**GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES**
**and**
**GULF COAST SECTION SEPM**

# *68th ANNUAL CONVENTION*

**Hosted by the Shreveport Geological Society**

**Shreveport, Louisiana**
**September 30, 2018**

# OPENING SESSION & AWARDS CEREMONY

- Welcome – *Ralph Richardson, GCAGS President*
- Convention Highlights – Alan Brittain, *2018 General Chair*
- Report of the Presidents
  *Ralph Richardson, GCAGS President*
  *Thomas D. Demchuk, GCSSEPM President*
  *Denise Cox, AAPG President*
- Presentation of Awards – see pages 2–3 for order

GCAGS Explore & Discover Article #409
http://www.gcags.org/exploreanddiscover/2018/00409_2018_gcags_gcssepm_opening_session_and_awards_ceremony.pdf
Posted October 7, 2018.
Prepared by James J. Willis, GCAGS Managing Editor, and Jill C. Willis, GCAGS Webmaster

# REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS

**Ralph Richardson, GCAGS President (see p. 4)**

**Thomas D. Demchuk, GCSSEPM President (see p. 6)**

# ORDER OF AWARD PRESENTATION

## 2018 *GCAGS Transactions* Dedication (see p. 7)

C. Ray Scurlock

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## 2018 Imperial Barrel Award (AAPG Gulf Coast Sectional) (see p. 8)

**1st Place:** University of Louisiana–Lafayette
**2nd Place:** University of New Orleans
**3rd Place:** Auburn University

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## 2017 A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award (AAPG) (see p. 10)

John Dribus

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## 2017 President's Award for Outstanding Paper, *GCAGS Journal* (see p. 11)

Qifei Huang
Co-Author: Yuefeng Sun

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## 2017 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Thomas A. Philpott Excellence of Presentation Award (see p. 12)

**1st Place:** Peter D. Clift
Co-Authors: Yuting Li and Peng Zhou

**2nd Place:** Shirley P. Dutton
Co-Authors: William A. Ambrose, Bohdan B. Horodecky, and Robert G. Loucks

**3rd Place:** David Ferrill
Co-Authors: Ronald N. McGinnis, Alan P. Morris, Kevin J. Smart, Kirk D. H. Gulliver, Daniel Lehrmann, and Mark A. Evans

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## 2017 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Gordon I. Atwater Best Poster Award (see p. 17)

**1st Place:** Peter R. Rose

**2nd Place:** Pin Lin
Co-Author: Paul Mann

**3rd Place:** Vsevolod Egorov
Co-Authors: Robert Neese and Jonathan Neese

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## 2017 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Award (see p. 20)

**1st Place:** Scott W. Singleton

**2nd Place:** James J. Willis
Co-Author: William G. Bixler, III

**3rd Place:** David L. McCabe
Co-Authors: Robert W. England, Alan J. Katz, and Arthur H. Thomson

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## 2018 GCAGS Statesmanship Award (see p. 23)

Christopher D. McLindon

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## 2018 GCAGS Distinguished Service Award (see p. 25)

Dawn S. Bissell

Jeffrey A. Spencer

James J. Willis

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## 2018 Don Boyd Medal (see p. 28)

Thomas E. Ewing

# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
## Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

**RALPH RICHARDSON**

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, the GCSSEPM, and the Shreveport Geological Society welcome you to the Annual Convention! It has been an honor serving the Gulf Coast Section as its President for the past year. Alan Brittain has been working tirelessly as the General Chairman for the past two years and has assembled an excellent group of committee members who have labored diligently to ensure that we will host a quality convention in a venue that has everything we need.

Being a host city for the GCAGS convention is no easy task because in many ways each new committee begins its work with little or no experience of what must be done. This is because the task of hosting the meeting is rotated between the cities of the member societies. Yet each year we continue to produce high quality conventions coordinated by members of the local societies, thus making each meeting in a different city a memorable and useful event. As the General Chairman of the 2009 meeting in Shreveport, I know that the countless details of hosting a meeting require hard work by all of the local volunteers, but in the end, the effort is worth the expenditure of time and resources. Please thank Alan Brittain for coordinating the meeting, his able committee chairs, and the local volunteers when you see them at the convention.

This year, the GCAGS has returned to its traditional schedule with weekend Short Courses and Field Trips, followed on Sunday with the Opening Session and Awards ceremony, and later that evening, the Icebreaker. Monday and Tuesday will feature 66 oral presentations and 40 poster displays. The session titles are: Regional Geological Studies and Depositional Facies Analysis, Deepwater of the Gulf of Mexico, Seismic Attributes and Modern Geophysical Technology, Current Thinking and Assessment of Climate Change, Advanced Studies in Geology, Studies of the Lower Cotton Valley-Bossier Formations, Ground Water and Environmental Studies, and a special session centered on Shale Resource Plays after 10 years of production. These technical sessions have been arranged by Committee Chair, Kurt Ley, who was assisted by Zach McDonald. The displays of posters have been coordinated by Roger Berg.

The GCAGS is active in many areas which support our industry across the Gulf Coast. This spring, 11 of our universities competed in the Imperial Barrel Competition that was held at Anadarko's headquarters in The Woodlands, Texas. The winner this year was the University of Louisiana at Lafayette followed by the University of New Orleans and Auburn University. Watching these students make their presentations gives me great confidence that our industry will be in good hands in the future. We owe Mitch Blakeley, Jim Ferry, and Malinda Isenhower our thanks for putting on the competition.

We can also be proud of the grants we make to university faculty and the students of the Gulf Coast area. This year, seven faculty proposals from six universities and 36 student proposals from 20 schools were received. The committee, under the direction of Brian Platt with members Danny Harrelson, David King, and Aimee Villarreal, made awards totaling $5,000 to one professor and $17,000 going to students.

The finances of the GCAGS are strong but changes are being made in the presentation of the convention to adapt to new challenges. Our treasurer, Daniel Sutton, has proposed a reduction of expenditures over the next few years which will come mostly in savings from the annual convention. This will be accomplished by carefully monitoring expenditures and having the meetings in cities which have adequate facilities removed from the central business district.

The 2018 Convention will publish its annual *GCAGS Transactions,* edited by James Willis. This is a compilation of the oral talks presented at the meeting along with extended abstracts which are studies of regional geological subjects. The organization will also present the peer reviewed *GCAGS Journal,* edited by Robert K. Merrill, which is now in its 7th year of existence.

The GCAGS actively seeks to recognize its own society members for their outstanding work for our profession. Thomas Ewing will receive the Don Boyd Medal while Dawn Bissell, Jeff Spencer, and James Willis will be recognized for their Distinguished Service, and Christopher McLindon will receive the Statesmanship Award. Other community leaders such as Teacher of the Year are recognized when a worthy candidate is nominated.

The big news for the future is the rebranding of the annual convention. The name of the organization will not change from the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, but the new meeting name will be GeoGulf

20xx followed by the city's name in which the meeting is being held. The intent is to have a consistent 'brand' from year to year and a name that is pronounceable, friendly and describes our mission. By rebranding, we hope 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.

