghouse for edible products and serves over 12,000 Montgomery County individuals a month. Sixty percent of the recipients are families with dependent children. The organization distributes over one million pounds of food to community kitchens and pantries. HGS volunteers will be called upon several times this year for sorting, checking, and packing sessions for these food products for distribution in this program.

A bigger project for the end of 2008 will be to assist *Elves and More* build bicycles in December. *Elves and More* is a Houston charitable organization dedicated to bringing the spirit of Christmas to children whose families are unable to afford gifts. These efforts help families take their first steps out of the cycle of poverty. *Elves and More* buys, builds, and delivers 20,000 bicycles to underprivileged kids in Houston and the surrounding area and has achieved remarkable successes over the past several years. We would like to make HGS a part of these efforts. In the near

future, we will be choosing specific day(s) and time(s) for HGS member participation. The bicycle building is conducted over several evenings and weekends prior to Christmas at the Reliant Center.

Our final community outreach project for the 2008-2009 year will be to participate with the City of Houston under its Trees for Houston program. This is a city-sponsored program that involves planting young trees in various locations around town. The city provides the trees and various volunteer organizations provide the labor. Houston Arbor Day, usually the third Saturday of January, is a major tree planting day under this program.

Many of you remember our awesome workday several years ago at the Houston Food Bank packing and sorting food and supplies for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, we spent multiple weekends improving the historic Evergreen Cemetery. As with past activities, our goal is to improve the communities we live in, make new connections, and have some fun.

We on the HGS Community Outreach Committee Leadership Team hope you will save these dates and volunteer. You can contact any of the leadership team or sign-up on the HGS website to volunteer for these projects that will benefit our community.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Paul Babcock, Steve Earle, and Walter Light

Paul.Babcock@nfrenergy.com, steve.hgseditor@gmail.com,

WTHUNDERX@aol.com

### Now Available Directory of Oil Company Name Changes – 19th Edition (April 2008)

A new edition, the 19th of the HGS publication, "Directory of Oil Company Name Changes," is now available through the Bureau of Economic Geology. This publication is a cross-referenced list of domestic oil and gas, exploration and production companies that have sold major assets or have changed their names due to a merger, acquisition, or reorganization. The purpose of this directory is to assist geologists and other professionals in tracking down and matching electric logs, production histories, and other well data that are obscured by these numerous name changes.

The cost of the directory is \$14.00 and it can be obtained from the BEG. The contact information is as follows:

Bureau of Economic Geology University of Texas in Austin Attn: Publication Sales University Station, Box X Austin, Texas 78713-8924

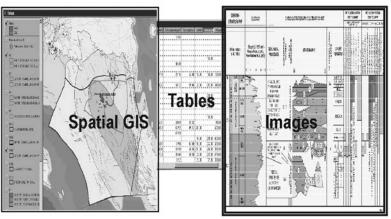
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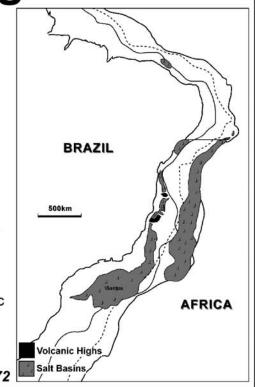
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### Government Update

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

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

### AGI Government Affairs Monthly Review (May 2008) House Committees Focus on Water

On May 16, 2008, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed legislation that aimed at increasing public awareness of raw sewage discharges to rivers and streams. According to the text of the Raw Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act (H.R. 2452), between 1.8 and 3.5 million Americans become ill each year from swimming in waters contaminated by sewage overflows. H.R. 2452 would require sewage treatment facilities to monitor and report to the public within 24 hours of potentially-hazardous levels of sewage discharge.

The White House has expressed support for the legislation despite opposition from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the use of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to finance the monitoring and alert systems. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund is typically used to provide low interest loans for water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment and for non-point source pollution control. A similar bill (S. 2080) has been introduced but not acted upon in the Senate.

The committee also passed two measures to examine the nation's future water needs. The first, introduced by Congressman John Linder (R-GA), H.R. 135, establishes a presidential commission of experts to study our water resources and develop recommendations to ensure an adequate future supply. The second measure, H.R. 5770, tasks the National Academy of Sciences to study the potential effects of climate change on the nation's water supply and quality. While the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed an identical bill (S. 2728) to H.R. 135 on May 21, 2008, legislation similar to H.R. 5770 has not been introduced in the Senate.

