GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
and
GULF COAST SECTION SEPM

67th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by the South Texas Geological Society

San Antonio, Texas
November 1, 2017

OPENING SESSION & AWARDS CEREMONY

- Welcome – *Thomas E. Ewing, GCAGS President*
- Convention Highlights – Gene Ames, III, *2017 General Chair*
- Reports of the Presidents
  Thomas E. Ewing, GCAGS President
  John R. Suter, GCSSEPM President
  Charles Sternbach, AAPG President
- Presentation of Awards – see pages 2–4 for order
- Keynote Address – *Thomas E. Ewing, GCAGS President*

GCAGS Explore & Discover Article #294
http://www.gcags.org/exploreanddiscover/2017/00294_2017_gcags_gcssepm_opening_session_and_awards_ceremony.pdf
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REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS

Thomas E. Ewing, GCAGS President (see p. 5)

John R. Suter, GCSSEPM President (see p. 7)

ORDER OF AWARD PRESENTATION

2017 *GCAGS Transactions* Dedication (see p. 9)

Wilford Stapp

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2017 Imperial Barrel Award (AAPG Gulf Coast Sectional) (see p. 10)

1st Place:	University of Houston
Runner-Up:	University of Louisiana–Lafayette

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2016 A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award (AAPG) (see p. 13)

Duncan Bate
Co-Authors: Cian O'Reilly, James Keay, Alex Fick, Alex Birch Hawkins, Dario Chisari, Jason Kegel, and Brad Torry

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2016 President's Award for Outstanding Paper, *GCAGS Journal* (see p. 16)

J. Carl Fiduk
Co-Authors: Vivian Robertson, Marianne Clippard, George A. Jamieson, and Sarah Power

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2016 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Thomas A. Philpott Excellence of Presentation Award (see p. 18)

1st Place: Bo Chen
Co-Authors: Dhananjay Kumar, Anthony Uerling, Sheryl Land, Omar Aguirre, Tao Jiang, and Setiawardono Sugianto

2nd Place: Paul K. Wieg

3rd Place: Thomas E. Ewing
Co-Author: Juan L. Gonzalez

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2016 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Gordon I. Atwater Best Poster Award (see p. 22)

1st Place: Peng Li
Co-Authors: Michael E. Ratchford, Marc W. Charette, Bradley J. Walls, and Richard P. Philp

2nd Place: Adam Majzoub
Co-Author: Kevin W. Stafford

3rd Place: Aaron A. Eaves
Co-Author: Kevin W. Stafford

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2016 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Award (see p. 24)

1st Place: Erik S. Heider
Co-Author: David T. King, Jr.

2nd Place: Douglas W. Haywick
Co-Authors: David C. Kopaska-Merkel and Richard Keyes

3rd Place: Brian B. Hunt
Co-Authors: Alex S. Broun, Douglas A. Wierman, David A. Johns, and Brian A. Smith

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2017 GCSSEPM Distinguished Service Award (see p. 28)

Dorene West

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2017 GCSSEPM Doris Malkin Curtis Medal (see p. 29)

Charles D. Winker

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2017 GCAGS Special Commendation Award (see p. 30)

Leighton Devine

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2017 GCAGS Distinguished Service Award (see p. 31)

Wayne S. Croft

John Long

Richard E. Paige

Jennifer Smith-Engle

Douglas N. Toepperwein

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2017 GCAGS Honorary Membership Award (see p. 36)

Randy Bissell

Charles Sternbach

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2017 Don Boyd Medal (see p. 39)

Paul Weimer

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

THOMAS E. EWING

Welcome to San Antonio for the **67th Annual Convention** of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS), held jointly with the Gulf Coast Section of the SEPM (GCSSEPM). This year we have a great technical program (including a full-conference Deep Water Symposium) supported by field trips and short courses, under the theme "Pure Geology – Straight Science." See the report of the General Chair for details.

Many thanks to General Chair Gene Ames and Vice-Chair David Clay, and to all the members of the committees working to make this conference great. Special thanks to Lee Billingsley who chaired the Technical Program Committee and to James Willis, the Editor of the *GCAGS Transactions*. You are enjoying the fruits of their labors, so let them know that you appreciate their work when you see them around.

Thanks also to our **speakers, poster presenters, short course instructors, and field trip leaders**—we couldn't have a convention without you—and to our **sponsors and exhibitors**. Please thank them every chance you get, and consider patronizing their businesses. Also thanks to our key service partners: Global Events Management (GEM; Bruce Lemmon, president) who provide invaluable convention management services for us; and James and Jill Willis and Odyssey International who provide our website services and *Transactions* and *Journal* publication.

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GCAGS is a professional association providing continuing education for geoscientists living and working in the Gulf Coast and Gulf of Mexico Basin. Its membership consists of the 13 affiliated Local Geological Societies, and through them, over 6000 geoscientists. It is governed by a **Board of Directors**, consisting of the Executive Committee of officers and representatives from the affiliated societies. Between the semi-annual Board meetings, the **Executive Committee** transacts business and makes operational decisions. The current members for the year ending at this convention include: myself, the Vice President Ralph Richardson, Past President Brent Hopkins, the Convention General Chair Gene Ames, and the Treasurer Daniel Sutton. Thanks to all of you!

The person who keeps us all on track, keeps our records, oversees meeting arrangements, and many other duties is Kate Kipper, our **Executive Director**. Many thanks, Kate!

We have a number of vital committees that keep the Association running and also provide various services to the profession outside of the Convention.

On the internal side (keeping GCAGS running) we have: Continuity, Finance, Awards and Nominations, Constitution and Bylaws, and the Historian. The **Continuity Committee** plays a crucial role in long-term planning, scheduling and standardization of the Conventions, our signature product. Thanks to Dallas Dunlap for leading this great group. The **Finance Committee**, led by our Treasurer Daniel Sutton, manages the financial operations of the GCAGS except the convention account. We remain on good financial health; we hope shortly to have a Constitution revision in place to allow investment in low-risk securities for part of the "nest egg." Our **Awards Committee**, led by Brent Hopkins, review nominations for GCAGS and AAPG awards and recommends candidates. The **Constitution and Bylaws Committee** is formed when revisions are deemed necessary to our corporate structure. At present, this committee is reviewing the investment amendment, as well as a recasting of our Constitution and Bylaws to be more intelligible and responsive to our changing needs. The **Historian**, Jeff Spencer, is working to maintain and improve our historical account of the GCAGS and its activities.

The GCAGS serves as the Gulf Coast Section of AAPG, the national and international society for energy geoscientists. We are linked by our representation on the **AAPG Advisory Council**, which serves for national awards, nominations to office, and as a long-range planning and advisory body. Our representatives this last year were John Jordan (to July 1), and our two newly-elected representatives, Deborah Sacrey and Bill Whiting. Thanks to all of you! The President and President Elect also serve on the **Sections Committee of AAPG**, where all the heads of sections can get together and share best practices and talk to AAPG staff. In July, Mary Broussard turned over the chairmanship of this committee to Dallas Dunlap—both GCAGS members through the Lafayette and Austin societies, respectively. Congratulations to both!

On the external side (serving the profession) we have: Student & Faculty Grants, Publications, Publicity, Imperial Barrel Award, and Young Professionals committees. The combined **Student and Faculty Grants Committee**, chaired by Rene DeHon, evaluates proposals from university students and faculty conducting geoscience research in the Gulf Coast area, and recommends grant awards to the Board. This year we funded one faculty research proposal and 17 student research proposals. The **Publications Committee**, chaired by Amanda Masterson, manages the GCAGS Bookstore, which is operated by the Bureau of Economic Geology in Austin. She also manages exhibit booths for GCAGS at various conventions. The **Publicity Committee** posts GCAGS news and information on programs on the website; committee chair Dianna Phu works with webmaster Jill Willis. The **Imperial Barrel Award Committee**, chaired by Tom Bulling and Mitch Blakeley, manages the Gulf Coast regional semifinal competition for the AAPG IBA. This great program involves teams from many universities in a "hands-on" application of geoscience in hydrocarbon exploration. Congratulations to the University of Houston IBA Team, who won the 2017 Gulf Coast Section competition and then went on to win the AAPG IBA Finals!

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And now for some exciting news. Our flagship event, the Convention for which this *Transactions* volume is published, is being **redesigned and relaunched**! Hopefully in a couple of years, you will be attending **GeoGULF 2019** and **GeoGULF 2020!** Why and what does this mean for the petroleum geoscience community?

- We have **outgrown our name**. When we began in 1950, nearly everybody worked onshore—on the Gulf Coast. But now, half our presentations may come from offshore, including the exciting deepwater Gulf of Mexico plays and even international-based presentations. We want to be THE geoscience convention for the entire **Greater Gulf of Mexico Basin Complex**—the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf Coast, and the Interior Gulf Basins.
- As the ONLY annual geoscience convention targeting our basin (or basin complex), we want to **attract interdisciplinary contributions**, including geophysics, geochemistry, as well as some engineering when it relates to a geoscientist's career and industry activities. GeoGULF includes all of these, and should give us a larger critical mass to draw on.
- Our Convention has been changing over the last 20 years, becoming smaller with a much smaller exhibit floor but greatly improving technical programs. This has created **problems in obtaining venues** in many of our convention cities, and opened us to serious financial losses due to restrictive contracts with host hotels. Broadening our reach—making sure everyone realizes that this is THE convention to attend if you work in the Gulf area—can help grow our convention and ease our venue concerns.
- GCAGS will provide consistent marketing, sponsorship, and technical programing through **standing committees** to address these key features. In the near term at least, we will continue to change cities on a rotation. But standing committees can help provide continuity and "keep the ball rolling" year to year. The meeting will be hosted by one or more local Geological Societies, but sponsored by GCAGS and GCSSEPM.

The Board and Officers are still working on the implementation of this vision, and your input is welcome. We want to take our 67 years of history forward, so that our Convention is and remains indispensable to the education and the professional practice of geoscientists working in the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf Coast basin complex.

Kind regards,

Thomas E. Ewing
GCAGS President

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Gulf Coast Section SEPM

JOHN R. SUTER, PH.D.

Welcome to the 67th Annual Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM meeting, organized and hosted by the South Texas Geological Society. San Antonio is one of the most distinctive cities in the United States, if not the world, and it is a privilege to be here with you. We are all looking forward to a great conference. The icebreaker reception, golf tournament, hospitality suite, afternoon receptions, YPA Gathering, President's Reception and special evening at the Geo-Oktoberfest should provide many opportunities to catch up with old friends as well as make some new ones. Plus, we hope to see many of you at the GCSSEPM booth in the Exhibition Hall.

The technical program for the 2017 GCAGS "Pure Geology – Straight Science" includes oral and poster sessions whose topics include, but are not limited to, various aspects of deep water systems, Austin Chalk, Eagle Ford and other resource plays, evaluations and workflows, conventional Gulf Coast reservoirs, and water resources. In addition, 4 short courses, 3 field trips, three luncheons, and several breakfasts will be held. GCSSEPM played a major role in these offerings. The two-day Deep Water Symposium was originated and organized through the efforts of GCSSEPM member Jon Rotzien. The GCSSEPM Foundation will sponsor a free (almost) student Short Course on Seismic Interpretation, to be presented by Bruce Hart and Carl Fiduk, both past-presidents of the Section. We greatly appreciate the provision of the short course venue by Trinity University, and would like to acknowledge the assistance of Drs. Glen Kroeger and Les Bleamaster. Hopefully everyone gets a chance to attend at least part of the Deep Water Symposium and the Seismic Interpretation Short Course proves valuable to many students as possible.