*Ralph Richardson*
GCAGS President

# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
## Gulf Coast Section SEPM

### THOMAS D. DEMCHUK

Welcome to the 68th Annual Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM meeting, organized and hosted by the Shreveport Geological Society. We hope you are all looking forward to a great conference. The icebreaker reception, tennis tournament, Geology and Wine Dinner, the associated fieldtrips, short courses and technical sessions should provide many opportunities to catch up with old friends as well as make some new ones.

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 Alan Brittain, GCAGS President Ralph Richardson and his Executive Committee, GCAGS Technical Program Chair Zach McDonald, Core Presentation Chair Scott Martin, Field Trips Chair David Williamson, and *Transactions* Editor James Willis, Co-Editor Norm Rosen, and a far-too-long-to-list number of other committee members, volunteers, and workers. Along with Norm Rosen as Co-Editor, GCSSEPM Foundation Executive Director Tony D'Agostino and Trustee Dorene West assisted in the review of papers for the *Transactions*. Although GCSSEPM will not be present with a booth in the Exhibits Hall and we will not be holding our Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at this meeting, we know that many GCSSEPM members will be attending to enjoy the social and technical functions. This year we will be awarding two Distinguished Service Awards to deserving members Jon Rotzein and Carl Fiduk. Both have been active in GCSSEPM and GCAGS activities over the past many years.

Last year, the GCSSEPM Foundation hosted the 2017 Perkins-Rosen Research Conference "Sequence Stratigraphy: The Future Defined" on December 4–5, 2017 in Houston, TX, by Co-Convenors Bruce Hart, Steve Bachtel, and Richard Denne. Marathon Oil graciously 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. The 2017 Perkins-Rosen Research Conference was in commemoration the 50th anniversary of the publication of AAPG Memoir 26 "Seismic Stratigraphy-Applications to Hydrocarbon Exploration" and Dr. Peter Vail was present to attend the proceedings and take pictures with colleagues. For 2018 the 37th Annual Perkins-Rosen will be a slightly different format and venue, a 2–day core workshop focusing on reservoir characterization. The conference will include both formal presentations and posters, and lots of opportunities to view core material from several internationally recognized conventional and unconventional exploration plays.

My tenure as President of the GCSSEPM over the last year has been very interesting and relatively quiet but not for lack of items to tend to. I have been fortunate to be surrounded by a team of great people on the Board who have been extremely helpful and patient. I would like to express my appreciation particularly to Past-President John Suter and Secretary Milly Wright for keeping me informed and up-to-date on necessary GCSSEPM happenings. I would further like to thank the GCSSEPM Foundation for their work and for organizing the annual Perkins-Rosen Conference: this includes Foundation Executive Director Tony D'Agostino, Trustees Bruce Hart, Ron Waszczak, Jory Pacht, and Dorene West. Finally and importantly I greatly appreciate the interactions with Section officers, including President-Elect Laura Zahm, Vice President Joe Macquaker, and Treasurer Julitta Kirkova-Porciau. Their efforts have kept GCSSEPM operating over the last year, through continuing trying times in the petroleum industry. I greatly appreciate their time, patience, hard work and good company.

Cheers,

*Thomas D. Demchuk, Ph.D.*
GCSSEPM President

# DEDICATION

## C. RAY SCURLOCK

C. Ray Scurlock (Ray) was born in DeSoto Parish in the small community of Lula, LA, in 1924 and moved to Center, TX, when he was 1 year old. He remained in Center until his graduation from Center High School in 1941. Ray enrolled at Texas A&M University in 1941; however, his college studies were interrupted due to the start of World War II. He enlisted in the Army on December 5, 1942, and was called to active duty in 1943. After basic training, he volunteered for the Army Air Corp. where he achieved the rank of 1st Lieutenant and received his pilot wings. Ray trained primarily on twin engine aircraft and served in the Pacific theater where, after the war ended, he flew supplies into Japan and GI's out on their way home. When his service ended in 1946, Ray returned to complete his studies and received a B.S. degree in Geological Engineering in 1949 from Texas A&M. In January of 1949, Ray began working for Gulf Oil Company in a position that required him to move often. He was transferred to places such as Jackson, MS, Tulsa, OK, New Orleans, LA, Shreveport, LA, and Evansville, IN. It was during a short 9-month appointment to Tulsa in 1953 and 1954 that Ray trained under many prominent geologists and afterwards became Chief Geologist for Southeast U.S. for Gulf. In his early days at Gulf, he led a surface mapping project using photography in northern Arkansas for new recruits. From 1959–1962, while residing in Evansville, IN, Ray held the position of Area Exploration Manager for the Central and Northeast U.S. for Gulf. He decided to go Independent in January of 1963 and moved back to Shreveport to build his new career and raise his family.

Ray married Melba Gaines in November of 1949. They lived in Shreveport from 1949 until 1953 during which time his first two children were born. His third child was born in Tulsa, OK, and his fourth and fifth children were both born in Jackson, MS. Ray retired from Gulf Oil Company in January of 1963 while living in New Orleans and moved his family back to Shreveport. He and Melba have been married for 68 years. Both of Ray and Melba's sons pursued careers in an oil and gas related fields with one being a petroleum landman and the other a geologist. Over the years their family grew to include 19 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Included in this extended family is a son-in-law, a grandson, and a grandson-in-law who are petroleum landmen and also a grandson who is a geologist. Ray's hobbies were, and still are, FISHING, hunting, golf, travel, and spending time with family.

The primary areas of interest of Ray's independent consulting geologist career included the Wilcox and Lower Tuscaloosa plays of southwestern Mississippi and eastern Louisiana, the Black Warrior Basin in northern Alabama and Mississippi, and the Jurassic and Cretaceous trends of the northern Gulf Coast. He had a long-time friendship and business relationship with Ralph Hines of Moon & Hines in Jackson, MS, and at different periods was associated with and/or consulted for MWJ Producing in Midland, TX, Midroc Oil Company in Shreveport, LA, Mallard Drilling in Shreveport, LA, and Sohio Oil Company in Mississippi.

Ray has traveled extensively around the country and the world for pleasure, while he particularly enjoyed educating himself and exploring the geology of the different areas he traveled. He traveled to the Soviet Union, Egypt, and Italy with 30–40 fellow geologists representing the United States and the AAPG as an Ambassador in the People to People Program. He has been an active participant and supporter of multiple professional organizations over his career including the AAPG (69 years), the Shreveport Geological Society since (1949–53 & 1963–present), Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (1979–present), where he served as a National Director from 1996–2001, SEPM, and other local geological societies in the areas in which he has resided.

# IMPERIAL BARREL AWARD
## Gulf Coast Section of AAPG

The 2018 Gulf Coast Section Imperial Barrel Competition was held at Anadarko's campus in The Woodlands, Texas. Eleven universities competed, and winner this year was the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, followed by the University of New Orleans, and Auburn University. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette went on to win the 2018 Global IBA competition, their 3rd global win, and the 5th for the Gulf Coast Section. The Gulf Coast competition was coordinated by Mitch Blakeley, Jim Ferry, and Malinda Isenhower.

**Gulf Coast Finals**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Place | University of Louisiana–Lafayette |
| 2nd Place | University of New Orleans |
| 3rd Place | Auburn University |

The University of Louisiana–Lafayette went on to win the International Finals at the AAPG convention on Saturday April 1st, 2018!