Concerns about future water shortages also prompted the passage of two bills within the House Science and Technology subcommittee on Energy and the Environment. The Produced Water Utilization Act of 2007 (H.R. 2339), introduced by Ralph Hall (R-TX), establishes a program within the Department of Energy to improve technologies that would allow the use of water produced during energy exploration and development for agriculture, irrigation, municipal, or industrial purposes.

The second bill, H.R. 3957, the Water Use Efficiency and

Conservation Research Act, authored by Congressman Jim Matheson (D-UT), creates a research and development program at the EPA to promote water use efficiency and conservation. The program would develop technologies and processes that enable the collection, treatment, and reuse of rainwater and gray water. The program would also examine the behavioral, social, and economic barriers to achieving greater water use efficiency. Similar legislation has not been introduced in the Senate for either bill.

The full text of H.R. 135 is available from Thomas at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.00135:
The full text of H.R. 5770 is available from Thomas at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.05770:
The full text of H.R. 2339 is available from Thomas at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.02339:
The full text of H.R. 3957 is available from Thomas at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.03957:

### Flood Insurance Reform and Map Modernization Act Passed by Senate

On May 13, 2008, the Senate passed H.R. 3121 that allows for the continuation and reform of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and forgives the over \$20 billion owed to the U.S. Treasury by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The legislation initiates reforms to ensure that the program can continue to operate and adequately identifies areas at risk to flood loss. The provisions of interest to geoscientists include the reestablishment of the Technical Mapping Advisory Council and coordination of the FEMA Director with the advisory council to establish an ongoing program to review, update, and maintain flood insurance program maps.

The legislation requires that the effects of global climate change on flood, storm, and drought and the potential future effects related to weather events, such as increased hurricane activity, intensity, storm surge, and sea level rise, be taken into consideration. The bill includes the requirement that the most accurate data be used in mapping and maintenance, and that each map include certain elements to ensure consistency and accuracy. The legislation authorizes \$400 million annually for mapping and removes the current 50 percent limit on state contributions toward map modernization.

The full text of H.R. 3121 is available from Thomas at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c 110:5:./temp/~c110EHZWcS.

### Fossil Preservation Act Being Considered in House

On May 14, 2008, the House Natural Resources Committee adopted H.R. 554, the **Government Update** continued on page 57

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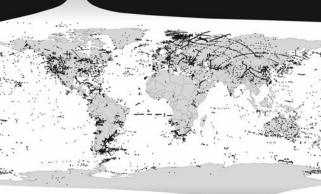
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### **Government Update** continued from page 55.

Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, introduced last year by James McGovern (D-MA). The purpose of the bill is to establish a comprehensive policy for the management of paleontological resources on federal lands, spurred by the rise of fossil theft and vandalism in recent years. Existing laws that address some paleontological resources are the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988. However, these laws only protect fossils when they are associated with archeological resources or when they are found in caves.

The bill would make it unlawful to remove paleontological resources from federal lands without a permit. The permit's conditions are that the fossils collected shall remain the property of the United States and that they be made available for scientific research and public education. Casual collection of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant fossils for noncommercial use would still be allowed.

H.R. 554's companion bill in the Senate, S. 320, introduced by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), has not been acted on in the 110th Congress though it cleared the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the 109th Congress.

The full text of the bill is available from Thomas at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.00554:

### Freedom of Speech Used to Promote Creationism

"Academic freedom" bills have been introduced in Florida, Michigan, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, and Missouri over the past year. These bills take an alternate approach in their attempt to interject religious beliefs into the science classroom. The texts of the bills do not mention intelligent design or creationism, but instead argue that teachers should be able to raise doubts about the concept of evolution as a matter of free speech. The bills describe evolution, human cloning, and climate change as controversial and would allow teachers to discuss the "scientific weaknesses" of the theories. The language of the bills is similar to legislation drafted by the Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based organization known for its advocacy of intelligent design.