On behalf of the GCSSEPM, many thanks to the dedicated volunteers whose efforts made this conference happen. The really long roster of volunteers included 2017 General Chairman Gene Ames, Co-Chair David Clay, Short Course Chair Doug Toepperwein, GCAGS Technical Program Chair Lee Billingsley, Sponsorship Chair and GCSSEPM Liaison Bonnie Weise, GCSSEPM Awards Chair Sushanta Bose and a far-too-long-to-list number of other committee members, volunteers, and workers. Everyone from the South Texas Geological Society made me feel right at home during the Committee meetings at the Petroleum Club in San Antonio, and I hope you will join me in thanking them for all their hard work.

GCSSEPM will present numerous awards at the opening session on Wednesday afternoon. I am honored to announce that Dr. Charles Winker, retired from Shell Oil Company, will receive the 2017 GCSSEPM Doris Malkin Curtis Medal for his outstanding research aimed at understanding the geology of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as his contributions to deep water exploration and development. Dorene West will receive the 2017 GCSSEPM Distinguished Service Award for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Society. I am also delighted to announce the winners of the Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Awards from 2016. First place goes to Erik S. Heider and David T. King, Jr.; Second Place to Douglas W. Haywick, David C. Kopaska-Merkel and Richard Keyes; and Third Place to Brian B. Hunt, Alex S. Broun, Douglas A. Wierman, David A. Johns, and Brian A. Smith. Please join me in congratulating these honorees for their contributions to geology and our societies.

The GCSSEPM Luncheon will be held on Friday, November 3. We are very fortunate to have as our speaker Dr. Maria Mutti of the Universität Potsdam in the Federal Republic of Germany, current President of SEPM (the Society for Sedimentary Geology). She will deliver a presentation entitled "Photozoan-Heterozoan Carbonate Systems: Evaluating Cenozoic and Mesozoic Examples." Her primary research interests are modern and ancient carbonate sedimentation, quantitative and applied sedimentology, outcrop and subsurface modeling, diagenesis, and stable isotope geochemistry of carbonate rocks. Dr. Mutti has been very active as a consultant and researcher, and has held various offices in international scientific societies. We also express our sincere thanks to SEPM for supporting Dr. Mutti's travel, and to the GCSSEPM Foundation for supporting her attendance at GCAGS 2017.

Last year, the GCSSEPM Foundation hosted the 2016 Perkins-Rosen Research Conference "Mesozoic of the Gulf Rim and Beyond: New Progress in Science and Exploration of the Gulf of Mexico Basin" on December 8–9, 2016, in Houston, Texas, co-convened by John Snedden, Chris Lowery, and Mike Blum. Marathon Oil gra-

ciously donated the use of their Conference Center, which was a tremendous help in making the meeting a great success! Thanks to the Conveners and Technical Program Committee, the presenters, attendees, and Marathon for all their contributions. This year the 2017 Perkins-Rosen Research Conference "Sequence Stratigraphy: The Future Defined" will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *AAPG Memoir* 26 "Seismic Stratigraphy—Applications to Hydrocarbon Exploration." The conference will be held December 4–5, 2017 at the Marathon Conference Center in Houston, Texas. Co-conveners Bruce Hart, Steve Bachtel, and Richard Denne, along with the Technical Program Committee, have put together a great program that is worthy of its theme, and we hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Finally, my tenure as President of the GCSSEPM over the last year has been very interesting and sometimes memorable. I would like to express my appreciation to officers and trustees of both the GCSSEPM Foundation and the Section. Foundation Executive Director Tony D'Agostino, Trustees Bruce Hart, Ron Waszczak, Jory Pacht and Dorene West were a great help and source of ideas and productive discussions. Likewise, the interactions with Section officers, including Past-President Dorene West, President-Elect Thomas Demchuk, Vice President Joe Macquaker, Treasurer Julitta Kirkova-Porciau, and Secretary Jennifer Wadsworth. Their efforts have kept GCSSEPM operating over the last year, through some trying times in the petroleum industry. I greatly appreciate their time, patience, hard work and good company.

Cheers,

John R. Suter, Ph.D.
GCSSEPM President

DEDICATION

IN MEMORY OF WILFORD STAPP

The ghostly yellow-green outline of Sicily swept dimly on the phosphorescent radar tube as Lieutenant Stapp's Liberator droned heavily across the Mediterranean toward this day's target in North Italy. Wilford would survive this mission, like all the other challenges past and to come; the Stapp Drilling Company blowouts, the dry holes in France, Africa, Indonesia, the Far East, and Australia. And he reveled in survival. He celebrated survival and those few efforts that ended in success; an adoring life partner Margaret with four adopted kids, a saved San Antonio Symphony, discoveries and development of Charlene, Seeligson, Slick, and Yoward Fields. He redeemed himself by forgetting the cruel horror of war, of bentonite stained blue serge suits, of midnight drives from rigs so long and late that you "could slit your throat" by being mesmerized by the angelic voices of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro."

Choir practice at age six, carrying firewood to a steam cable tool rig testing an oil seep on a Bahia, Brazil beach near today's Statoil Camamu-Almada Basin at age 11, and fluency in languages mandated by the Brazilian lycee-like system all destined Wilford's life. At Baylor University, Wilford earned "spending" money singing in a "swing" band and "spiritual reward" in the a capella choir. Such performing, along with those languages, prepared him for eloquently peddling oil prospects in front of an audience. Ironically if Wilford's repertoire of languages had included Spanish he may have become a comfortable insurance salesman for life when in 1938 he considered a job selling insurance to wealthy Mexican nationals in Houston. However a Saturday morning job offer from Shell Oil Company pulled him out of boarding at the YMCA and placed him thoroughly into the oil business.

Wilford's remarkable journey through life spanned the world; born to fervent Baptist missionary parents in Brazil who, he felt, left him to be "raised by fishermen," to Texas with geology degrees from Baylor and the University of Texas and most of his drilling activity, to North Africa where he navigated his group to Axis targets and was one of 13 survivors out of his original 170 man unit, to rallying scattered concessions, funds, and data into exploration ventures in around the world. Wilford would have made a fine chapter in Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" and Daniel Yergin's "The Prize." Wilford embodied both the Hollywood-style American dream and life's harsh realities. Picture John Wayne desperately driving cattle to distant market in "Red River" with an adopted son or Walter Huston striking gold then losing it to a partner's greed and the wind in "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre." Wilford's swan song prospect was drilling, at age 96, the sub-Edwards depths of the San Marcos Arch in search of the mysterious "mother bed" of the legendary Luling Field; the Texas giant of the 1930s, the location of COCORP research, the root of theories suggesting Paleozoic sourcing of Cretaceous reservoirs. His resulting dry hole ended a dream Wilford had nurtured since at least the 1980s, likely much longer. Wilford followed "the paths of glory" up until his death at age 97 in November 2015.

An outspoken, sociable savant, Wilford served all offices of the local South Texas Geological Society and initiated its prestigious "Bulletin" in 1960 as editor and its ongoing book series, "Contributions to the Geology of South Texas" for which he served as editor three times. He was awarded Honorary Membership to STGS in 1967. He was President, Vice President, and Editor of GCAGS and was chosen as an Honorary Member in 1988. Wilford's presence at college alumni meetings guaranteed an inspiring rendition of the alma mater, making you imagine you were Bing Crosby's backup as you sentimentally joined in. As Wilford said, "geology was his love, but music was his passion." To those lucky enough to know him he provided hope and inspiration, offering down and out geologists free continuous log copies run on his precious personal machine in the Milam Building, giving sage advice only a geologist who had run a drilling company could know, and providing hand drawn sketches of oil field maps and cross sections reminiscent of Da Vinci scientific manuscripts. Wilford was capable of "tough love" too; admonishing drunks to change their habits and breaking your heart with unhesitating warnings of the flaws in your beloved oil prospect. His modest advice to us fellow geologists was to "be a volunteer" and "follow your heart! The better life goes with those who have a keen interest in what they do and do it beyond motives of profit." He was a good friend and a cunning geologist. A better peer and mentor none of us could have wanted.

IMPERIAL BARREL AWARD
Gulf Coast Section of AAPG

Ten universities competed in the 2017 Gulf Coast Section Imperial Barrel Award Competition held on Friday, March 17, 2017. This year's competition was hosted by Anadarko Petroleum in their Woodlands, Texas office.

	Explorers Division		**Prospectors Division**
1st Place	University of Houston	1st Place	University of Louisiana–Lafayette
2nd Place	Texas A&M University	2nd Place	University of Texas

Gulf Coast Finals

1st Place	University of Houston
Runner-up	University of Louisiana–Lafayette

The University of Houston went on to win the Global Finals at the AAPG convention on Saturday April 1st, 2017!

FIRST PLACE OVERALL AND FIRST PLACE EXPLORERS DIVISION (2017)

Eric Lunn, Walter Reed, Delaney Robinson, Leiser Silva, Andrew Steier, Dr. Mark Richardson (ExxonMobil), Micahel Liebelt (Consultant), Dr. Paul Mann (Advisor), and Dr. John Castagna (Advisor)

University of Houston

RUNNER-UP OVERALL AND FIRST PLACE PROSPECTORS DIVISION (2007)

Daniel Friedman, Nicholas Jarrett, Amanda Johnston, Kevin Reece, Sydney Workman, Mary Broussard (Anadarko), Mike Quinn (Consultant), and Dr. Raphaël Gottardi (Advisor)

University of Louisiana–Lafayette

SECOND PLACE EXPLORERS DIVISION (2017)

Cristina Figueroa, Zihui Gao, Telemachos Manos, April Rider, Chia Pei Teoh, Vernon Moore (Marathon), Timothy Powell (Independent), and Dr. Juan Carlos Laya (Advisor)

Texas A&M University

SECOND PLACE PROSPECTORS DIVISION (2017)

Tyler Ruchala, John Phillips, Walker Ligon, Ryan Wilcoxson, Meagan DePugh, and Dr. Nicholas Perez (advisor)

Texas A&M University

BEST PRESENTATION AWARDS

2016 A. I. LEVORSEN MEMORIAL AWARD
(Gulf Coast Section, AAPG)

"Structural Styles and Regional Play Types in the Mexican Offshore from New Seismic Data"

Cian O'Reilly, Duncan Bate, James Keay, Alex Fick, Alex Birch Hawkins, Dario Chisari, Jason Kegel, and Brad Torry

Cian O'Reilly

Cian received a B.Sc in Geology and Chemistry from University College Dublin and a Ph.D from the National University of Ireland (Galway). Two post-docs followed, focused on investigating hydrothermal fluids in metal and hydrocarbon deposits. Following a stint in base metals exploration and production, Cian joined Fugro Robertson in 2002 and worked on structural and seismic projects throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas. Since joining TGS in 2011 he has worked on seismic projects throughout the world, with a particular focus on the South Atlantic (Brazil and Angola). He is currently working on the seismic interpretation of the Gigante survey in the Mexican Gulf of Mexico.