## FIRST PLACE (2018)

**Lauren Martz, Greg Ferguson, Victoria Chevrot, Kohl Koppens, and Roxanna Vaught-Mijares. Not shown is Faculty Advisor, Raphaël Gottardi.**

***University of Louisiana–Lafayette***

## SECOND PLACE (2018)

**Brad Robison (Advisor), Bobby Mohollen, Jared Bullock, Taylor Lee, Brittany George, and Jarrett Levesh**

***University of New Orleans***


## THIRD PLACE (2018)

**Jacob Thompson, Collins Sutton, Shifat Monami, Benjamin Weinmann, and Ashraf Uddin (Team Mentor)**

***Auburn University***

# BEST PRESENTATION AWARDS

## 2017 A. I. LEVORSEN MEMORIAL AWARD
## (Gulf Coast Section, AAPG)

***"Geologic Hazards Associated with Exploration in Deep Water and Around Salt Structures in the Gulf of Mexico"***

**John R. Dribus**

### John R. Dribus

John Dribus is the Global Geosciences Advisor for Schlumberger Oil Field Services, and is Reservoir Geologist with over 40 years of experience, specializing in turbidite geology, below-salt plays, and deepwater geologic hazards. He worked five years as a uranium geologist in Texas, and then in the Gulf of Mexico for 18 years for Mobil Oil Corporation, and the next 18 years for Schlumberger. He has worked deepwater basins along the Atlantic margin from western Greenland to the Falkland Islands and across the basin from South Africa to Morocco. He is the former Chairman of the Advisory Broad of the American Petroleum Institute (API) Delta Chapter, and serves on the Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). In 2013, he was recognized by the SPE with the Reservoir Description and Dynamics Award. In 2014, he was an invited speaker at both the AAPG Discovery Thinking and Playmaker Forums, and received the Meritorious Service Award from the API, Delta Section. In 2017 he was recognized by the AAPG as an AAPG Heritage Geologist at the 100th Annual Convention in Houston, and received the 2017 Best Technical Paper of the Year Award for the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS).

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PAPER, *GCAGS JOURNAL*, Vol. 6 (2017)

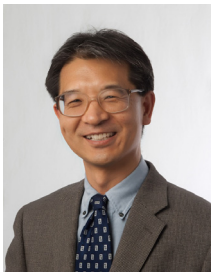
## Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

### *"Carbonate Reservoir Characterization Using the Cementation Factor: A Case Study of Little Cedar Creek Field, Onshore Alabama"*

**Qifei Huang and Yuefeng Sun**

### Qifei Huang

Qifei Huang received her Ph.D. in 2017 from the Department of Geology and Geophysics, Texas A&M University. Her research focuses on carbonate reservoir characterization, with an integration of core analysis, well log interpretation and seismic inversion. She has years of summer working experience in the oil industry and is currently working as a Geophysicist in Occidental Petroleum Corporation. She is an active member of SEG amd AAPG.



### Yuefeng Sun

Dr. Yuefeng Sun is Professor of Geology and Geophysics at Texas A&M University, College Station. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1994. His research interests include petroleum geology, reservoir geophysics, biogeophysics, mechanics and electrodynamics of multiphase fractured porous media, and advanced energy research. He is the Director of the TAMU Reservoir Geophysics Program with research focus on integrating geology, rock physics, geophysics, and reservoir simulation for energy exploration and production. He has served on the editorial boards of *Geophysics* and *Journal of Computational Acoustics*. He is a member of SEG, AAPG, and AGU.

## BEST PRESENTATION AWARDS, CONTINUED

### 2017 THOMAS A. PHILPOTT EXCELLENCE OF PRESENTATION AWARDS
### (Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM)

**FIRST PLACE – 2017**

***"Sediment Transport Processes and Rates in the Indus Submarine Fan, Arabian Sea"***

**Peter Clift, Yuting Li, and Peng Zhou**

### Peter Clift

Peter Clift has held the Charles T. McCord Jr. Chair in Petroleum Geology at Louisiana State University since 2012 after being the Kilgour Professor of Geology at the University of Aberdeen 2004–2011. Clift received his B.A. degree from the University of Oxford in 1987 and a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1990. He works on the evolution of continental margins and their sedimentary records both at outcrop and via studies of modern margin using industrial and academic seismic and drill data sets. He has a particular focus on the geology of SE Asia and the Arabian Sea but is using his Louisiana base as a chance to apply similar methods to the Mississippi system.

### Yuting Li

Yuting Li is a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in Geology at Louisiana State University. Her Ph.D. research explores the sediment flux through the Indus Submarine Canyon and its correlations with sea level, climate modulated sediment supply, and sediment reworking. Using multiple geochemical, mineral, grain size, and radioactive dating methods, she investigates the source-to-sink signal propagation and for the first time differentiated the sediment reworking from direct sediment supply through river mouth in a major submarine canyon. Results from her study provides a solid evidence of geologic impact of climate changes.

### Peng Zhou

Peng Zhou is a third-year Ph.D. student in Geology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. His research interest is focused on the environmental and erosional impacts of the Asian monsoon in the Arabian Sea, with a particular focus on the marine sediments from International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Expedition 355. His primary scientific purpose is to determine if these major tectonic events are associated with changes in erosion patterns and so to climatically modulated surface processes, by using bulk geochemistry, grain size analysis, clay minerals, heavy minerals, radioactive dating methods, and other proxies.

## SECOND PLACE – 2017

### *"Regional Variation in Composition, Diagenesis, and Reservoir Quality of Onshore Jurassic Cotton Valley Sandstones, Northern Gulf of Mexico"*

**Shirley P. Dutton, William A. Ambrose,
Bohdan B. Horodecky, and Robert G. Loucks**

### Shirley P. Dutton

Shirley P. Dutton is a Senior Research Scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, where she has spent her entire professional career. Her main area of research is in sandstone diagenesis, clastic sedimentology, and reservoir characterization. She received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, all in geology. Her current research involves diagenesis and reservoir quality of deep to ultradeep sandstone reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Dutton was a Distinguished Lecturer for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1986–1987 and 2013–2014.

### William A. Ambrose

William A. Ambrose is a Research Scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology. He received a Master of Arts degree in geological sciences in 1983 from the University of Texas at Austin. Since joining the Bureau of Economic Geology in 1987, he has worked on a variety of projects at the Bureau, including characterization of the Woodbine Group in the East Texas Basin, Frio fluvial and deltaic reservoirs in South Texas, tight-gas reservoirs in the Cleveland Formation in the Texas Panhandle, co-production of gas and hot brine from Oligocene reservoirs in the Texas Gulf Coast, evaluation of coalbed methane reservoirs in Rocky Mountain basins, and reservoir characterization and basin analysis studies in Venezuela and Mexico. He is currently the principal investigator of the Bureau's STARR (State of Texas Advanced Oil and Gas Resource Recovery) program, past president of the Energy Minerals Division (EMD) of AAPG, chair of the EMD Coal Committee, and vice chair of the AAPG Astrogeology Committee. His contact information is email: william.ambrose@beg.utexas.edu, telephone: 512–471–0258, and address: Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, University Station, Box X, Austin, TX 78713–-8924.

### Bohdan B. Horodecky

Dan Horodecky received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geosciences in 2016 at the University of Texas at Austin. After graduating, he worked as a Hydrogeologist for the city of San Antonio, Texas. Dan is currently acquiring his Master of Science degree at the University of Tennessee. His graduate work focuses on visualizing and quantifying fluid transport over fracture surfaces in low matrix porosity rocks.