The courts have not yet weighed in on the freedom of speech aspect because the bills have not passed in any state. Both chambers of the Florida legislature passed "academic freedom" bills, but the chambers were unable to reach agreement on a final bill. Many experts believe the singling out of evolution from

Government Update continued on page 59



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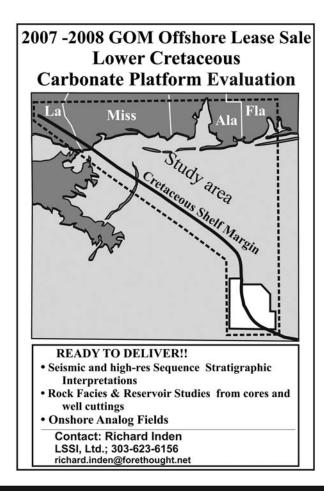


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### **Government Update** continued from page 57.

other scientific theories and the attempt to hold it to a higher standard from other parts of the science curriculum will be in question.

### **AGI Government Affairs Monthly Review (June 2008)** Senate Climate Debate Short-lived

On June 6, 2008, the Climate Security Act of 2008 (S.3036) was pulled from the Senate floor when a procedural vote to limit debate and move the measure forward failed. Many senators were hoping for a more extensive debate and the opportunity to address specific issues of concern within the legislation such as the potential impacts of the bill on the economy, the role of nuclear energy in curbing greenhouse gas emissions, and international action on climate change. The timing of the debate was also hindered by recent skyrocketing oil prices and calls by some senators to open areas of the U.S. outer continental shelf to drilling. Despite the lack of resolution on the bill, its proponents, senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Joe Lieberman (I-CT), and John Warner (R-VA), view the support of 54 senators to move the measure forward as "a very special day," and are certain that their work in this Congress has set the stage for enactment of climate legislation next year.

### Another Climate Change Bill Introduced in the House

On June 19, 2008, several Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee introduced yet another plan to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions using a cap-and-trade scheme. The bill (H.R. 6316), introduced by Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), would reduce carbon emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The bill will now be considered by multiple committees that have jurisdiction over different parts of the measure.

The full text of the bill and other details are available from Thomas at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R. 6316:

### NASA Scientist Discusses Climate Change Two Decades After First Testimony

June 23, 2008—On the 20th anniversary of his first appearance before Congress, Dr. James Hansen, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, briefed the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming on the danger of passing climate system tipping points. Tipping points are "points of no return at which the dynamics of the system take over" and reductions in carbon dioxide are futile, Hansen said.

Government Update continued on page 61

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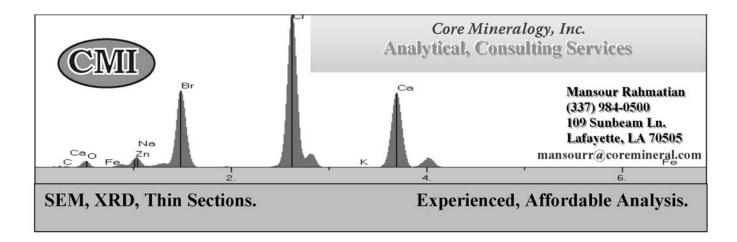
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He remarked that it is likely that the climate has already reached a tipping point. Because there is enough "warming in the pipeline," the Arctic will "lose all sea ice in the summer season," Hansen predicted.

Dr. Hansen gave a brief but comprehensive overview of the scientific concern surrounding global warming. The planet is experiencing a long term warming trend, he explained, due to the planetary temperature imbalance. He declared with "99.9% certain that the long-term safe level [of carbon dioxide] is 350 parts per million." Currently, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 385 ppm. Dr. Hansen reassured the audience that brief greenhouse gas overshoots are alright, saying "1,000 ppm for a day won't melt the ice sheets. But it can't stay there for centuries."

To achieve atmospheric carbon dioxide levels of 350 ppm or less, a moratorium must be placed on new coal-burning power plants and existing coal plants must be phased out as "promptly as practical," he said. Furthermore, unconventional fossil fuels—tar sands and oil shale—must not be used, Dr. Hansen urged. Reforestation and improved agricultural practices such as no till agriculture can aid in the carbon dioxide sequestering process. Lastly, he called on Congress to consider a carbon tax with a

100% dividend returned equally to the American people on a per capita basis.