Duncan Bate

Undergraduate and Ph.D. in Geophysics from The University of Liverpool and Keele University, respectively. Ph.D. research on "Time-lapse microgravity for monitoring hydrocarbon reservoir behavior during recovery and injection operations." Joined ARK geophysics in 2004 to continue 4D gravity research and work on gravity and magnetics interpretation projects. Left ARK geophysics to join ARKeX, a spin out, to develop new gravity gradiometry technology, and moved to Houston in 2007. In 2013 joined TGS as Business Development Manager for all Western Hemisphere interpretation projects. In 2016 became Director of Project Development and Geoscience for Gulf of Mexico.

James Keay

James Keay has over 30 years experience in international oil and gas exploration, development, and operations, onshore and offshore. He has extensive experience in business development and operations management in North America, Latin America and the Middle East and has performed integrated reservoir studies in Canada, Colombia, and Kuwait. He holds a Texas Professional Geoscientist License. As Chief Geologist, NSA, James is responsible for providing geoscience evaluations to grow TGS's investment and sales activities.

Alex Fick

Alex Fick received his B.Sc in 2013 and M.Sc in Geology from the University of Houston in 2016 and has nearly 5 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. He has experience in exploration and evaluation in the U.S. Gulf Coast, Permian Basin, U.S. Midcontinent, and onshore and offshore Mexico. His graduate work focused on interpreting newly imaged structural and stratigraphic elements in the Mexican Ridges deep-water fold and thrust belt. As a Geoscientist for TGS, he is currently working on the interpretation and assessment of newly released seismic and geologic datasets from onshore Mexico as well as regional evaluations in the Permian and Anadarko Basins in support of new seismic acquisition and project development.

Alex Birch Hawkins

Alex is an Interpretation Geophysicist with six years' experience in the oil and gas industry; specialist in 2D and 3D seismic interpretation, play fairway analysis, prospect generation, depth conversion, volumetrics, well log analysis and AVO analysis. Project areas include mature and frontier basins across Africa, NW Europe, the Americas and Oceania.

Dario Chisari

Dario received a B.Sc in Geology from the University of Milano-Bicocca and a M.Sc in Geology and Subsoil Resources from University of Trieste (Italy). After his graduation in 2011 he joined TGS as Junior Geoscientist and worked on various 2D and 3D regional interpretation and prospectivity studies across the W-African Margin (NWAAM, Angola and Namibia), N-Brazil (Foz do Amazonas, Pará-Maranhão and Potiguar), Norwegian-Danish Basin, US GoM. As an Advanced Interpretation Geophysicist, still at TGS, he collaborated with the Italian authorities for a seismic acquisition permitting process and worked on the seismic interpretation of the Mexican GoM "Gigante" survey, focusing on Campeche-Salina del Istmo and Mexican Ridges basins. Dario has recently joined the ENI Upstream team in Italy as Senior Geophysicist.

Jason Kegel

Jason Kegel is a Geoscientist at TGS who works closely with the seismic project development and business development organizations to interpret and integrate data and to explore new areas for seismic acquisition. His 8 years of industry experience have included carbonate stratigraphic research, basin scale structural analysis and mapping, deep water sequence stratigraphic interpretation and technical field evaluations. He has a B.A. in Geography and a B.S. in Geology from New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM), and a M.S. in Geology from the University of Houston (Houston, TX).

Brad Torry

With 30 years of industry experience Brad spent the first half of his career on the E&P side of the business as a Senior Geophysicist/ Team Leader. The second half of Brad's career has been spent as founder, President and CEO of Arcis Seismic Solutions in Calgary, AB which was acquired by TGS in 2012. His experience includes technical leadership, operations management, technical consultation, and M&A advisory. Brad has extensive operational and interpretation expertise in hydrocarbon prospect/trend delineation including economics and risk analysis. His specific seismic related experience includes; program design

and implementation, signal processing, interpretation and analysis, QHSE, procurement, regulatory affairs and contracts facilitation. Brad is an active member of the SEG, CSEG, EAGE, GSH, CSPG, AAPG and APEGS, where he has served on numerous committees. Committed to giving back Brad also chairs Providence Children's Centres and other community groups helping others.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PAPER, *GCAGS JOURNAL*, Vol. 5 (2016)

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

"Extensional Salt Keels Detached on Eocene-Oligocene Sediments in the Deepwater Northern Gulf of Mexico: Insights into Canopy Advancement, Salt-Sediment Interplay, and Evidence for Unrecognized Mass Sediment Displacement"

J. Carl Fiduk, Vivian Robertson, Marianne Clippard, George A. Jamieson, and Sarah Power

J. Carl Fiduk

Carl Fiduk is an independent consultant and owner of Fiduk Consulting, LLC. To his clients he provides expertise on petroleum exploration, salt tectonics, marine depositional processes, basin analysis, seismic interpretation, seismic processing, and structural geology. He earned his B.A. and M.S. in geology from the University of Florida, an M.B.A. from the University of Texas–Permian Basin, and a Ph.D. in geology and geophysics from the University of Texas at Austin. He has published over 90 peer reviewed abstracts/papers and is a past AAPG Distinguished Lecturer.

Vivian Robertson

Vivian is an Interpretation Geologist with 12 years industry experience with Schlumberger. Originally a Geophysicist with both time and depth imaging experience including both U.S. land and transitional zone/shallow marine Gulf of Mexico data. For the past 7 years her career has been dedicated to the interpretation of regional and complex geological features with a focus on salt modeling and stratigraphic mapping. Regional areas of experience include: Gulf of Mexico (shelf, deepwater, and Mexico), offshore Brazil, Mediterranean, Nova Scotia, and the Black Sea.

Marianne Clippard

Marianne Clippard is currently an interpretation geophysicist with WesternGeco where she is engaged with both project work and teaching seismic interpretation and salt tectonics. She received a B.S. in Geological Engineering from the University of Missouri–Rolla and an M.S. in Geophysics from the University of Houston prior to joining Sohio/BP. At BP she worked Prudhoe Bay and Endicott field development prior to exploration of the Alaskan North Slope transition/offshore and the Delaware Basin. For the past nine years she has been with WesternGeco, focusing on salt tectonics and interpretation for depth imaging in the U.S. and Mexican GoM. Marianne has had a lifelong passion for geology and structural interpretation that began with rock collecting and active field mapping with orienteering clubs. Her geoscientific passion continues with her current interest in interpreting the tectonic history of salt dominated basins.

George A. Jamieson

George is a seismic interpretation geologist with 35 years industry experience, almost 33 with Schlumberger, comprising regional to prospect scale structural/stratigraphic interpretations of 2D and 3D seismic data, some of which incorporated non-seismic data such as gravity and magnetic. Interpretation projects include regional geological studies, structural interpretations for velocity models involving complex salt, field studies and prospect evaluations. Areas worked in include shelf and deepwater Gulf of Mexico (both US and Mexican administered regions), offshore Brazil, offshore Peru, onshore Venezuela and Argentina, North sea, Mediterranean (offshore Nile Delta and Sinai) and offshore West Africa.

Sarah Power

Sarah is an interpretation geologist with 7 years experience with Schlumberger. Projects include, complex structural and stratigraphic studies, structural model building for salt prone provinces, and regional geologic studies. She is an expert Petrel user and has helped develop some of the commercial plugins. Her experience covers all the major offshore salt basins worldwide, with particular experience in the North Sea, Africa, Gulf of Mexico (U.S. and Mexico), and Atlantic Canada.

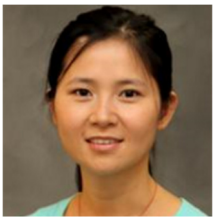
BEST PRESENTATION AWARDS, CONTINUED

2016 THOMAS A. PHILPOTT EXCELLENCE OF PRESENTATION AWARDS
(Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM)

FIRST PLACE – 2016

"Using Seismic Inversion and Net Pay to Calibrate Eagle Ford Shale Producible Resources"

Bo Chen, Dhananjay Kumar, Anthony Uerling, Sheryl Land, Omar Aguirre, Tao Jiang, and Setiawardono Sugianto



Bo Chen

Bo Chen received her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at Wuhan University in China in 2007 and Master of Science in Electrical Engineering and Geophysics at Texas A&M University in 2009 and 2011. She worked at CGGVeritas as a seismic processor for one year and joined BP America Inc. as a geophysicist in Gulf of Mexico Exploration in 2011. Currently she's working in South Texas business unit, Lower 48, BP. Her work includes seismic interpretation, geophysical analysis, reservoir characterization, shale gas and multidisciplinary integration. She is a member of SEG, AAPG, GSH, and HGS.

Dhananjay Kumar

Dhananjay Kumar received his Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences in 1998 and Master of Science in Exploration Geophysics in 2000, both from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and a Ph.D. in Geophysics in 2005 from the University of Texas at Austin. Since 2012, he is a geophysicist at BP America Inc., Houston. Earlier he worked one year for Reliance and 7 years for Chevron. His research interest includes, reservoir property predictions from seismic, seismic modeling and inversion, rock physics, 4D seismic, shale gas and gas hydrates. He is a member of SEG, CSEG, GSH, and SPG North America Chapter.

Anthony Uerling

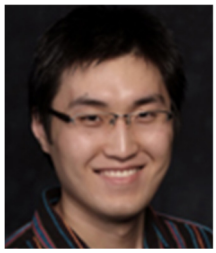
Anthony (Tony) Uerling received his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering in 1997 from the University of Tulsa. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley in 2006. Since joining BP in 1997 he has worked in a variety of Management, Reservoir Engineering, and Business Development roles. He is currently the Vice President of South Texas Development for BP's Lower 48 Onshore U.S. business. He is a member of SPE.

Sheryl Land

Sheryl Land received her Master of Science in Mathematics/Operations Research in 1982 from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. She is a Senior Geophysicist with more than 25 years of experience in oil & gas exploration and field development at Amoco/ BP. During her career, she had experience with onshore 3D seismic acquisition/processing, GOM shelf development and GOM deep water lease sale & exploration. The majority of her career has been in U.S. onshore field development and is currently working the Eagle Ford shale.

Omar Aguirre

Omar Aguirre is currently a Senior Petrophysicist at BP America Inc., Houston. He holds a BS degree in Petroleum Engineering from the *Universidad Autonoma Gabriel Rene Moreno* in Bolivia. H e has 18 years of experience in different positions as log analyst and petrophysicist, evaluating conventional and unconventional reservoirs. In the past 7 years he has been working on evaluating shale oil and gas reservoirs for domestic and oversea projects. Earlier he worked 13 years for Repsol in exploration and reservoir development business units. He is a member of SPWLA, SCA, and SIB.



Tao Jiang

Tao Jiang received a Bachelor of Science in Geophysics from Peking University, China in 2004; Master of Science in Geophysics from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geology and Geophysics in 2008; and Ph,D, in Geophysics from University of Houston in 2013. After graduation, he works as a geophysicist in Upstream Technology of BP America Inc. His research experiences and interests include compressive sensing inversion, seismic modelling and migration, rock property characterization, seismic attribute inversion, and effective medium theory. He is a member of SEG.

Setiawardono Sugianto

Setiawardono (Hans) Sugianto received his Bachelor of Applied Science in Electrical Engineering in 1978 from University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. He is a BP retired geophysicist after working for more than 36 years in oil and gas exploration and development at Dome Petroleum, Amoco, and BP America. He specialized in seismic processing, modelling and inversion, AVO attributes and analysis, reservoir property predictions from seismic, and VSP seismic imaging.