### Robert G. Loucks

Robert G. Loucks is a Senior Research Scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology. He received his B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1967 and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. His general research interests include carbonate and siliciclastic sequence stratigraphy, depositional systems, diagenesis, and reservoir characterization. His present research includes deeply buried reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico, evaporite and carbonate paleokarst, and pore networks in carbonates, sandstones, and mudrocks.

## THIRD PLACE – 2017

## *"Mechanical Stratigraphic and Tectonic Controls on Natural Fracturing in the Eagle Ford Formation"*

**David A. Ferrill, Ronald N. McGinnis, Alan P. Morris, Kevin J. Smart, Kirk D. H. Gulliver, Daniel Lehrmann, and Mark Evans**

### David A. Ferrill

David A. Ferrill ~ Space Science and Engineering Division, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, San Antonio, Texas 78238–5166; dferrill@swri.org.

David Ferrill received his B.S. degree in geology from Georgia State University in 1984, his M.S. degree in geology from West Virginia University in 1987, and his Ph.D. in geology from the University of Alabama in 1991. He is a licensed professional geoscientist (geology) in the State of Texas. Before joining Southwest Research Institute in 1993, he was an exploration geologist at Shell Offshore Incorporated. David is now an Institute Scientist at Southwest Research Institute and performs analyses of faulting, fracturing, and reservoir deformation, and structural geological training and contract consulting for the oil and gas industry.

### Ronald N. McGinnis

Ronald N. McGinnis ~ Earth Science Section, Space Science and Engineering Division, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, San Antonio, Texas 78238–5166; rmcginnis@swri.org.

Ronald McGinnis received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2002 and 2005, respectively. He joined Southwest Research Institute in 2002 and is currently a Principal Scientist. His work includes structural geological analysis of groundwater aquifers and hydrocarbon reservoirs, and characterization of mechanical stratigraphy and the control it has on natural deformation features, and he performs training and research for the oil and gas industry.

## Alan P. Morris

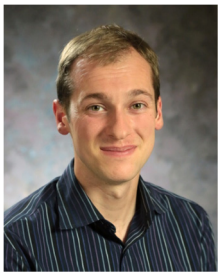
Alan P. Morris ~ Earth Science Section, Space Science and Engineering Division, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, San Antonio, Texas 78238–5166; amorris@swri.org.

Alan Morris received his B.Sc. degree (honors) in geology from the Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1973 and his Ph.D. in geology from the University of Cambridge in 1980. He is a licensed professional geoscientist (geology) in the State of Texas. Before joining Southwest Research Institute in 2005, Alan was a full professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio, having been on the faculty for 22 years. Alan is now a Staff Scientist at Southwest Research Institute and focuses on quantitative analysis of deformation processes and stress in diverse tectonic regimes and conducts research and technical assistance projects for the oil industry.

## Kevin J. Smart

Kevin J. Smart ~ Earth Science Section, Space Science and Engineering Division, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, San Antonio, Texas 78238–5166; ksmart@swri.org.

Kevin Smart received his B.S. degree in geology from Allegheny College in 1989, his M.S. degree in geology from the University of New Orleans in 1992, and his Ph.D. in geology from the University of Tennessee in 1996. He is a licensed professional geoscientist (geology) in the State of Texas. Before joining Southwest Research Institute in 2003, he was on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma. Kevin is currently a Manager at Southwest Research Institute and focuses on structural geology and geomechanics research and technical assistance projects for the oil industry.



## Kirk D. H. Gulliver

Kirk D. H. Gulliver ~ Earth Science Section, Space Science and Engineering Division, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, San Antonio, Texas 78238–5166; kgulliver@swri.org.

Kirk Gulliver received his bachelor's degree in Geology, Economics and Environmental Studies from Trinity University in 2016, at which time he began working with Southwest Research Institute. As a Scientist, his work includes structural geological and mechanical stratigraphic analysis of oil and gas reservoirs in outcrop and core, and geographic information systems development for oil and gas basins and groundwater aquifers.

## Daniel Lehrmann

Daniel Lehrmann ~ Geoscience Department, Trinity University, One Trinity Place, San Antonio, TX 78212; dlehrmann@trinity.edu.

Daniel Lehrmann received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in 1985, his M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1988, and his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 1993. He worked as a research geologist for Exxon Production Research from 1993–1996. Before joining Trinity University in 2010, he was a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh for 14 years. Daniel is currently the Gertrude and Walter Pyron Professor of Geosciences at Trinity University, where he teaches courses and conducts research in the areas of paleontology and sedimentary geology.

## Mark Evans

Mark A. Evans ~ Department of Geological Sciences, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, Connecticut 06050; evansmaa@mail.ccsu.edu
Mark A. Evans received a B.S. and M.S. in Geology from West Virginia University in 1978 and 1980 respectively; and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1989. He is a licensed professional geologist in the state of Pennsylvania. Mark is currently Professor of Geology and Department Chair, and conducts research focused on paleo-fluid flow and fluid evolution in extensional and compressional structural settings.

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

## FIRST PLACE – 2017

### *"Stratigraphy of the Fredericksburg-Washita Division (Comanche-Cretaceous), Texas, Emphasizing the Person and Georgetown Formations: The "Classic" View"*

**Peter R. Rose**

### Peter R. Rose

Dr. Pete Rose (Ph.D., Geology, University of Texas, Austin) has been a professional geologist for 59 years, specializing in Carbonate Stratigraphy, Petroleum Geology, E&P Risk Analysis, and Mineral Economics. Before going on his own in 1980 as an independent prospector and consultant, he worked for Shell Oil Company, the United States Geological Survey, and Energy Reserves Group, Inc, a small-cap Independent.

After 10 years as an internationally-recognized authority on economic risking of exploration drilling ventures, he founded Rose & Associates, LLP, in 1998. Pete retired in 2005; the firm continues as the global standard among consulting companies in that field, providing instruction, software, and consulting services on an international scale.

Pete wrote the definitive geological monograph on the Edwards Limestone of Texas (Rose, 1972), and has continued related investigations to the present time. His 2001 book, *Risk Analysis and Management of Petroleum Exploration Ventures*, now in its 7th printing, is considered by many as the "Bible" on that topic, and has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. He has authored or co-authored more than 80 published articles on an extremely wide variety of geological topics (Micropaleontology to Petroleum Economics). He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Geological Society of London.

In 2005, he was the 89th President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He was also deeply involved in successful efforts to encourage the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission to modernize its rules governing estimation and disclosure of oil and gas reserves, thus facilitating the investment component of the "shale revolution" in the U.S.

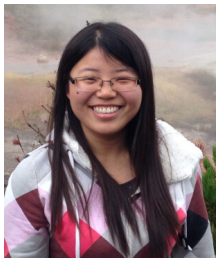
In 2013, the Geological Society of London awarded Peter R. Rose its prestigious Petroleum Group Medal for lifetime contributions to Petroleum Geology, the first American to be so recognized, and in 2014 the American Association of Petroleum Geologists honored him with its Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award.