Dr. Hansen noted that, not long after he testified on June 23, 1988, he stopped communicating with the public to focus on his research. However, to "bridge the gap between what is understood by the scientific community and what is known by the public and policy makers," Dr. Hansen decided to begin speaking out on climate change issues again.

For more information on the briefing visit: http://global warming.house.gov/pubs/pubs?id=0045#main\_content

### **DOE Submits Yucca Mountain License**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently reviewing an application for the construction of the first national repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioative waste at Yucca Mountain, that was submitted June 3, 2008 by the Department of Energy (DOE). The NRC has a 90-day period to review the application and, if accepted, the entire approval process for the issuance of the construction and operation license is expected to take a minimum of three years.

Government Update continued on page 63





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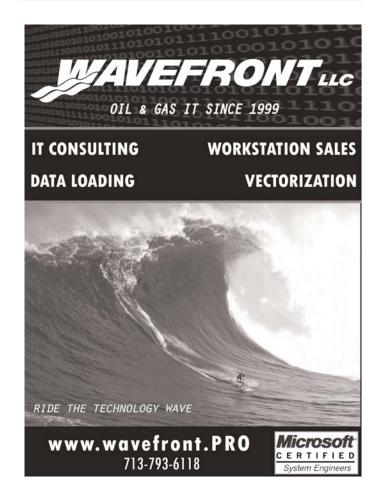
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### **Government Update** continued from page 61

National interest in "clean" or low-carbon emitting forms of energy has prompted support for increasing the role of nuclear energy within the nation's energy portfolio. In the President's fiscal year 2009 budget request, DOE stated they are "working with industry partners to promote the near-term licensing and deployment of the first new nuclear plants in over thirty years as well as to extend the life of current plants."

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the 104 nuclear power plants operating in the U.S. today produce about 20% of the nation's electricity. While nuclear energy is an attractive option when discussing global warming, the disposal of nuclear waste still poses a concern. A 2002 NRC report estimates that 45,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel is stored at nuclear reactor sites around the country. The mandated capacity of Yucca Mountain is 70,000 metric tons. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 ensures that Yucca Mountain will be the only site considered as a national repository until 2010 when additional sites may be deemed necessary.

For more information on Yucca Mountain licensing activities at the NRC visit: http://www.nrc.gov/waste/hlw-disposal/ licensing.html

For DOE's license application visit: http://www.nrc.gov/waste/ hlw-disposal/yucca-lic-app.html

### Pluto Becomes the First "Plutoid"

On June 11, 2008, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) announced that dwarf planets with near-spherical shapes whose orbits around the sun are beyond the orbit of Neptune will henceforth be known as "plutoids." At present, Pluto is the only plutoid, but the IAU expects the designation to be bestowed upon more celestial bodies as astronomical discovery progresses. The dwarf planet Ceres shall not be regarded as a plutoid, because its orbit lies between those of Mars and Jupiter.

The IAU first considered the term "pluton" for Pluto-like planets. After receiving input from the geological community, the IAU considered the term "plutonian object." The term plutoid was finally approved by the organization almost two years after introducing the category of dwarf planets.

Since the early 1900s, the IAU has been responsible for categorizing and naming astronomical entities. Close to 10,000 astronomers from nations all over the world belong to the IAU; it is the largest professional organization for astronomers.

To read the press release publicizing the IAU's announcement, (http://www.iau.org/public\_press/news/release/iau0804/)

### **Teaching Evolution: State Updates**

Louisiana: Governor Bobby Jindal signed the Louisiana Science Education Act, which allows the use of supplementary materials in the teaching of any scientific theory and expressly mentions evolution, origin of life, global warming, and stem cell research as examples of such theories. The bill, which was overwhelmingly passed by the state legislature, is viewed by many as a back-door attempt to allow the teaching of creationism/intelligent design in the science classroom. Although the bill gives the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education authority to prohibit the use of supplementary materials approved by the local school districts, it does not outline a mechanism for the oversight of these materials.

**Arizona:** A legislative panel in the state Senate advanced a House measure aimed at protecting religious liberties in the schools. The focus of the legislation is to preserve a student's right to wear religious clothing and symbols, but a section of the legislation states that, if an assignment requires a student's viewpoint to be expressed, a public educational institution shall not penalize or reward a student on the basis of religious content. There is concern that this language will open the door for the discussion of creationism in creationism in the science classroom.