SECOND PLACE – 2016

"Large-Scale Depositional Characteristics of the Wilcox Formation, Central Gulf of Mexico Deepwater"

Paul K. Wieg

Paul K. Wieg

Mr. Wieg began his career in oil and gas exploration working the Green River Basin of Wyoming as a geophysicist for Exxon. When an opportunity to work international exploration for Pecten (a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company) presented itself, Mr. Wieg accepted a role in the New Ventures Group, where he evaluated the hydrocarbon prospectivity of multiple basins in East Africa, India, and offshore Angola. Since being transferred to New Orleans to work for Shell Offshore's Core Competency Group, Mr. Wieg has been involved in subsurface evaluation and prospecting in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico for over 20 years, employed in various technical and managerial positions for Shell, CNG Producing, Dominion Offshore, Eni, and Stone Energy. Mr. Wieg is currently working as a geoscientist for Houston Energy, L.P. with a focus on deepwater Gulf of Mexico exploration. Mr. Wieg received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Geology with highest honors from the New Mexico School of Mines and a Master's Degree in Geology from Duke University.

THIRD PLACE – 2016

"The Late Quaternary Rio Grande Delta— A Distinctive, Underappreciated Geologic System"

Thomas E. Ewing and Juan L. Gonzalez

Thomas E. Ewing

Dr. Thomas Ewing is a geoscientist with over 33 years of experience in hydrocarbon exploration and research. He is a Registered Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas (#1320) and an AAPG/DPA Certified Petroleum Geologist (#4538), and holds certification #1610 from SIPES.

He received a B.A. in Geology from the Colorado College (1975), an M.S. in Geochemistry from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (1977), and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from the University of British Columbia (1981).

Dr. Ewing was a research geologist for four years at the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology in Austin, working on Gulf Coast geopressured reservoirs, serving as a co-author of the "Atlas of Texas Oil Reservoirs," and compiling the Tectonic Map of Texas. Since 1985 he has been co-owner of Frontera Exploration Consultants, Inc., a San Antonio–based geoscience consulting company; he has consulted to numerous clients in South Texas, New Mexico, and elsewhere. He worked with Venus Oil and Venus Exploration from 1985 to 2005 as staff consultant and Senior Explorationist, playing a main role in its successful exploration in the Yegua trend of the Gulf Coast Basin, the Cotton Valley trend of Texas and Louisiana, and in West Texas and Kansas. He is now a partner in Yegua Energy Associates, LLC, which is continuing hydrocarbon exploration in these trends.

Most recently, Dr. Ewing has received a half-time appointment with the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology as project director to develop an illustrated book and website on the geology and earth resources of Texas for a general audience.

Dr. Ewing is a member of many regional and national professional societies. He has served as Treasurer, Vice-President and President (2007–08) of the AAPG Division of Professional Affairs. He is an AAPG Delegate

from the South Texas Geological Society, and served as Vice-Chairman of the AAPG House of Delegates in 1992–93. He is also served as President of the Energy Minerals Division of AAPG (1999–2000), and received Honorary Membership in that Division in 2009. At present he serves as Vice-President for Sections of AAPG (2012–14). He served as President of the South Texas Geological Society in 1990-1, and as General Chairman of the 1996 GCAGS Convention in San Antonio. He received Honorary Membership in the South Texas Geological Society in 2009, Honorary Membership in the GCAGS in 2010, and BEG Alumnus of the Year in 2011.

Tom has spoken extensively at local, regional, and national geological meetings and published over 70 papers and abstracts. Among other awards, he has twice received the Gulf Coast Section AAPG Levorsen Award (1982 and 1999), and has received the AAPG Distinguished Service Award. He has written articles on Gulf Coast geology and hydrocarbons, the geology and tectonics of Texas, and history and urban geology of the San Antonio area. He wrote the popular guidebook "Landscapes, Water and Man: Geology and Man in the San Antonio Area" published by the South Texas Geological Society in 2008.

In his spare time, he leads field trips in South Texas, and directs a 60-voice German men's chorus, the San Antonio Liederkranz.

Juan L. Gonzalez

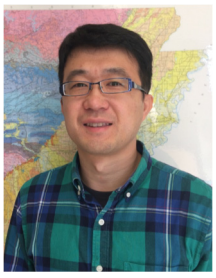
Juan L. Gonzalez is an Associate Professor at the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He earned his PhD from Tulane University in 2008. His research interest is broad, ranging from, coastal tectonics, paleoclimate and sea level change, geoarcheology, and the geology of South Texas. He is author or co-author in over 40 peer reviewed publications. Current projects include a paleo sea-level reconstruction for the Caribbean Coast of Colombia, the sourcing of stone tools in South Texas, and deciphering the jade route in northern South America.

GORDON I. ATWATER BEST POSTER AWARDS
(Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM)

FIRST PLACE – 2016

"Unconventional Reservoir Characterization of the Brown Dense Mudstone (Lower Smackover Formation), Gulf Coastal Plain, South Arkansas"

Peng Li, Michael E. Ratchford, Marc W. Charette, Bradley J. Walls, and Richard P. Philp



Peng Li

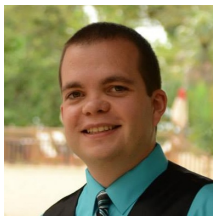
Peng Li is a Senior Petroleum Geologist for the Arkansas Geological Survey (AGS). He is a native of China. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Geology with honor from Northwest University in Xi'an, China. He holds a Master of Science degree in Petroleum Geology from Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development (RIPED) in Beijing, China. After graduating with a Ph.D. degree in Geology from the University of Alabama in 2007, he moved to Little Rock and joined AGS, where he was involved in research projects that identify and assess fossil fuels resources including oil, gas, coal, lignite, and coalbed methane within the state. He is also an adjunct faculty member with the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Little Rock.

Michael E. Ratchford

Dr. Ratchford received a B.S. degree in Geology from Western Carolina University in 1982, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Geology from the University of Idaho in 1989 and 1994, respectively. Since 2014, he has served as the State Geologist and Director for the Idaho Geological Survey. He previously worked on various oil, gas, and coal research projects in the U.S. Mid-Continent region (2003–2014), mineral exploration, including surface and underground mine development in Canada and the western U.S. (1994–2003), and conducted regional field mapping for the USGS in the Central Idaho Fold and Thrust Belt (1989–1993).

Marc W. Charette

No photograph or biography available as of press time.



Bradley J. Walls

Bradley J. Walls completed his B.S. in geology from the Ohio State University in 2007 and his M.S. in geology from Ohio University in 2009. He started working at Weatherford Laboratories in 2009. He currently works as a sedimentary geologist specializing in shale and carbonate deposits.

Richard P. Philp

I received my Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Sydney (Australia) in 1972 and my D.Sc. degree from the same University in 1998. I then spent one and a half years as a post-doctoral fellow with Professor G. Eglinton at the University of Bristol (England) undertaking research in various aspects of organic geochemistry and the application of analytical techniques such as gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to this area of research. Following this, I spent four years at the University of California, Berkeley, as a research associate, directing the organic geochemistry research group of Professor Melvin Calvin. I returned to Sydney in 1977 to join the CSIRO, Fuel Geoscience Unit, now part of the Division of Fossil Fuels, where I was a principal research scientist studying various aspects of petroleum geochemistry. In June 1984, I joined the faculty at the University of Oklahoma. Recently a large amount of my research has been concerned with environmental studies and particularly investigating the use of stable carbon isotopes as a means of monitoring and tracking pollutants in the environment. Professional activities: associate editor of *I. Environmental Forensics*, and Chairman of the Geochemistry Division of the American Chemical Society, 1993–1995.

SECOND PLACE – 2016

"Characterization and Delineation of Karst Geohazards along RM652 Using Electrical Resistivity Tomography, Culberson County, Texas"

Adam Majzoub and Kevin W. Stafford

Adam Majzoub

No photograph or biography available as of press time.

Kevin W. Stafford

No photograph or biography available as of press time.

THIRD PLACE – 2016

"Delineation of Karst Geohazards along Highway 652 through the Use of Ground Penetrating Radar, Culberson County, Texas"

Aaron A. Eaves and Kevin W. Stafford

Aaron A. Eaves

No photograph or biography available as of press time.

Kevin W. Stafford

No photograph or biography available as of press time.

GROVER E. MURRAY BEST PUBLISHED PAPER AWARDS
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM

FIRST PLACE – 2016

"Early Modification Stage Emplacement of Shallow Crater-Filling Units, Wetumpka Impact Structure, Alabama"

Erik S. Heider and David T. King, Jr.

Erik S. Heider

Erik is originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee. He attended the University of Tennessee and earned a B.S. in Geology in 2012 before earning an M.S. in Geology from Auburn University in 2015. At Auburn, Erik studied the dynamics of a hyper-velocity bolide impact into a shallow marine environment using the Wetumpka impact structure in Alabama as a natural laboratory. Awards from the Barringer Crater Company and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies funded his M.S. project. He also led Auburn's AAPG Imperial Barrel Award team in 2014. He was awarded Outstanding Graduate Student in Geology, as well as the Outstanding Graduate Leadership award in 2015 from the Department of Geosciences at Auburn. Most recently he has been working in Memphis, Tennessee, for EnSafe Inc., an environmental consulting firm. He has a wide variety of interests in geology and economics. Erik aspires to tackle the world's toughest energy problems in an environmentally conscious way.

David T. King, Jr.

David holds the rank of Professor of Geology at Auburn University. A graduate of the University of Missouri–Columbia, he has extensive post-doctoral experience in teaching and research in the fields of sedimentology and stratigraphy. He has worked on Paleozoic carbonates of the U.S. Mid-Continent, on the Jurassic hydrocarbon basins of southern Alabama and Mississippi, and on Cretaceous and Cenozoic strata in the U.S. Gulf Coast and in Belize, Central America. Since 1996, his main area of academic research has been cosmic impact in marine waters over geological time. He is a former Commissioner of the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature (1997–2000), and he was a gubernatorial appointee to the Alabama state licensure board for geologists (2005–2014). He teaches introductory, advanced, and graduate courses in geology on many aspects of stratigraphy and planetary geology. He has been conducting geological research at Wetumpka impact crater for the past 20 years.

SECOND PLACE – 2016

"Petrographic and Faunal Characterization of Monteagle and Hartselle-Equivalent Strata in Northeast Alabama"

Douglas W. Haywick, David C. Kopaska-Merkel, and Richard Keyes

Douglas W. Haywick

Doug Haywick is an Associate Professor in Geology at the University of South Alabama and specializes in sedimentary petrology, carbonate geochemistry, and diagenesis. His past research projects have included studies examining the origin of cyclicity in mixed temperate carbonate-siliciclastic strata in New Zealand, the depositional and alteration histories of limestones in Alabama, and storm impacts on estuarine sedimentary environments along the Gulf Coast. After 27 years of teaching, 26 of them at the University of South Alabama, he will be retiring from academia following one more stint as a co-leader of the university's summer field geology course in New Mexico. His new career will likely involve making pottery and geologically-relevant art forms.