Pete is a 5th generation Texan. He and his wife Alice have 5 children and 8 grand-children. They divide their time between Austin and their El Segundo Ranch near Telegraph, Texas. In retirement, he took up a new career as a historian: in September 2012, Texas Tech University Press published his book, *The Reckoning: The Triumph of Order on the Texas Outlaw Frontier*, about the coming of Order and Law to the western Hill Country and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas (1873–1883). He is also well known for field trips he leads with Dr. Charles Woodruff into the Texas Hill Country that combine the topics of Geology, Wineries, and Frontier History.

## SECOND PLACE – 2016

### *"Comparison of Regional, Total Tectonic Subsidence Variations in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Produced During Two-Stage, Mesozoic Basin Opening"*

**Pin Lin and Paul Mann**



### Pin Lin

Pin Lin received her B.S. degree in Geological Engineering from China University of Petroleum in 2013, and her M.S. in Geology and Geophysics from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2015. Her master's thesis focused on 3D seismic facies interpretation from a gas field in the Bohai Basin of China. In fall 2015, she started her Ph.D. project in geology with Dr. Paul Mann in the University of Houston. This project is supported by the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons (CBTH) Consortium, and aims to examine the structural architecture and seismic stratigraphy of the oceanic crust and rifted, continental margins in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, using seismic reflection, wells, and high resolution potential field data.

### Paul Mann

Paul Mann is the Robert E. Sheriff Endowed Professor of Geology at the University of Houston, where he directs the CBTH consortium.

## THIRD PLACE – 2017

### *"Delineation of Structural Trends in Caldwell County, TX "*

**Vsevolod Egorov, Robert Neese, and Jonathan Neese**

### Vsevolod Egorov

Vsevolod "Seva" Egorov is an independent consultant. He has been involved in petroleum exploration projects worldwide, integrating geological, seismic, and potential fields data, while working for Getech, AOA Geophysics, Fugro, CGG, ARKeX, and as an independent consultant. The latest project areas include southern Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic conjugate margins (West Africa, US Atlantic margin and Brazil) and onshore South America, Mexico, and the U.S.

Seva holds B.S and M.S. degrees in Geology/Geophysics from St. Petersburg State University, Russia, and a Ph.D. in Geophysics from University of Houston.

He is a member of SEG, AAPG, HGS, EAGE, and AGU. At the SEG, Seva has served as a Chair of the Gravity and Magnetics Committee and organized a number of the Annual Meeting workshops. Currently, he is an Associate Editor of *Interpretation*, SEG/AAPG Journal.

## Robert Neese

Robert “Bob” Neese is President of Gravity Map Service (GMS). GMS provides high resolution gravity data for oil and gas exploration programs throughout the United States. Bob holds a degree in geology and geography from Texas A&I University (Texas A&M University at Kingsville). He has over 48 years of experience in the potential fields sector of the geophysical industry.

He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), and is a Trustee Associate with the SEG Foundation.

## Jonathan Neese

Jonathan “Johnny” Neese is the data management technician and marketing consultant for Gravity Map Service (GMS). GMS maintains a data library with high resolution gravity covering prime exploration areas of the United States.

Johnny graduated from Texas Military Institute in San Antonio and later received his B.S. degree in Management and Systems from Texas A&M University. He also holds a M.B.A. degree from Schreiner University. Johnny has over 10 years of experience in managing and marketing of the GMS gravity data base.

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

### FIRST PLACE – 2017

***"Occurrence of Fossil Woods in Texas, Primarily the Cretaceous and Tertiary"***

**Scott W. Singleton**

**Scott W. Singleton**

Mr. Singleton received a B.S. in Geophysics from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1979 and an M.S. in Geophysics from Texas A&M University in 1988. He has 35 years of experience in the oil industry and has a dozen published industry articles plus a large number of conference abstracts and presentations. He is currently Geophysical Technology Advisor for a Permian Basin E&P company.

Mr. Singleton spends his available time giving back to the community. He is a past president and current Board member of the Geophysical Society of Houston and on the Editorial Board of the *GSH Journal*. He has been the Annual Show Chairman of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society for 12 of the last 18 years, and is a docent for paleontology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Along this same theme, Mr. Singleton initiated a project in 2000 to add to the body of scientific knowledge about the taxonomy and range of fossil woods in the Texas Gulf Coast Cretaceous and Tertiary. To date his database consists of approximately 100 locations throughout the state totaling about 3900 specimens and 1000 thin sections. He publishes articles about this research as results become available.

### SECOND PLACE – 2017

***"Deformation of the Pennsylvanian Collings Ranch Conglomerate, Arbuckle Mountains, Southern Oklahoma: An Outcrop Mesoscale Intragranular and Intergranular Deformation Analogue to Subsurface Sandstone and Carbonate Reservoirs"***

**James J. Willis and William G. Bixler, III**

**James J. Willis**

James was born in Metairie, Louisiana, in 1968. He graduated from the now University of Louisiana at Lafayette with B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology in 1989 and 1990, respectively. He was Baylor Geology's first Ph.D. recipient in 1993 as a National Science Foundation Research Fellow (Baylor's first). He then spent a couple of years as a NASA–funded Postdoctoral Research at Southern Methodist University, followed by an academic appointment as the Hensarling-Chapman Endowed Professor of Geology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, before departing in 2001 to pursue full-time industry consulting and training activities, which continues today. He remains an Adjunct Professor at UL–Lafayette where he teaches industry-ready graduate-level courses and volunteers supervising thesis research projects.

He has served the Lafayette Geological Society in multiple capacities, including Editor and Publisher (2002–2018), Vice President (2011–2012), President (2012–2013), and Past President (2013–2014). He has been served in some form of editorial and publishing capacity with GCAGS since 2006, as *Transactions* Co-Editor for several years, GCAGS Managing Editor since 2011, and *Transactions* Editor in 2014, 2017, and 2018. In 2017, he was named Permanent *Transactions* Editor. (Note: As the *Transactions* Editor in 2017, James recused himself from the decision process for the Grover E. Murray awards, the final ranking of which comes from the GCSSEPM Judging and Awards Committee.)

### William G. Bixler, III

Glenn Bixler is Geoscience Manager for CC Energy in Houston, and is focused on participating in high quality drilling opportunities along the Gulf Coast and on the Gulf of Mexico Shelf. He has previously held technical and management positions with Mobil, ExxonMobil, Newfield, Nexen, and Murphy, as well as several smaller independents. Glenn has been involved with exploration and development projects in a variety of worldwide basins and play types. He holds a B.S. Geology degree from Baylor University, and an M.S. Geology degree from the University of Oklahoma.