Daniel C. Huston Holly Hunter Huston



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### Geological Society of America and the Houston Geological Society sponsor Earth Science Week activities in celebration of the International Year of Planet Earth

October 11 - 18, 2008

Annual Family Energy Festival

**Houston Museum of Natural Science** 

Saturday, October 11, 2008 11:30pm- 4:00pm

Join us for the annual Family Energy Festival at the Houston Museum of Natural Science celebrating the International Year of Planet Earth. The festival will include hands-on demonstrations, Scout badge activities, and other great programs. Please join us and bring your family and friends!

Cost: Included in the price of the regular museum admissions ticket. No need to sign up ahead of time.

General Information: please contact Martha McRae at: esw@hgs.org

Public Geology Field Trip: High Island, TX

Saturday, October 18, 2008 10:00am-3:00pm

Visit our beach location any time between 10am and 3pm to learn about salt domes, oil, beach processes, and ice age fossils. Birding and shell collecting are abundant. Free and open to public. Children welcome. No facilities. No need to sign up before hand.

General Information: please contact Neal Immega at: n immega@swbell.net

For all the details on the Family Energy Festival or the High Island Field Trip, visit

to the HGS website: http://www.hgs.org

**Volunteers** are needed to help with hands-on activities at the museum and to help with the field trip. If interested, please contact Martha McRae at <a href="mailto:esw@hgs.org">esw@hgs.org</a>.

For more information about the organizing sponsors and more planned activities occurring through out the year:

http://www.yearofplanetearth.org http://www.geosociety.org/IYPE http://www.earthsciweek.org/whatisesw/





### 1001 Texas Place Names

Submitted by C. E. Revilla at Tom Mather's suggestion

There was enough of a response from members to my book review, 1001 Texas Place Names (in the March 2007 HGS Bulletin), to prompt my contacting the author regarding the book's availability. Dr. Tarpley replied that "the volume was a best seller for several years, and then the publisher let it go out of print. I reprinted it myself and have copies available for \$10.00, including shipping."

If HGS members wish to order the book, a written request together with \$10.00 for each copy ordered (no cash), should be sent to:

Dr. Fred Tarpley, Prof. Emeritus of Literature and Languages Texas A & M University – Commerce 4540 FM 1568, Campbell, TX 75422

I have found that the book is not only a particularly good addition to my own reference library; it also is a good gift to Texans and others. Half of the 10 copies that I bought are already gone.

Note: Dr. Tarpley is a very busy man, but he attended to my request without undue delay.

### Vendor Corner Recognition and Thanks

The Houston Geological Society would like to recognize and thank its many vendors who demonstrated their financial support of the HGS and its programs by providing "vendor corners" during last year's many evening technical meetings. These are the folks who provide poster session displays of their company's products, studies, or services. These poster displays provided a great focal point during the social hour for the meeting attendees. The cost to the participating companies is not cheap and the fees they pay are donated to the HGS Scholarship Fund (undergraduate) and the HGS Student Membership Initiative. Make sure that you visit their booths, and thank them, when you see them at our meetings.

### The HGS would like to thank the following:

AOA Geophysics - Dan McConnell

E Seis – Shawn Porche

ION Geo – Menno Dinkelman

SeaBird Exploration – Brian Anderson

Aramco Services Company – Sergio Martinez

\*Fugro Robertson Inc. – Dave Schwartz

\*Knowledge Reservoirs LP - Lee Shelton

\*TGS-NOPEC – John Adamick

**CGG Veritas** – Mike Bertness

\*GeoKnowledge - Phil Conway

Micro-Strat Inc. - Walt Wornadt

\* These vendors hosted more than one vendor corner

If you would like to host a Vendor Corner during the upcoming 2008-2009 HGS year, please contact Paul Babcock at 832-242-9650 or paul.babcock@nfrenergy.com.



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September 2008



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An Independent E&P Company having affiliates actively engaged in petroleum exploration operations in North America, Africa, Central Asia, Middle East and Far East is seeking experienced geoscientists. The Group has offices in USA, Europe, Middle East and Asia. The selected candidates will be based in Houston, Texas. Job duties include interpretation of Gulf of Mexico 3-D seismic data and prospect generation for drilling and review and evaluation of 2-D and 3-D seismic data for joint ventures in Gulf Coast Region.