David C. Kopaska-Merkel

David C. Kopaska-Merkel is Chief of the Petroleum Systems and Technology Section, Geological Survey of Alabama, where he has worked for upwards of 25 years. He is a member of the Evolution Working Group (University of Alabama), 40-year member of the Society for Sedimentary Geology, and past-President of the SE Section, National Association of Geoscience Teachers. He studies oil & gas reservoir rocks to facilitate discovery and production of hydrocarbons in the state. He also studies fossils and ancient reefs to expand knowledge of Alabama's geologic history. His most recent book, "Footprints in Stone," was co-authored with Professor Ron Buta. This book describes the Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint site, one of the most important Carboniferous trace fossil sites in the world, which is located in northern Alabama.

Richard Keyes

Richard Keyes has worked for the DOD for the past 29 years. Long interested in the Paleozoic fossils from the sedimentary interval in north Alabama, he is now considered a regional expert on crinoids and many other invertebrates from this region. His most recent publications are Fossils of the Tennessee Valley, and Common and Index Macrofossils and the Stratigraphic Sequence of the Mississippian System in the Tennessee Valley of North Alabama, which was published in the Alabama Geological Society Guidebook for the 51st Annual Field Trip. He is currently planning to dedicate more time documenting the fauna from the northern Alabama area.

THIRD PLACE – 2016

"Surface-Water and Groundwater Interactions Along Onion Creek, Central Texas"

Brian B. Hunt, Alex S. Broun, Douglas A. Wierman, David A. Johns, and Brian A. Smith

Brian B. Hunt

Brian Butler Hunt was born in Austin, Texas and graduated from UT Austin with a B.S. (1996) and M.Sc. (2000) in geological sciences. Brian is a Senior Hydrogeologist and has worked for the past sixteen years with the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. Brian is Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas and is a past president and active member of the Austin Geological Society.

Alex S. Broun

Alex S. Broun graduated from the University of Illinois in 1955 with a B.Sc. geology. He attended graduate school at Florida State University and was employed as a geologist by Standard Oil Co. New Jersey (Exxon) in 1956. Alex worked overseas and domestically for Exxon in a number of technical and management assignments until his retirement in 1994. He worked as a consultant for Exxon until 1998. Upon retirement to the Texas Hill Country, Broun has worked on the hydrogeology of the Trinity Aquifer System. He has served as a volunteer for the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District since 2003 and is past board president of the district. Broun is a Professional Geoscientist, licensed by the State of Texas and in 2013 he was awarded the AAPG Public Service Award. He has been a member of the AAPG since 1960 and is a member of the Austin Geological Society.

Douglas A. Wierman

Douglas A. Wierman has spent 40 years as a hydrogeologist working for national and international environmental consultancies. He holds a B.S. in geology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and an M.S. in geological sciences from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He is currently the president of Blue Creek Consulting, LLC and a Fellow of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

David A. Johns

David A. Johns was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas. He received a B.S. in geology from Texas A&M University in 1978 and a M.A. in geology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983. After working at the UT Bureau of Economic Geology he has spent the last 27 years working at the City of Austin as an Environmental Scientist working on a variety of geology and water issues. He is a Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas, a past president and current Vice-President of the Austin Geological Society.

Brian A. Smith

Brian has a Bachelor's degree in geology from Rice University (1979) and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Texas at Austin (1986). He has been exploring and studying caves since 1971, mostly in the southeastern United States, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Since graduating from the University of Texas, he has worked on numerous environmental sites and karst studies in many parts of the U.S. and in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For the past 16 years, he has supervised the scientific studies conducted by the aquifer district to provide guidance to the policy makers of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers in Central Texas. One of his key areas of interest is multilevel monitoring and assessment of complex and stacked aquifers.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Gulf Coast Section SEPM

DORENE WEST

The Gulf Coast Section SEPM Distinguished Service Award for 2017 is given to Dorene B. West, a consulting geologist in Houston, Texas. Dorene was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. She attended the School of Business at Indiana University, where she was first exposed to geology when she took an earth science course to fulfill a curriculum requirement. Earth science was a revelation to her and radically changed her academic aspirations. She completed the coursework for an Associate Degree in Business Management and Administration and then changed her major to geology: her future career was set. She graduated and then took her master's degree also at Indiana, in structural geology; her thesis is titled "Analysis of Structural Fabric Data on the Unit Sphere."

Upon leaving Indiana, Dorene relocated to Midland to take up a post with Gulf Oil. She initially worked in Gulf's Geoscience Exploration Data Processing Group and latterly in their Exploration/Operations teams in Midland and New Orleans, and Frontier Exploration team in Houston. In 1984, her activities were responsible for 25% of Gulf's New Orleans District booked reserves. Over the following years she held permanent positions at Sohio, GECO, Pacific Enterprises, Pennzoil, Kerr-McGee, Phillips/ConocoPhillips, and Nexen, in addition to consulting for Total Minatome, Arco, Phillips, Maxus, Newfield, Hess, Camac, Tectonic Analysis, and Lloyd's Register. Building on her structural geology expertise, she became particularly interested in salt-associated plays, and was one of the first geologists to recognize that there was untapped exploration potential in such systems. Her papers presented orally at the Gulf Coast SEG in1987, the AAPG Annual Convention in 1988, and the 28th International Geological Congress in 1989, and reported formally in a key paper in the *AAPG Bulletin* (1989) titled "Salt Deformation on Deep Margin of Central Gulf of Mexico Basin" were seminal in this respect. With this extensive experience under her belt she taught salt tectonics seminars.

Dorene's interest in salt tectonics also led to her long association with GCSSEPM and particularly the Annual Research Conferences. This relationship began when she co-chaired the very successful 10th Annual Research Conference titled "Gulf of Mexico Salt Tectonics, Associated Processes and Exploration Potential"; this was the Section's first salt conference, as well as the first time in the history of the section that attendance was sold out. After this auspicious start she continued to serve the society: she edited papers for the 15th Annual Research conference titled "Rates of Geologic Processes, Tectonics, Sedimentation, Eustasy and Climate—Implications for Hydrocarbon Exploration" and both the 2015 and 2016 Annual GCAGS Conventions; she also served as Vice-Chairman for the 2015 Annual GCAGS Convention. In addition to volunteering to fill these roles for the annual meetings, she also served our society administratively, as President-Elect in 2015, President in 2016, Past-President in 2017, and is beginning a 4-year term as a Foundation Trustee in 2017.

In addition to attending more than 70% of all the GCSSEPM research conferences, she has also tirelessly promoted our activities to others. This is evidenced by a comment from Norm Rosen: "Each time Dorene changed employers, there seemed to be a surge of registrations for the conference from her new company."

Overall, Dorene has made an enormous contribution to our Society. She has given her time and effort to us selflessly over many years. She is a most worthy recipient of the Gulf Coast Section SEPM Distinguished Service Award for 2017 and I would like to thank her, on behalf of all our members, for her enormous efforts on our behalf.

Joe Macquaker

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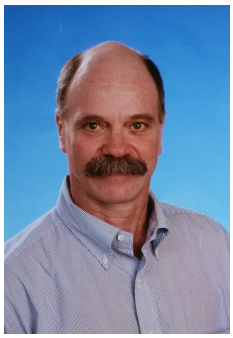
DORIS MALKIN CURTIS MEDAL
Gulf Coast Section SEPM

DR. CHARLES D. WINKER



It is a pleasure and honor to present Dr. Charles D. Winker with the 2017 Doris Malkin Curtis Medal from the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology). The Curtis Medal recognizes geologists for their career contributions to the development of new concepts for understanding the geology of the Gulf of Mexico Basin and other basins globally. Charlie's 40 yr career as a student, scholar and research scientist in the oil industry have had significant impact on both our empirical understanding of the Gulf of Mexico and other basins, as well as transformed the way people think about these basins.

Charlie received his B.S. in Geology from the University of Georgia in 1977, and his Masters from the University of Texas at Austin in 1979. He then worked at the UT Bureau of Economic Geology and later at the Institute for Geophysics, followed by a move to Tucson where he obtained his Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Arizona in 1987. From there, Charlie joined Shell, where over the course of a 29 year career he worked in deepwater exploration, development, production, and research. Charlie retired from Shell in 2016, and now resides in Brenham, Texas.

Charlie's research contributions began in 1977 with a high-profile paper in Geology, based on work with Jim Howard at Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Georgia, where he mapped and described relict shorelines of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, demonstrating significant warping in what was at the time believed to be a tectonically stable setting. Also in 1977, he also published his first paper on Gulf of Mexico topics in the *GCAGS Transactions*, which discussed Plio-Pleistocene shorelines of the eastern Gulf. For his Master's thesis under Vic Baker and Bob Morton at UT Austin, he began to integrate the classical terrace stratigraphy of the Texas Pleistocene onshore with high-resolution seismic stratigraphy offshore, to investigate how the coastal plain and shelf are genetically linked. His paper entitled "Cenozoic shelf margins, northwestern Gulf of Mexico," published in 1982 in the *GCAGS Transactions*, remains his most cited contribution for many concepts about shelves and shelf margins, and was the first synthesis of changes in tectonics of the continental interior, paleo-drainage and sediment routing for the Gulf of Mexico through time. His Ph.D. research under Susan Kidwell and Bill Dickinson focused on the ancestral Colorado River Delta and Gulf of California as recorded in Neogene stratigraphy of the western Salton Trough, some of which was published in Geology in 1986. Charlie's paper with Dick Buffler in the *AAPG Bulletin* in 1988, entitled "Paleogeographic evolution of early deepwater Gulf of Mexico and margins, Jurassic to Middle Cretaceous (Comanchean)" was also highly impactful, and received the Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award for best paper in the *AAPG Bulletin.*

During his time at Shell, Charlie pioneered company studies of the shallow stratigraphy of the Gulf of Mexico and other shelf and shelf-margin systems of the world as analogs for the deeper parts of the section. He was one of the first to connect shelf to slope to deep water systems in the young shallower Neogene successions in ways that are foundational to how we understand connections between these systems today. His mapping and documentation of Neogene deepwater strata paved the way for understanding the scale and distribution of deepwater fan systems in the basin, and his work on the Pleistocene salt canopy minibasins was among the first to explicitly document their history and patterns of filling from high-resolution seismic and other data. Charlie also employed his knowledge of near-surface marine geology to identify geohazards associated with deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and West Africa, especially the problem of shallow water flow which had vexed drillers since the early years of deepwater exploration. While working at Shell on a wide range of stratigraphic projects from basin-scale reservoir and source rock prediction down to reservoir architecture and zonation, he maintained his contributions to the broader Gulf of Mexico community by publishing papers in the GCSSEPM Perkins research conference volumes. Last but not least, while at Shell, Charlie has been extremely giving of his time to, and very effective at, mentoring numerous young geoscientists over the years.

For these and other contributions to the Gulf of Mexico and other sedimentary basins, the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM is pleased to award Dr. Charles D. Winker the Doris Malkin Curtis Medal.

Mike Blum

SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARD
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

LEIGHTON DEVINE

The recipient of the 2017 GCAGS special commendation award is Leighton Devine. The special commendation award is given to individuals whose exceptional contributions to both the GCAGS and their local society deserve recognition.

Leighton started his service to the GCAGS with the 2007 Corpus Christi Convention as Poster Session Co-Chair. When the 2016 GCAGS Convention came back to Corpus Christi he stepped up again and volunteered to be the GCAGS Convention Treasurer. Leighton was tasked with keeping fiscal control over a group of volunteers who all wanted everything for their respective programs. Leighton was the gatekeeper of the checkbook and made everyone live within fiscal realities of the 2016 down turn. He undertook the monumental task of keeping convention expenses as low and as close as possible to realistic income projections. Without his continued attention to the details and diligence the costs could have easily spiraled out of control.