## THIRD PLACE – 2017

## *"Application of Electroseismic Technology for Direct Hydrocarbon Detection in Conventional Reservoirs—A Case History"*

### David L. McCabe, Alan J. Katz, Arthur H. Thomson, and Robert W. England

### David L. McCabe

David McCabe is ES Xplore's Vice President of Exploration. His primary role within the company is to improve the integration of electroseismic data with other geologic and geophysical data. He came to Hunt Energy Enterprises in 2014 after 5 years with Encana Oil & Gas (USA) where he was a Group Lead for New Ventures within the Mid-Continent business unit. Prior to Encana, he served as Chief Operating Officer for Ascent Energy Inc. and also as Vice President of Exploration and Development. Prior to joining Ascent Energy in 2002, he was an independent consultant and for the prior 12 years, he held a succession of managerial and technical positions with Oryx Energy and its predecessor, Sun Exploration and Production Company, in its onshore and offshore Gulf Coast exploration and development operations. His 40 years in the oil and gas industry include similar positions with Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) prior to Oryx Energy. He received a B.S. in Geophysics from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. from Houston Baptist University. He is an active member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

### Alan J. Katz

Alan Katz is ES Xplore's Chief Technology Officer. He joined Hunt Energy Enterprises (HEE) in 2009 to work on oil and gas exploration technologies. During his six years at HEE, Katz supervised the development of the signal processing capabilities, product/hardware development and overall operations for ES Xplore. Previously, Katz worked at Texas Instruments (TI) in the Advanced Digital Signal Processing unit at TI's Central Research Lab. His tenure at TI spanned 10 years and included oversight of research with regard to machine learning, with applications to signal and image processing, semiconductor process control, and data mining. Also at TI he started and directed TI Ventures, TI's corporate venture capital fund. Prior to TI, Katz worked as a Senior Research Physicist in Exxon's Upstream Rock Physics group. Katz holds a Ph.D. and

an M.S. in Physics from Stanford University as well as a B.A. in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Chicago.

## Arthur H. Thomson

A. H. Thompson was granted B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in physics, mathematics, and mechanical engineering from Ohio State University in 1966 and a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from Stanford University in 1970. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society. He has published on superconductivity, charge density waves, electrochemistry, advanced battery systems, solar energy, physics of electron devices, transport properties of fluids in porous media, percolation theory, nuclear magnetic resonance, finite-size scaling in reservoir rock, and coupling of electromagnetic and seismic energies. At ExxonMobil, he showed the viability of active-source electroseismic technology for hydrocarbon indication. After 32 years, he retired from ExxonMobil in 2003. He is presently doing independent research and consulting with ES Xplore LLC on electroseismic surveying.

## Robert W. England

Robert W. England received a B.S. degree from the University of Dayton, Ohio. From 2006 to present, Mr. England serves as an independent electrical engineering and operations management consultant to companies ranging from Fortune 500's to venture backed firms. From 2001 to 2006, Mr. England served as the Chief Executive Officer of Cumbre Pharmaceuticals Inc., a robotics based drug discovery company. Previously, Mr. England spent 27 years at Texas Instruments Incorporated, in engineering and operations management. Mr. England also served as Senior Vice President and General Manager of Texas Instruments Incorporated's worldwide semiconductor memory business and as Senior Vice President responsible for the Digital Light Processing business unit.

# STATESMANSHIP AWARD
## Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

### CHRISTOPHER D. MCLINDON

Christopher D. McLindon is a geologist who is both an accomplished oil and gas explorationist and a concerned citizen whose observations of subsurface faults has led him to share an expanding resource of importance to all who have a stake in the careful management of Louisiana's coastal environments. Chris' efforts in documenting the relationship between surface-affecting faults and abrupt changes in near-shore environments, particularly from marsh to open water, have open eyes in varied communities to the need for the thoughtful geographical allocation of the resources dedicated to coastal remediation efforts.

Chris was born February 11, 1957 in Little Rock, Arkansas, but grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, remained there to attend Louisiana State University, and received his B.S. degree in Geology in 1979. Shortly thereafter, Chris began employment in the oil industry, working for a number of companies including Gulf Oil, McMoRan Exploration, Helis Oil and Gas, Cimarex Energy, and Stone Energy. He is currently sharing his talent with Upstream Exploration of Metairie, Louisiana.

Throughout his career, Chris has had a fascination with the mapping and mechanics of faults, and has built a substantial knowledge base of structural regimes and related fault patterns across South Louisiana, during regional mapping studies and basin-level evaluations. Over the past decade, Chris became aware of faults that extend to the earth's surface, that often have visible expression. With recently available software allowing the simultaneous viewing of 3D seismic data and satellite imagery, Chris has been able to document numerous surface fault traces, expressed as sharp lineations, where emergent marsh is bounded by open water. He then shared his developing findings with the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS) community in March, 2014, with the presentation, "Rethinking Coastal Restoration", which generated a great deal of discussion.

Seeking independent verification and an expansion of his work, Chris then coordinated the NOGS Fault Map Research Initiative, in the process arranging for access to oil and gas industry seismic data now used by students in eight graduate research projects. These studies focus on surface processes, including wetlands loss, at the University of New Orleans, Tulane University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and Louisiana State University. Industry seismic data are available through donations, as well as by means of internships wherein students work the data in the office of a company holding a license to the survey. A consistent result of these research projects is the recognition that the surface expression of faulting is coincident with either topographic change in elevation, or the boundary between emergent and submerged ecosystems along the fault trace. Preliminary results of these studies have been presented at the national conventions of both the Geological Society of America and the American Geophysical Union.

During Chris' recent term as President of NOGS, he coordinated with Dr. Charles Groat, Acting Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey (LGS), to lay out plans for the development of the Coastal Geohazards Atlas; the project has a goal of combining all surface fault traces mapped with LIDAR elevation data by LGS with surface fault traces mapped with oil and gas industry seismic data through the NOGS Fault Map Research Initiative. The first edition of the *Coastal Geohazards Atlas* is anticipated in 2019, but further efforts will continue to add to the scope and detail of the project over time.

On July 10 and 11, 2018, NOGS and LGS co-hosted the second annual Coastal Geology Symposium at LSU. Chris was involved both as an event coordinator and as a speaker, giving technical presentations both days, continuing his impressive outreach; since 2014, he has given over 50 such programs on the surface expression of faults, and the implications thereof, including at meetings of GSA, AGU, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Department of Transportation, and Louisiana House and Senate Natural Resources Committees. In April of this year, both houses of the Louisiana legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 86, supporting the construction of the *Coastal Geohazards Atlas*, and asking the oil and gas industry to continue to cooperate in its development.

Chris has been working since 2013, at first alone, then with the increasing involvement of a diverse and growing association of the willing, to increase the knowledge of the contribution of naturally occurring fault-related subsidence as it relates to the preservation of coastal Louisiana. His activities have implications for the entire

Gulf Coast, in that the material imbalance due to a lack of available sediment input in the face of storm-driven erosion and added subsidence on the downthrown sides of coastal faults can occur wherever replenishing sediment supply is restricted. Chris has taken the lead in both specifically documenting the contribution of natural faulting to coastal land loss, and, more broadly, in engaging a community of disparate talents and viewpoints in industry, academia, government, and NGO's, rallying them around the critical issue of wetlands preservation and restoration. This effort has resulted in a raising of consciousness that there is an appreciation for environmental issues within the oil industry.

*J. David Cope*

# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
## Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

### DAWN S. BISSELL

The GCAGS Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a member who has demonstrated performance of significant singular or long term beneficial service to GCAGS. Dawn Bissell is being recognized for more than three years of service to GCAGS as the General Chairman for the 66th Annual GCAGS convention in Corpus Christi in 2016. In addition to that contribution, Dawn has served her local society, the Corpus Christi Geological Society on both the Scholarship Committee and as an educational liaison for a number of years.