The applicant must have 5+ years offshore Gulf of Mexico experience and knowledge of latest geophysical methods and tools. Desired qualification is a degree in geology or geophysics.

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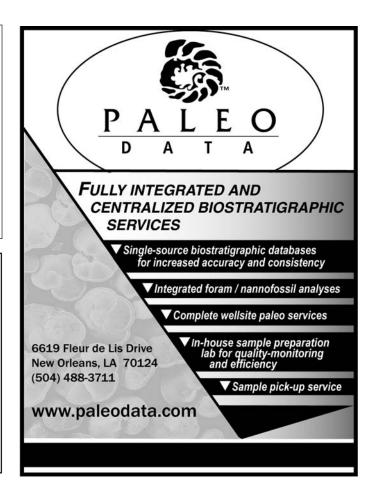
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### Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies TRANSACTIONS are now available on a single DVD.

This disk includes a fully searchable archive of the Transactions from the first meeting in 1951 through the recent conventions. It replaces the set of CDs that were previously available, updates through the more recent meetings (the CDs covered 1951 through 2003) and utilizes current search software. The DVD is available through the GCAGS Bookstore at the Bureau of Economic Geology or through AAPG-Datapages — purchase and contact information below.

The purchase price of the DVD is \$250.00, but for holders of the old CD set, a major discount is available if the DVD is purchased through Datapages (note — special discount NOT available through the Bureau of Economic Geology). If you send in a 1998 or 2001 Master Disc, your cost for the DVD is \$75.00. If you had the latest version of the CD set, send in the 2003 Master Disc and the DVD is free!

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or P.O. Box 979, Tulsa, OK 74101

### Remembrances

### LINDA ANNE LEWIS EWING

LINDA ANNE LEWIS EWING passed away on June 27th, 2008 at the age of 60. Linda was born in Dallas and attended Trinity University. At Trinity, she found geology as a profession, then finished her degree in 1971 at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro. She then worked in Houston, first for Conoco, then for Mobil Oil where she trained as a geophysicist and explored the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas. After working at Mesa Petroleum for a short while, she returned to San Antonio in 1980 and a year later 'set out her shingle' as a consulting geophysicist.

With her husband Dr, Thomas E Ewing, they built Frontera Exploration Consultants, and hosted one of the first computer seismic workstations in San Antonio. Memorials may be sent to the Hill Country Youth Ranch (POB 67, Ingram, Texas 78025-9986), or to the charity of your choice.

### W. L. "BILL" TIDWELL

W. L. "BILL" TIDWELL died June 28, 2008 in Houston at the age of 81. A WWII veteran, he proudly served our country in the Army Air Corps. As a geologist, his career spanned many years in the world-wide petroleum industry. Memorials contributions may be made to the LSU Foundation Geology Field Camp Fund and mailed to Anne Marie Marmande, E-240 Howe Russell, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

### CHARLES EUGENE "GENE" TROWBRIDGE

CHARLES EUGENE "GENE" TROWBRIDGE died June 27, 2008 in Houston. Born in Billings, Montana on December 17, 1924, Gene served as a Sergeant in the Army Combat Engineers in World War II serving in Europe and the Philippines. Following the war, he returned to school at the University of Oklahoma, earning a degree in geological engineering. He began his career as a geologist in the oil and gas industry with Stanolind Oil & Gas in southern Louisiana. In 1955, he moved to Houston where he worked for F. A. Callary Inc., eventually becoming an independent consulting geologist.

He specialized in oil and gas producing formations along the Gulf Coast and truly loved the hunt for this precious resource. He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, and American Institute of Professional Geologists. He also was very active in the Houston Geological Society, serving as an Executive Committeeman from 1978 to 1980. Following his retirement in the early 1990s, Gene remained active in the oil and gas industry through his involvement with the Pioneer Oil Producers (POPs). Memorial donations may be made to Boy Scout Troop 673, c/o St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, 11720 Joan of Arc, Houston, Texas 77024.

### ALBERT DAVID (A.D.) WARREN

**A.D. Warren** died Monday, May 19, 2008. He was 79. A.D. enjoyed a distinguished career as a micropaleontologist and was an Honorary Member of NAMS. The "A.D. Warren/R.M. Kleinpell Collection" is an important set of slides documenting foraminifera, calcareous nannofossils, and silicoflagellates stored at the University of California Museum of Paleontology (http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/science/microfossil\_colls.php).