Leighton's service to the Corpus Christi Geological Society (CCGS) started in 2008 when the GCAGS Corpus Christi convention ended. Since then he has been Treasurer (2008–2013), President (2014–2015), Past President (2015–2016) and still serves on many boards and committees. In 2010, he co-founded the CCGS Fishing Tournament which runs at the end of July. The tournament gets bigger every year and is one of the main contributors to the CCGS scholarship fund.

Leighton graduated from the University of Texas in 2001 with a B.S. in Geology. While in school and immediately after college, he worked at Wells Fargo Bank (thus the treasurer gigs). His geological career started in 2001 with Neu Oil & Gas, LLC as a geotech and he worked his way up to prospect generator in 2003 with DSX Energy Limited LLP. In 2009 he joined Suemaur Exploration & Production, LLC and is currently a Senior Geologist with his primary responsibility being prospect generation on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Since Leighton first volunteered to help on the 2007 convention he has continuously been involved in every aspect of the local societies and the GCAGS conventions. He is active, attentive and willing to do whatever it takes for the society to succeed. This award is a well-deserved recognition for all he has accomplished.

Brent Hopkins

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

WAYNE S. CROFT

This year the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies has decided to honor Wayne S. Croft for his many years of exemplary service to GCAGS. He has consistently sought to advance the geological profession through a variety of volunteer and leadership positions. In addition, he has made himself available to share whatever knowledge he has gained with whoever asked.

Wayne Croft was born and raised in Cut Bank, Montana, the son of Bill and Norma Croft, who formed and ran Croft Petroleum Company. He began his work in the oil industry as a roustabout in northern Montana oil fields in the late 1960s. Upon graduating from high school in 1971, he went to work as a roughneck to chase the "big money" and attended Montana State University. After switching from a mathematics major at about the half way mark, he graduated with a B.S. degree in Earth Science in 1976. Croft worked as a well site geologist for a while, but a downturn in the local drilling activity caused him to decide to attend graduate school at LSU where he earned an M.S. degree in Geology in 1980. During his years in college, he acquired a variety of jobs to underwrite his education. He worked as a roughneck, carpenter, roofer, pizza maker/deliverer, bar tender, bouncer, ski instructor, tutor, research assistant, and as an instructor of statistics and geology. Sometimes two or more of these jobs ran concurrently.

Croft's career as an exploration geologist began in the summer of 1978 when he was hired as a summer employee by Texas Oil & Gas in Corpus Christi, Texas. Even the summer employees were expected to come up with prospects, and he did. At graduation, he was hired again by Texas Oil & Gas where he worked for 2 years. Knowing that the oil boom was going to last forever, he and another geologist took off 6 months from work to explore the Caribbean on a beat-up, old 30 foot sailboat. Upon their return to Corpus Christi in mid-1982, Croft was introduced to the oil bust and could not find employment. He became an independent exploration geologist, but as he is quick to point out that "There is a fine line between independent and unemployed." After putting together a few prospects, Croft went to work for Royal Oil and Gas where he stayed for 10 years until becoming an independent exploration geologist again in 1993. By this time he was married to Judy, also a geologist, and together they founded Croft Exploration. As of this writing, they have made some reasonably sized discoveries, and are still churning out exploration prospects in South Texas.

Wayne has been an active member of the Corpus Christi Geological Society since 1980, having served as treasurer, vice-president, and president (1990–93). He has also served as committee chairman multiple times on the bloodmobile and scholarship committees of the CCGS. He has served as treasurer, vice-president, and president of the Corpus Christi chapter of the Society of Professional Well Log Analysts (1984–87). In addition, Wayne was the editor of the GCAGS Transactions twice in 1989 and 2007. He has been an officer of the Coastal Bend Geological Log Library over a period of 6 years. He is a certified professional geologist both through the Society of Professional Earth Scientists and the Texas Board of Professional Geologists, having played a role in limiting the bureaucratic role of the TBPG in trying to regulate petroleum geologists. Being a volunteer at a variety of CCGS functions such as manning the booths at Bayfest, the Gem and Mineral Show, and making geological presentations to elementary students in Corpus Christi was an added treat.

Despite the long hours of geological pursuit of the next great prospect, Wayne has taken the time to appreciate his family. He and Judy, his wife and partner, have taken the time to enjoy life with their two sons. They have sailed, hiked, camped and generally enjoyed the great outdoors together as a family. Travel and learning has been a passion.

Wayne Croft has been a respected member of the South Texas geological community for many years. During that time, he has encouraged young people to pursue geology as a profession through work with young children in schools, discussions with college age geology students, and by encouraging those in the industry to "Hang in there." He has always made himself available to talk out geologic problems or any other kind, often over a cool beverage. He has been supportive of his profession, his community, and his family.

Frank Cornish

JOHN LONG

John Long was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri, and studied geology at the University of Missouri–Columbia. He graduated in 1974 and went to work for Texaco for two years. He then enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin, earning an M.A. in Geology in 1978 and signing on with Gulf Research & Development. He came to San Antonio in 1980 to work with Placid Oil Company, and has stayed here ever since, working in various staff and consulting roles and as independent geologist.

His long record of service to the geological community is highly commendable. His work is consistent, his enthusiasm boundless, and his attitude enviable. His stance on volunteerism is "sign me up for the job that nobody else wants." He served as a committee chair for five GCAGS Annual meetings in San Antonio beginning in 1987 right up to the present, covering responsibilities ranging from technical programs to field trips to breakfasts & luncheons to icebreakers and more.

He has also served our local group, the South Texas Geological Society consistently and generously. Starting with committee work in the early 1980s, he served successive terms as Secretary, Vice-President and President of STGS before the decade was out. Later he served on the Scholarship Committee, Executive Committee, and he has chaired the nominating committee for the last ten years. He served as the Chief Editor of the STGS 2010 volume "Contributions to the Geology of South Texas," and has contributed several technical articles to the geological literature.

In recognition of his longstanding service and dedication to our profession, to the science of geology and to GCAGS, John Long is well deserving of this Distinguished Service Award.

Ted Flanigan

RICHARD E. PAIGE

Giving service to one's profession and community is a hallmark of the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award, and this year's recipient, Richard E. Paige, certainly exemplifies that character. Rick, as he is known by all in the Coastal Bend community, has served a variety of geoscientific professional organizations throughout his career, including the Corpus Christi Geological Society (CCGS), the Society of Professional Well Log Analysts (SPWLA), and, of course, GCAGS.

In 2016, Rick was technical program co-chair for the 66th annual GCAGS Annual Convention, held in his home town of Corpus Christi, and hosted by the CCGS. His goals for the oral program were to increase the diversity of topical themes, and to increase the number of graduate student presentations—all while maintaining the quality and quantity of traditional GCAGS subject matter. These goals were achieved with the inclusion of sessions on changing coastlines, uranium resources, plate tectonics, and geo-education. These went along with more mainstream themes such as deep-water GOM, Eagle Ford productivity, reservoir studies, and many others. The result was 110 oral presentations, 20 given by graduate students, and 65 poster displays, which together contributed greatly to the success of the convention. The written papers associated with the talks and posters made the 2016, 66th Annual GCAGS Convention *Transactions* volume the largest ever! In 2007, for the 57th Annual GCAGS Convention, held in Corpus Christi, Rick put together the short course program, and we coordinated a panel discussion on the similarities between South Texas' Frio/Vicksburg and Mexico's Burgos Basin.

Society leadership is a key facet of his contribution to our small community. Rick has volunteered with the CCGS for over 16 years, accepting roles of president, vice-president, advertising chairman, and history committee member. For the last 5 years he has served the board of directors as counselor. Having served many years with Rick on the board, including his presidential term, I can personally attest to his natural leadership ability and thoughtful direction. Among the many CCGS projects he has been involved with, two deserve special mention: Rick was lead editor on the popular educational video "South Texas Ice Age!" that tells the story of the Wisconsonian Glacial episode and how it severely affected South Texas climate, shoreline position, related depositional systems, and the native animal populations. Rick has also directed the community outreach program "Boulders in Schools" since its inception. In many instances, Rick's direction involved his own use of a shovel! Years ago, Rick was also active in the Corpus Christi chapter of SPWLA, serving 2 terms each as vice-president and president.

Few of us are from South Texas. Rick grew up in the Appalachian highlands of southwestern Connecticut, intrigued by the ancient metamorphic outcrops and glacial erratics. It wasn't until college at Southern Connecticut State University, as he learned about the forces and fascinating history that formed the environs of his youth, that the interest was forged into a passion. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology (magna cum laude), and was named Outstanding Graduating Student of the Earth Science Department. He followed that with a Master's degree in geology from the University of Texas. His thesis topic was the Paleocene Lavaca Submarine Canyon System of Texas, a subject matter that continues to interest him professionally to this day—he published a submarine canyon-related field study for the 2016 GCAGS convention, and also presented it to the local Society of Professional Earth Scientists.

Rick's career as a petroleum geologist has included stints at Shell Oil, EOG Resources, and, for the last 20 years, Suemaur E&P. During that time he has found numerous reserves in the Frio, Vicksburg, and Wilcox trends of the onshore GOM Basin, and most recently in the Pennsylvanian-age carbonates of Kansas. He brings a meticulous attention-to-detail to all his exploratory and development work. That work ethic has served Rick and his employers well in deciding where to drill. And almost as important, his keen eye for detail has guided them on where not to drill.

On a more personal level, Rick has taken it upon himself to teach and mentor the 21 (to date) college interns during their tenure at Suemaur . He guides them through meaningful projects that introduce them to petrophysics, log correlation, structural and stratigraphic maps and cross-sections, and seismic interpretation in the 3D workspace. Through numerous one-on-one conversations he challenges them to use critical thinking in order to link their observations to the key elements common to every prospect, and then place them into basin-wide, plate-tectonic context. It is a testament to his enthusiasm for the science and business of petroleum geology, and skill as a teacher, that most have gone on to pursue careers in the industry.

Rick and Sarah, a biologist and his wife of 31 years, met in college while both were enrolled in their first geology class. Rick likes to say he discovered two of life's most important elements in that class: his wife and his career. Rick and Sarah love to travel to regions of interesting, and sometimes intimidating, geologic terrane, especially when it contains fascinating flora and fauna.

Having worked with Rick on many efforts within our Society and through the GCAGS conventions, it is so very easy to present my friend and colleague, Richard E. Paige, to the GCAGS for this recognition. Because of Rick's enthusiastic service to his profession and his community, his high ethical standards, and his eagerness to share his love of geology with others, he is most deserving of the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award.

It is my honor to assist in this recognition of his many contributions and it will be my pleasure to continue working with him in our community.

Randy Bissell
Geoscience Advisor
Headington Energy Partners, LLC
Corpus Christi

DR. JENNIFER SMITH-ENGLE

Dr. Jennifer Smith-Engle has distinguished herself within GCAGS for many decades through her involvement in the technical programs for the last four GCAGS/GCSSEPM conventions hosted by the Corpus Christi Geological Society. For members of the CCGS, she has been a key liaison with the Texas –Corpus Christi geology program. Her advocacy for a comprehensive geoscience education; her interest in students; and her wise guidance have contributed to the success of many of geology graduates. Jennifer is a familiar and friendly colleague to the geologic community in the Coastal Bend.