The job of General Chairman for a GCAGS is a challenging responsibility, made even more so by a downturn in the price of oil beginning in January of 2015. None the less, the convention in Corpus Christi was an excellent convention thanks to the organizational skills Dawn displayed. Dawn approached the convention as an opportunity to show off her city and the excellent geoscience conducted by the Gulf Coast community. Her convention team of over 25 exceptional volunteers was able to assemble over 115 oral presentations and 65 poster displays and resulted in the largest GCAGS Convention *Transactions* ever assembled.

Dawn's interest in Geology was sparked by the father of an old boyfriend who was a manager for Sun Oil Company. Recognizing that she wasn't cut out to follow her fathers' desire that she become a dentist, she followed the advice of the gentleman to try geology and began to study and excel at geology. The fact that she met her future husband—Randy Bissell—early in her studies may have also played a role in her pursuit of our science. From Geology 101 Lab, Randy and Dawn have been inseparable partners since 1979.

In addition to completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Geology, Dawn also earned a B.S. in Computer Science in 1982, both from University of Southern Mississippi. She began her career in geoscience in August of 1982 as a geophysicist in the processing and computer mapping group at Conoco in Ponca City, Oklahoma. While she was working in Ponca City, her husband Randy was earning a Master of Science degree in Geology from Oklahoma State University.

Upon graduation, Randy accepted a position with Exxon in Kingsville, Texas. I first met Dawn in 1984 when I was asked by Conoco management if I could help turn a "computer geologist" from Ponca City into an operations geologist in Corpus Christi. After meeting with Dawn I was certain that she had what it took to move from the computer side of the business to the more traditional role of geologic operations. I was not wrong! Dawn interpreted 2D seismic in Webb County constructing development and regional maps of the Lobo sands. After transferring to Houston, Dawn continued her career with Conoco completing 12 years before leaving to raise her children. Dawn still speaks fondly of her Conoco experience. After she left Conoco, Dawn began a part-time consulting career in 1997 working with 3D seismic and Geographix software in Houston.

When Randy transitioned from Exxon in Houston to Headington Oil Company in 1999, the Bissell's were excited to return to Corpus Christi, as independents and consultants, rather than employees of big corporations. Dawn saw the need for computing and database support for local geologists trying to learn 3D workstations and started her company, Advent Geoscience Consulting. She also recognized the value of developing professional relationships with others "in the business." I was a beneficiary of one of those relationships Dawn developed when she told Bob Garrison with EOG that she might know a geophysicist with South Texas experience who was interested in a job change. Several months later I began a nearly 14 year career with EOG.

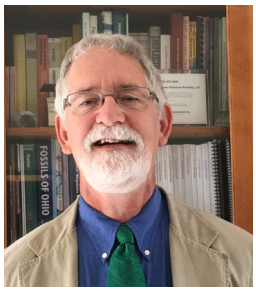
In Corpus Christi, Dawn began to be active in public service, both to the local and geologic communities. In addition to her work with GCAGS and CCGS, Dawn has been involved with more than half a dozen local organizations including Christian Women's Job Corps/Jobs for Life, Driscoll Children's Hospital–Family Advisory Board, Girl Scouts of America, along with memberships, advisory roles and board positions for several other organizations. Dawn is a huge advocate for families, education, progress for her community, and culture in the Coastal Bend. She is admired and respected citizen in her adopted city.

I have known Dawn Bissell for more than 30 years. From those first years of training her in operations geology through the following years of being "long distance" friends she has always demonstrated a remarkable combination of intelligence, energy, skill, and faith. I am delighted that she has been chosen to receive this recogni-

tion, and to have the opportunity to briefly relate her multifarious contributions to GCAGS, CCGS, and her local community.

*Dale M. Short*
Geologist/Geophysicist
Retired

## JEFFREY A. SPENCER



The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies has rightly chosen Jeffrey A. Spencer to receive the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award. Jeff has served as the GCAGS Historian since 2010, following in the footsteps of David Pope (1983–2005) and Mark Gallagher (2005–2010). His passion and service to both the GCAGS and the greater petroleum community in preserving and educating others about petroleum history make him worthy of such an honor.

Jeff received a B.S. degree in Geology from the University of Cincinnati and an M.S. degree in Earth Sciences from the University of New Orleans. Much of his petroleum geological career was in the onshore and state waters of the Gulf of Mexico region with Amoco Production Company (1981–1998), Unocal (1998–2000), Osprey Petroleum (2000–2005), Black Pool Energy (2005–2010), and Midstates Petroleum Company (2010–2013). He then stepped into the international realm and served as Chief Geologic Advisor for Amromco Energy in Romania (2013–2017). He is currently a semi-retired/consulting geologist and lives near Bellville, Texas, with his spouse, Linda.

Jeff's outstanding call to professional service is that of petroleum history. He wrote his first petroleum history paper for the GCAGS Transactions in 2001 at the 100th anniversary of the Jennings Field and later contributed to the Louisiana Geological Society's publication about the field's anniversary. He has authored or co-authored twelve papers in the Transactions and authored or co-authored twenty-seven papers in the *Oil Industry History* journal. Jeff has published on petroleum geology history in the *AAPG Explorer* (2014) and is the author of several short historical articles published in the *HGS Bulletin*, the *NOGS LOG*, and the *SIPES Newsletter* of Houston. Topics include the historical petroleum aspects of several states, such as Louisiana (Hackberry, Jennings, Vinton, Pine Prairie, Tuscaloosa Trend), Texas (early oilfield photographers, Goose Creek, Damon Mound, Katy, White Point, Raccoon Bend), Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Ohio. He is co-author of *Ohio Oil and Gas* (2008) and author of *Texas Oil and Gas* (2013), both books on oilfield history through photographs and postcards.

Jeff created posters about the history of the GCAGS at their convention entryways in 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016. He digitally preserved early GCAGS historical documents, letters, and *Transactions* introductions that are now available at the GCAGS website. He has spoken to numerous professional societies on historical petroleum topics, including presentations at AAPG annual conventions, to the geological societies of Houston, New Orleans, Lafayette, Abilene, East Texas, Austin, and Dallas, and to the SIPES chapters in Houston, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Austin.

Jeff is a charter member of the Petroleum History Institute and currently serves as its President. He has chaired or co-chaired four of PHI's symposia and field trips. PHI awarded him their Distinguished Service Award in 2011. He is a member of the AAPG History of Petroleum Geology Committee. He was a convener and speaker at the 2016 European Oil & Gas Conference in London. He writes a petroleum history blog with emphasis on petroleum ephemera at https://petroleumhistoryblog.com/.

It is my honor to compose this summary in recognizing Jeff for his outstanding achievements and service to the GCAGS and to the petroleum community.

*Mary L. Barrett*

## JAMES J. WILLIS

I nominated James Willis for the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award primarily because of his direct service to the Association, as Permanent Editor of the *Transactions*. Until James took on this task, the job was responsibility of the host society each year, so that a different Editor took responsibility for each volume. As one might expect, this led to "reinventing the wheel" annually, and to an uneven quality. I was Editor for the 2006 volume and can attest to the amount of work involved in reviewing the papers and editing for grammar and clarity—not all of our contributors possess literary skills or even a desire to proof-read their own work! Serving with me as a Co-Editor in 2006 and in some editorial capacity each year since, including Editor in 2014, 2017, and 2018, James has served us well in this capacity. He has also served as the overall GCAGS Managing Editor since 2011, supervising the *Transactions*, *Journal*, and *Explore & Discover* website, the latter an online resource developed by him. He has also published many papers in the *Transactions*, including a paper that received the 2017 Grover Murray Best Paper Award (2nd place). He has also served the Lafayette Geological Society for many years, as its Editor and Publisher (2002–2018), Vice President (2011–2012), President (2012–2013), and Past President (2013–2014).