During his long career, A.D worked for ARCO, Mobil, and as a principal of the Anderson Warren Wilcoxin Consultancy. He was a graduate of LSU and was very proud of his service to his country in the U.S. Marines. Memorial remembrances may be made to the San Diego Natural History Museum, Department of Paleontology, P.O. Box 121390, San Diego, CA 92112-1390, www.sdnhm.org.

### 2007-2008-2009

### Celebrating the International Year of Planet Earth









Hosted by the Houston Geological Society



The International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) is a global initiative of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNES-CO). IYPE aims to ensure wider use of the knowledge accumulated by the world's earth scientists. The goal of the Year is to recognize and draw attention to the benefits of the earth sciences for society.

The United Nations proclaimed the year 2008 as the official International Year of Planet Earth with science and outreach activities spanning 2007- 2009. The IYPE initiative is the largest international effort of its kind to promote the earth sciences. Education and outreach themes during the year include: human health and the environment, ocean and natural resource sustainability, mitigating hazards and community resilience, and effects of climate change.

### GOALS OF THE YEAR ARE:

- Reduce risks to society caused by natural and human-induced hazards
- Reduce health problems by improving the understanding of the medical aspects of earth science
- Discover new natural resources and make available in a sustainable manner
- Build safer structures and expand urban areas utilizing natural subsurface conditions
- Determine the non-human factors in climatic change
- Enhance the understanding of occurrences of natural resources in order to contribute to efforts to reduce political tension
- Detect deep and poorly accessible ground-water resources
- Improve the understanding of the evolution of life
- Increase interest in the earth sciences in society at large
- Encourage more young people to study the earth sciences at universities

### IYPE—JOINT MEETING EVENTS:

GSA-GCAGS

Forum for Teachers: Teaching Evolution Saturday, 4 October

Joint Plenary Session: The Impending Global Water Crisis Sunday, 5 October

All Conference Luncheon: Former Apollo Astronaut and U.S. Senator Harrison "Jack" Schmitt Ouestions about the Earth the Moon told us to ask Monday, 6 October

**GSA** 

Public Forum: Understanding Evolution George R. Brown Convention Center Tuesday, 7 October

HGS-GSA

Earth Science Week: Family Energy Festival Houston Museum of Natural Science Saturday, 11 October

Earth Science Week: Geology Field Trip Houston Museum of Natural Science Saturday, 18 October















Crop Science Society of America Geological Societies with the

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Bellville students display the USGS Tapestry of Time and Terrain geologic map of the United States presented to their school by the HGS. Jeff Spencer delivered several maps to Bellville as part of the HGS – Maps in School project.



### **HGS** Bulletin Instructions to Authors

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

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

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

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

### Advertising

The Bulletin is printed digitally using QuarkXPress. We no longer use negatives or camera-ready advertising material. Call the HGS office for availability of ad space and for digital guidelines and necessary forms or email to ads@hgs.org. Advertising is accepted on a space-available basis. Deadline for submitting material is 6 weeks prior to the first of the month in which the ad appears.

Random Inside (Black & White)			Page 2 (B&W)	Cover	Inside Back Cover (Full Color)	Back Cover	Calendar Back (Full Color)	Calendar Page (Full Color)		
No. of Issues	Random* Eighth	Random* Quarter	Random* Half	Random* Full	Full	Full	Full	Half	Full	Quarter
10	\$823	\$1,387	\$2,488	\$4,734	\$5,680	\$7,830	\$7,560	\$6,858	\$6,750	\$2,700
9	\$823	\$1,387	\$2,488	\$4,734	\$5,680					
8	\$750	\$1,260	\$2,242	\$4,307	\$5,169					
7	\$665	\$1,123	\$2,014	\$3,834	\$4,600					
6	\$590	\$990	\$1,782	\$3,392	\$4,069					\$1,890
5	\$497	\$837	\$1,503	\$2,860	\$3,432	\$4,698	\$4,536	\$4,104		
4	\$405	\$683	\$1,223	\$2,326	\$2,792					
3	\$327	\$550	\$990	\$1,886	\$2,262					\$1,080
2	\$232	\$392	\$704	\$1,339	\$1,607					
1	\$146	\$246	\$443	\$842	\$1,010	\$1,404	\$1,296	\$1,080		\$810

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# Application to Become a Member of the Houston Geological Society

### Qualifications for Active Membership

- Have a degree in geology or an allied geoscience from an accredit college or university; or
- 2) Have a degree in science or engineering from an accredited college or university and have been engaged in the professional study or practice of earth science for at least five (5) years.