In 1989, shortly after Jennifer moved to Corpus Christi, she accepted the responsibility of editing the *GCAGS Transactions*. She also led a field trip that same year. For the both the 1998 and 2007 conventions, Jennifer was in charge of the Technical Program. In 2016, she edited the the largest *GCAGS Transactions* ever produced for a convention. Given the importance of *GCAGS Transactions* as the main product of the Convention, her volunteerism is an immense contribution to our organization.

Jennifer received her A.B. degree from Vassar College in 1977. In 1979, she earned her M.S. from Yale University. Jennifer was awarded her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 1983. Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi (formerly Corpus Christi State University) was fortunate to recruit Jennifer in 1983. She started as a Geology Instructor, but quickly became an Assistant and then Associate Professor, and finally Professor of

Geology in 1994. In 2003, she gained the new title of Professor of Environmental Science and Geology. She has served both as Interim Dean for the University Office of Community Outreach, and for the former College of Science and Technology (now College of Science and Engineering). Jennifer was appointed Interim Chair for the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences in 2012 and now serves as the Assistant Chair in that department. In addition to her administrative duties, Jennifer teaches or has taught both undergraduate and graduate classes in 18 different subjects.

Jennifer has authored or co-authored over seven technical papers that have been presented to local and national audiences.

For many years she guided public understanding of coastal geological processes through leadership in the Nueces County Beach Management Advisory Committee and service to the government of Nueces County. Jennifer continues to be active in public presentations of earth and environmental sciences through membership and leadership in the Geological Society of America, Corpus Christi Geological Society, Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, Leadership Texas, and Rotary Club.

Thank you Jennifer for your contributions to GCAGS, GCSSEPM, and the South Texas community.

DOUGLAS N. TOEPPERWEIN

Douglas N. Toepperwein is honored with the 2017 Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions in leadership roles for multiple GCAGS Annual Conventions and for his dedicated, long-term service to the South Texas Geological Society (STGS) as officer, director, and chair of numerous committees.

Doug has served the GCAGS for four different Annual Conventions by chairing committees: Arrangements in 1987, Transportation in 1996, Short Courses in 2010, and Short Courses again for this 2017 Annual Convention. As anyone who has been involved with planning for the Annual Convention is aware, this work involves months or even years of preparation in advance of the meeting. Doug, ever the model of reliability, can always be counted on to have the details of his committee planning set and ready to go for smooth execution once the meeting actually begins.

For several decades, the STGS also has greatly benefited from Doug's leadership and service. His offices have included Treasurer (1987–88), Vice President (1995–96), President-Elect (1996–97), President (1997–98), Past President (1998–99), and three terms as Executive Committee member (2006–07, 2009–10, and 2012–13). All of these positions included responsibilities as an STGS Director; i.e., Doug has attended lots and lots of Board meetings, and has been invaluable in helping guide the Society through its business, as well as long-range planning.

Doug has served as a member of so many of the STGS standing and ad hoc committees that they are difficult to enumerate, but those that he chaired include Arrangements (1982–83), Events (1985–86), Fundraising (1986–87), Exhibits (1991 Austin Chalk Symposium), Field Trips (2001–02), and Communications (2002–16). As Communications Committee Chair, Doug recognized the benefits of coordinating communications among the various industry-related professional societies in the San Antonio area and providing a centralized notification system for scheduled events. For his good ideas, he was awarded the job of electronic "town crier" (mass emailer), and for many years almost singlehandedly kept the members of these sister societies informed about local events that might be of interest to them.

In addition to the STGS and GCAGS, Doug is an active member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society of Exploration Geophysicists, the San Antonio Geophysical Society, for which he also served as President and Vice President, and the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists. He is also a long-term member of the Petroleum Club of San Antonio, and has served several terms on its Board of Governors. During his younger years in San Antonio, Doug already was showing his interest in organizational involvement, having been very active in Boy Scouts and earning the rank of Eagle Scout. In high school, Doug's strong interest in the sciences led him to compete regularly in the Alamo Regional Science Fair.

Doug earned his B.S. degree in Geology from The University of Texas at Austin in 1974, and he then began his professional career with Cities Service Oil Company, first in exploration training in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and then as Exploration Geologist in Jackson, Mississippi. From 1977 to 1981, he worked as Exploration Geologist with Forest Oil Company in Corpus Christi, Texas. Doug then moved to San Antonio, where he has worked as Chief Geologist for Stringer Oil and Gas (1981–84), as Chief Geologist for Panhandle Producing Company (1984–89), and as an independent geologist (1989–90). In 1990, Doug began working as Chief Geologist with Sage Energy Company and continues in that position.

Doug has been an avid sailor since 1970, and enjoys both leisure sailing as well as competitive sailboat racing. He is a member of the Lake Canyon Yacht Club and—no surprise here—has served several terms on its Board of Directors, chaired committees, and helped organize various events and regattas. Doug's wife Mary Anne, a recently retired life science teacher, frequently joins him for the sailing events, and together they also enjoy hiking, exploring the outdoors, and spending time at home with their family and dogs.

Bonnie R. Weise

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

RANDY BISSELL

Randy Bissell is being recognized with a 2017 GCAGS Honorary Membership. Clinton Randall (Randy) Bissell's career as a geologist has included a variety of enviable assignments primarily in the Gulf Coast and also across the world. He has worked in both state and federal government; for a multi-national oil company; and with a small independent. The variety of assignments has taken Randy from the backroads of Mississippi; into dusty South Texas; across the foothills of the Andes; through the French wine country and, today, into the classroom. The nature of work has included mundane data collection, economic analysis, Total Quality Management, detailed stratigraphy, and frontier exploration. Self-described as a "mile wide and an inch deep," Randy has maintained the highest levels of expertise in the practice of geoscience, integrating well logs, seismic interpretation, and core/outcrop. He is a self-declared "son of Mississippi and product of a public education." He would say that he simply represents every Gulf Coast geologist just trying to make a living—and Randy is humbled to accept Honorary GCAGS Membership on behalf of his many friends and colleagues doing the very same.

In the summer of 1978, Mississippi Geological Survey Director Bill Moore hired his neighbor's son, Randy Bissell, as a Sunbeam, a summer-time employee. Though two summers, Randy became my field assistant and main illustrator for two published State Bulletins. In 1983, when my wife Mary and I visited French paleontologists to collect fossils in France, our friend and host picked up two of my books on Mississippi fossils and marveled at Randy's illustrations of bivalves. Randy's artwork raised my professional stock among my French colleagues. At the University of Southern Mississippi, Randy met Dawn Stewart, his wife-to-be, in Geology 101 laboratory. Of course, he changed his major to geology. He was named Outstanding Graduating Senior in Geology at USM in 1982. For a brief time, he worked for the USGS in Jackson, Mississippi, gauging rivers. Randy attended graduate school at Oklahoma State University, working with Dr. Arthur Cleaves on Pennsylvanian Deltas in the Arkoma Basin. His graduate work extended mapping of the Booch Delta made famous by Dr. Daniel Busch, a past AAPG President. His master's thesis was financially supported by Mr. Allan Bennison, another notable Tulsa geologist. Randy recalls his meetings with Dr. Busch and Mr. Bennison and how each shared passion in their work. Their generosity and grace shaped Randy's view of his responsibility to share a love of the science with students. In 1984, Randy graduated from OSU as a Mesa Petroleum Fellow with a Master's Degree in geology and he went to work for Exxon in Kingsville, Texas.

Randy was employed by Exxon from 1984 to 1999 in a variety of assignments including South Texas production, Gulf of Mexico deep water research, and Nigeria exploration. In Exxon USA Production, he worked South Texas Vicksburg and Frio (Oligocene) fields. He was also assigned to the operations analysis group and ended up as an advisor to division management on Total Quality, or as Exxon called it, Continuous Improvement. From there, Randy moved to Exxon's Gulf of Mexico exploration group, OSAK, in Houston in 1991 as part of the Deep Water Reservoir Study. The DWRS and later, Exxon Exploration Technology, exposed him to outcrops, cores, and field studies of turbidites all over the world. His last assignment at Exxon Exploration in Houston was lead professional for Nigeria deep water exploration. As part of Exxon, especially through the Deep Water Reservoir Study and then working in affiliate offices in the US, France, the UK, and Australia, Randy generated several internal papers, presentations, and he shared many cutting-edge interpretation techniques for successful deep-water exploration. Randy loved working for Exxon and regarded his Exxon and international Esso colleagues as the absolute best, claiming that his childhood Esso Tiger bicycle foreshadowed his ultimate employment and success with "the Tiger."

In 1999, Randy departed Exxon for Headington Oil Company in Corpus Christi. Not surprisingly, he intentionally went to work with ex-Exxon acquaintances. His longtime friend and fellow South Texas geologist, Edwin Bomer, asked him to apply his expertise and experience to Headington's efforts. Randy jumped at the chance to join Edwin and the Headington team with the opportunity to invest in projects in the familiar South Texas Vicksburg and Frio, which included some old Exxon fields. Almost eighteen years on, Randy is now the geoscience advisor to Headington Energy Partners, assigned to acquire, explore, support, and develop prospects in deep South Texas and the Permian Basin.

Moving to Corpus Christi again allowed Randy to again become involved in the Corpus Christi Geological Society and the Coastal Bend Geophysical Society. In the small scientific community, Randy has supported the Societies through many positions, and he has participated with informative luncheon presentations and technical conversations with his peers. Randy maintains his memberships in AAPG, SEG, CCGS, West Texas Geological Society, and the Mississippi Geological Society. He is Texas Board certified and an AAPG DPA member. Randy has lectured and published short essays in other Gulf Coast society newsletters. Within the two local Societies, Randy has served on boards as CBGS Vice-President, CBGS Treasurer, CCGS Secretary, and CCGS Counselor. For both Societies, he and his Headington associate, Dorothy Jordan, have managed membership for over 15 years. Randy has also presented at SIPES forums, luncheons, and the 2017 SIPES National Convention. In 2007, Randy presented a poster on a Wilcox development at GCAGS Convention in Corpus Christi and served on the Technical Program Committee. For the 2016 GCAGS Convention, Randy authored a presentation on an overlooked seismic attribute; gave a poster on Barbados turbidites (that included rum tasting); and lead a popular field trip to examine coastal geomorphology with local professor, Dr. Mark Besonen. Recalling the 2016 GCAGS Convention, Randy jokes that he "served on every committee" because his wife, Dawn Stewart Bissell, was the general chairman.

In 2016, Randy was thrilled to join Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi as an adjunct faculty teaching Historical Geology. Through the years, he mentored many young professionals and summer interns at Exxon. At Headington, Randy coached students including several "partner kids" through their summer and semester assignments. For years, he has provided a half-day workshop on Sequence Stratigraphy at Texas A&M University at Kingsville. Returning to the classroom as a professor to teach the next generation of young geologists genuinely excites him. Of course, Randy's popular Historical class goes to the field often, and his laboratory sessions include too many bivalve descriptions. Randy sees his commitment to teach with passion as repaying the many great geologists who saw potential in him, men such as Bill Moore, Daniel Busch, Allan Bennison, and Arthur Cleaves.

As for our relationship, a few years ago Randy presented me with a commemorative Vicksburg silver coin and said, "At the earliest point in my geology career, you introduced me to the Vicksburg. Very few South Texas prospectors can stand up in a meeting and say that they've seen the Vicksburg type-locality at Vicksburg and the Jackson type-locality at Jackson! Because of you, I had seen those before I was a real geology student. Today, my house was paid for with Vicksburg production and my kids graduated college debt-free because of our Vicksburg success. I cannot help but express my gratitude to you for your kindness and instruction in my formative years. David, the Vicksburg changed my life. You did too. You introduced me to the Vicksburg, and I want you to have one of these to remember that point where our lives came together."

That letter and the Vicksburg silver coin are treasured today and it is a pleasure to present my friend and colleague, Randy Bissell, as a 2017 GCAGS Honorary Member.

Dr. David T. Dockery III
Director of the Office of Geology and State Geologist
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

CHARLES STERNBACH

Honorary membership in GCAGS is awarded to those "who have distinguished themselves by their service and devotion to the science and profession of geology, to GCAGS, and to industry." To posit that Charles Sternbach is worthy and deserving of this honor is a gross understatement because he is the type-section for volunteerism in our professional lives!!

Charles has shown extensive leadership for the GCAGS and its affiliated societies in the service of the petroleum industry and geo-community. His primary contributions for the GCAGS—and for the broader geoscience community—have been in the organization and integration of geology for the public through forums, technical programs, and publications. Charles has focused his efforts on Exploration Creativity, studying how explorers and their teams have found giant fields. His energy level and perpetual enthusiasm never cease to amaze me.

For GCAGS, Charles served as Vice President (2014), President (2015), and Past President on the GCAGS Steering Committee for 2016. As President, his theme was "United we learn, united we explore" to emphasize strength in unity of the affiliated societies which he called bright stars of the Gulf Coast constellation. He joined each of these societies during his year as president to keep track of their extensive activity. He orga-

nized several technical sessions at the GCAGS 2015 convention in Houston. These include two sessions on Foundational Talks for the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, he moderated a panel discussion with three generations of the Tinker Family, a look at how a life in the energy business has changed over 6–7 decades, and how it remains a fascinating choice of professions for the future.

Charles has done extensive work with HGS since 1994, including President (1999–2000). While President, he started the highly popular, annual HGS Legends Evening programs. Since then, there have now been 10 Legends programs, with typical attendance between 250 to 500 attendees. He served as moderator of panels 2000, 2003, and 2011 and behind the scenes in several others. He has also served as a volunteer at Houston Museum of Natural Science and the George Observatory.

Charles' service for the mothership (AAPG) has been equally prodigious. This year, he is serving as the President—a full-time job unto itself. He served as the General Chair of the 2006 Annual Convention. He has co-edited four special publications, and has been a member of the editorial board of *AAPG Search and Discovery*. In 2008, he started the Discovery Thinking Forum at the Annual Convention, where key geologists review how they made their significant discoveries. Since that time, 18 forums have been convened at the Annual and international conventions. Members have demonstrated their appreciation and interest by filling the auditoriums, and from the >40,000 views of the videos that have been posted since the times of the talk.

Charles has also done extensive service with for the Division of Professional Affairs (DPA) with AAPG. He served as its President (2015). Since 2012, he has been the main organizer of Playmaker Forums, convened in the Sections and Regions. There have been 10 Playmaker Forums in 4 years attended by a total of 1500 participants. The first two Playmakers were in Houston with notable presenters like Jim Bob Moffett, Bud Brigham, Harold Hamm, and 30 other distinguished speakers. In addition, he has been an organizer of two books as a tribute to a combined 101 amazing men and women geoscientists on the "Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist"—originally in 2002, and later updated in April 2017.

Several groups have appropriately already recognized Charles for his many volunteer contributions. From GCAGS, he received the Distinguished Service (2003). HGS recognized his contributions with the Gerald Cooley Award (2012), and Honorary Member (2006). He co-chairs the HGS 100th Anniversary celebration planned for 2023 along with his geoscientist spouse, Linda, so it appears he has no plans to slow down anytime soon.

From AAPG, he received Distinguished Service (2005), Honorary Member (2011), and Honorary Life Member with the DPA (2015). In 2012, the Petroleum History Institute recognized him with their "Keeper of the Flame Award."

After reviewing all of his extensive record, I think you can surmise that Charles has done amazing things to serve and represent the Gulf Coast and petroleum geology—it is quite logical, appropriate, and fitting that the GCAGS recognizes Charles with Honorary Membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Weimer

DON R. BOYD MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN GULF COAST GEOLOGY
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

DR. PAUL WEIMER

For Paul Weimer, who has dedicated his distinguished professional career to exemplary research in, and unprecedented global dissemination of, Gulf of Mexico geology.

Some geologists know very early on what they want to spend a lifetime doing. And the geoscience community is often the beneficiary. Dr. Paul Weimer is such a geologist.

When Paul arrived at UT Austin in the fall of 1984, he recognized that the deepwater Gulf of Mexico (GOM) was a fascinating, extraordinarily complex geologic province that offered many opportunities for future research. Paul also recognized that deepwater exploration and production were going to become an increasingly important global resource base, and that the northern deepwater GOM would lead the way. Paul has let these observations largely guide his career. And the GOM did not disappoint, having produced several billion barrels of petroleum, and continuing to give up secrets to those persistent geoscientists who continue to prod.

What distinguishes Dr. Weimer for the 2017 Don R. Boyd Medal for Excellence in Gulf Coast Geology are his research productivity and his willingness to transfer both his and the collective understanding of deepwater GOM geology to the world. Paul has developed a major ongoing research effort in GOM geology at the University of Colorado, done extensive professional-society work for the greater GOM and global geo-community, and conducted public short courses in 35 countries. In retrospect, Paul's master plan was essentially to dedicate himself to geology, while working with many great people throughout industry.

Paul's initial forays into GOM geology were his studies of the Mississippi Fan, for his Ph.D. dissertation, and the Mississippi Fan Foldbelt. Later, in 1991, he began to study the deepwater GOM in earnest while organizing an industry-sponsored research consortium as a professor at CU Boulder. He subsequently supervised four research consortia in the GOM, with research topics including sequence stratigraphy, sedimentology, biostratigraphy, structural geology and tectonics, and, most recently, gas hydrates.

Three main products were generated from these consortia. The first is distinguished scholarship. Out of the 55 graduate students that Paul has supervised, 29 have studied GOM geology, which has also been the subject of three of his students' BA honors theses. Along the way, his program employed 14 post-doc research scientists and sponsored 10 visiting scientists.

The second is a distinguished publication history. Based on his consortia research, Dr. Weimer published extensively, co-authoring two books and co-editing ten books with major emphasis on GOM geology. He authored or co-authored 26 *AAPG Bulletin* papers, and two special issues of the *Bulletin* (May 1998, July 2017) were dedicated to the results of his program's GOM research. For the *GCAGS Transactions*, Paul has co-authored 40 papers, including 15 at the 2004 meeting in San Antonio and 5 at the 2016 meeting in Corpus Christi. He has also co-authored 16 papers for the GCSSEPM research conferences.

A third important goal of the research consortia was to develop techniques and tools that could become part of the interpretive approaches used by Paul's industry sponsors, with a focus on the geology that the companies did not have time to investigate. One major contribution was defining the prospects in the Perdido Foldbelt before the initial two Baha wells.

As an educator, Paul has used professional societies as a springboard to help educate the world on deepwater GOM geology and to disseminate information on the global deepwater play. He has organized state-of-the-art research conferences and technical sessions, as well as extensive global lecturing. While a Ph.D. student, Paul co-organized a two-day symposium on seismic stratigraphy of deepwater systems; papers from this symposium later became an influential publication with Springer-Verlag. Paul was the primary or co-organizer for five GCSSEPM research conferences (1994, 2000, 2001, 2012, and 2014). All of these conferences' research themes centered around aspects of the deepwater play in the GOM and globally. The 1994 conference was of particular significance because Paul chose to internationalize the technical content, which began the transformation of a local society into an international society. Paul has also organized many technical sessions at GCAGS and AAPG meetings over the past 25+ years.

Paul's true leadership lies in continually disseminating knowledge of deepwater GOM geology to the rest of the world, a mission that began in earnest as the 2001 Esso Australia Distinguished Short Course, a 1.5–day

course taught in six cities. This tour was followed by the 2004 SEG Distinguished Instructor Short Course, a one-day comprehensive treatment of the global deepwater play, taught in 24 cities with abundant GOM examples. Later, while AAPG President in 2011–2012, Paul toured 20 cities globally to give a ½–day short course on the science and technology future of the petroleum industry to students and YPs. Global deepwater exploration was one lecture, with the GOM serving as the case study.

The oil and gas laws governing the U.S. GOM allow Paul to access and interpret much of the publically available data, and then use that to apply to other deepwater basins. Although more than 30 deepwater basins globally produce or have economic discoveries, the GOM is by far the best understood and published. Paul has played a major role in that understanding.

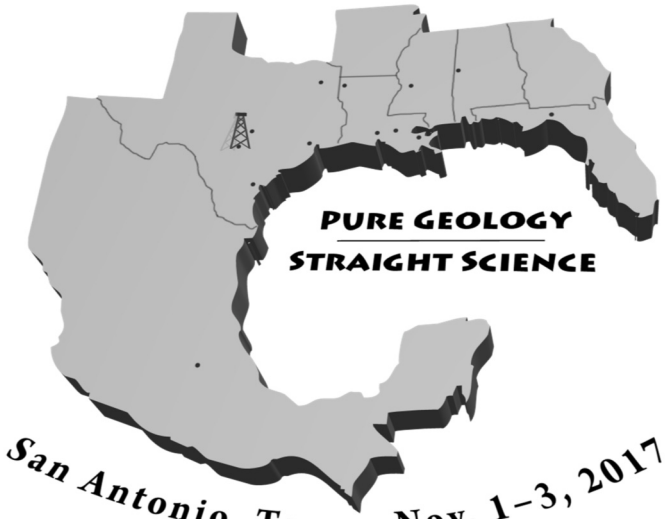
Paul received his B.A. from Pomona College (1978) and his M.S. from CU Boulder (1980). He has worked as an exploration geologist with Amoco (1978), Sohio-BP (1980–1988), and Mobil (1988–1990), and has consulted extensively with global companies. The correlation between Paul's employment and his employers being merged or acquired bears noting, but correlation is most certainly not causation!

Paul's service with professional societies has been exemplary: AAPG (President, Treasurer, Advisory Council, and Foundation Trustee), Gulf Coast Section SEPM (President, Foundation Trustee), GCAGS, SEG, SEPM, AGI, and RMAG. And he has been deservedly recognized for his work by several societies: AAPG (Distinguished Educator, Distinguished Service), GCSSEPM (Distinguished Service, Honorary Membership, and Doris Curtis Medal), GCAGS (Distinguished Educator), and NOGS (Honorary Membership). He is currently finishing his stint as co-chair of the AAPG 100th Anniversary Committee,

The Gulf of Mexico Basin continues to provide resources to the world, and Dr. Paul Weimer has used his career to help provide knowledge and experience to students and professionals, both domestically and internationally. Paul is, without a doubt, the definition of a GOM Ambassador.

For his extensive success and untiring efforts, the GCAGS recognizes Dr. Paul Weimer with the 2017 Boyd Medal.

Scott W. Tinker



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