## Qualifications for Associate Membership (including students)

- Be involved in the application of the earth or allied sciences.
- Be a full-time student enrolled in geology or in the related science

### Apply online at www.hgs.org and click on Join HGS

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To the Executive Board: I hereby apply for $\square$ Active or $\square$ Associate membership in the Houston Geological Society and pledge to abide by	its Constitution and Bylaws. $\square$ Check here if a full-time student.

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Home Phone:       Spouse's Name:         Smail:       Ob Title:		Year
Company: Company Address:	Earth Science Work Experience	
Vork Phone:	Applicant's Signature	member)
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Membership Chairman	HGS Servetary	

rev.08/11/2008

### Houston Geological Auxiliary/Houston Petroleum Auxiliary Council News

Norma Jean Jones, HGS Liaison

Summer is over, vacations are done, children are back in school, and it is time to get back to "business as usual." Our first HGA/HPAC event will be a "Getting to Know You" brunch at the Lakeside Country Club with entertainment by Pat Austin and her "Classic Jazz" ensemble. Co-Chairing this event are Page Moore and Sheri McQuinn. We are looking forward to some good food, good music, and great company. We hope YOU will join us.

The Geo Wives Executive Board met in the home of Geo Wives President, Sara Parr, in late July to discuss 2008-2009 business and programs. More information regarding Geo Wives will be forthcoming.

The following is the complete list of inaugural officers for HGA/HPAC year 2008-2009. This should prove to be a very exciting and challenging year for the Board and every member.

Sheri McQuinn, HAPL Liaison

President: Phyllis Carter, Petroleum Engineers
1st Vice President: Millie Tonn, Geological
2nd Vice President: Nan Pye, Geophysical
Secretary: Paulette Williams, Petroleum Engineers
Co-Treasurers: Wanda Shaw and Holly Dodds, Landmen

Editor: Lois Matuszak, Geological

Parliamentarian: Sherry McQuinn, Landmen
Executive Board: Norma Jean Jones, HGS Liaison
Maxine Hillman, SPE Liaison
Donna Parrish, GSH Liaison

**Committee Co-Chairs:** 

**Hospitality:** Carol Ann Gold and Sue Currie, *Petroleum Engineers* **Notification:** Barbara Peck and Barbara Dorsey, *Petroleum Engineers* 

Sincere appreciation and thanks go to Winona LaBrandt Smith and Edie Bishop who worked diligently to bring about this integration of the Petroleum Auxiliaries. Winona and Edie began in 2006 to bring together representatives from every Petroleum Auxiliary to find a way and unify all of the groups into one organization under a new title while preserving the purposes for which each was formed.

In line with the original purpose of HGA (to assist HGS in any manner they shall request), I would like to remind you that for the first time there will be a joint GSA-GCAGS Convention held October 5 – 9, 2008, in Houston at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Volunteers will be needed in the Hospitality Room, so if you have a few hours you would like to dedicate to this effort, please call Co-Chair of Guest Activities, Sally Blackhall @ 281-370-7807. It's always fun and rewarding to be part of the Hospitality Room crew.

If you have not joined HGA/HPAC, please complete the Membership form in this *Bulletin* and send it in with your check made out to HPAC.

You are invited to become a member of

### **HGA/HPAC**

2008-2009 dues are \$20.00

Mail dues payment along with the completed yearbook information to **Nan Pye**, 18219 Longmoor, Houston, TX 77084

### YEARBOOK INFORMATION

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	Please choose	a Committee Assignm	nent
☐ Fall Event	☐ Yearbook	$\square$ SOS	$\square$ Membership
☐ Christmas Event	☐ Spring Event	$\square$ Notification	$\square$ Game Day
	$\square$ May Luncheon	☐ Courtesy	

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