James was born in Metairie, Louisiana, in 1968. He graduated with a B.S. in Geology from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1989 (as its top ranking graduate) and M.S. degree in Geology from USL in 1990. He received a Ph.D. in Geology from Baylor University (Baylor Geology's first) as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (Baylor University's first) in 1993. After a post-doctoral stint at Southern Methodist University as a NASA–funded Research Fellow, he joined the faculty of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette from 1996–2001, where he was awarded the Hensarling-Chapman Endowed Professor of Geology (1997–2001), before pursuing full-time independent consulting and training. He does continue to serve UL–Lafayette as an adjunct professor teaching industry-ready courses and as a volunteer committee chair and member of several M.S. theses.

I have known James for many years, starting with his undergraduate days, and have seen his work as a faculty member and later as an adjunct professor. The students regularly acclaim him as by far the best and most knowledgeable instructor they experience. James and I have also worked together as training consultants for several international companies and he has always been a fine colleague with outstanding abilities.

James Willis is a young geologist with strong ethics and personal qualities, and I am pleased to have nominated him for the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award.

*Brian E. Lock*
Professor Emeritus
University of Louisiana of Lafayette

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

### THOMAS E. EWING

Citation: To Thomas E. Ewing, 2018 Don R. Boyd Medalist, for his exemplary and dedicated leadership in the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and its member societies, and for his outstanding achievements in geological research and petroleum exploration in the Gulf of Mexico Basin.

Recipients of the highest award bestowed by the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, the Don R. Boyd Medal for Excellence in Gulf Coast Geology, are selected on the basis of a distinguished standing in at least two of the following three areas: (1) Gulf Coast research geology, (2) Gulf Coast oil and gas exploration, and (3) professional leadership in the GCAGS and in at least one of its member societies. The 2018 Boyd Medalist, Dr. Thomas E. Ewing, far exceeds those standards, having achieved excellence in all three areas.

Tom's path toward becoming an outstanding researcher and prolific author no doubt began with his upbringing in an environment with a strong emphasis on academics and science. Tom was born in Elgin, Illinois, to Dr. Galen Ewing, a chemistry professor and author, and Alice Sipple Ewing. He lived with his parents and two older brothers, Martin and William, in Schenectady, New York, before the family moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico, where Tom attended grade school. Another family move took Tom to Orange, New Jersey, where he graduated in 1971 from the highly rated college preparatory school, Newark Academy, with recognition as a National Merit Scholar. Tom headed westward again for his college education and began developing his research skills. He earned a B.A. degree in Geology from the Colorado College in 1975, an M.S. degree in Geochemistry from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1977, and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from the University of British Columbia in 1981.

As he was completing his doctorate, Tom joined the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin. During the period from October 1980 through February 1985 at the BEG, Tom began his many contributions to the geology of Texas. His research projects included work on Gulf Coast Tertiary structural styles, Gulf Coast geopressured reservoirs, depositional systems of the Frio Hackberry, and compilation of the *Tectonic Map of Texas* and, with co-authors, the *Atlas of Texas Oil Reservoirs*. During a more recent period of contract work with the BEG during 2013 to 2015, Tom was the project chief and author for the highly popular *Texas through Time*, a book and companion website explaining the geological history and character of Texas, a valuable resource for professional and general audiences alike.

Beyond the BEG projects and publications, Tom has independently continued over many years as a prolific researcher and author of over 140 articles, reports, book contributions, abstracts, and field guides, many of them focused on the geology of the Gulf of Mexico Basin. He is perhaps most widely recognized as a master of regional studies, and many have praised his ability to assemble geological pieces into the "big picture." These studies have included work on the Yegua Trend of the Texas Gulf Coast, Upper Jurassic depositional systems of the northern Gulf of Mexico Basin, the South Texas heavy oil province, tectonic factors in the formation of the San Marcos Arch and Sabine Uplift, the Late Quaternary Rio Grande Delta system, Pliocene stratigraphy in southeastern Texas, and the Peripheral Graben System in Texas. Numerous professionals have credited Tom's published works for aiding in their own research, applications, and publications.

Tom has conveyed the results of his research to the rest of the geological community not only through his publications, but also through the many oral presentations he has given at conventions, society meetings, seminars, field trips, and short courses. The GCAGS and its member societies have been the beneficiaries of so much of Tom's shared research. In recognition of the quality and significance of his work, Tom has received several best paper awards from the GCAGS and other professional organizations, including the prestigious A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award three times for presentations at American Association of Petroleum Geologists section meetings, two of which were GCAGS annual conventions in 1992 and 1998.

Following his initial time at the BEG, Tom moved to San Antonio and into the petroleum industry as a consultant, employee, partner, and owner. Since 1985, he has been a partner and then owner of Frontera Exploration Consultants, Inc., first serving as Geologist and Geophysicist, and currently as Senior Exploration Consultant. From 1985 to 2003, Tom consulted primarily to Venus Oil Company and then was employed as Senior Explora-

tionist for Venus Exploration, Inc. Since 2007, he has also been a partner in Yegua Energy Associates, LLC in San Antonio.

Tom's work in oil and gas exploration has included projects in several different basins and trends, but his greatest achievements came during his association with the Venus group, when he played a significant role in the discovery of large gas condensate reserves in the Yegua Trend of the Texas Gulf Coast. The Venus prospects led to the discovery of Vidor Ames Field (170 BCFE) in Orange County, as well as new pays in Constitution (175 BCFE) and Nome (116 BCFE) fields in Jefferson County, Shanghai Field (20 BCFE) in Wharton County, and several other smaller fields.

In addition to his accomplishments in Gulf Coast research and petroleum exploration, Tom has met the third criterion of the Boyd Medal through his exceptional leadership in the GCAGS and member societies. He has served the GCAGS as President, Vice President, Annual Convention General Chair and General Vice Chair, Editor of the *Transactions*, Field Trip Chair, and Technical Program Co-Chair. He has also served two of the GCAGS member societies in leadership roles. For the South Texas Geological Society, he has served as President, President-Elect, Vice President, Director, Delegate to AAPG, and on various committees. He also served the Austin Geological Society as Secretary, Publications Chair, and Technical Programs Chair. As a Section of AAPG, the GCAGS has benefited additionally from Tom's substantial leadership roles in AAPG, for which he has served as Vice-President for Sections, Annual Convention General Vice Chair (currently), and House of Delegates Vice Chair. He has served in two of AAPG's Divisions, as President of the Energy Minerals Division and as Treasurer and President of the Division of Professional Affairs.

In recognition of his leadership and contributions to the geological profession, Tom has previously been honored by GCAGS, STGS, and AAPG. He has received GCAGS Honorary Membership, GCAGS Distinguished Service Award, STGS Honorary Membership, AAPG Distinguished Service Award, AAPG EMD Honorary Membership, AAPG EMD Distinguished Service Award, and AAPG DPA Life Membership. Now, let us recognize Tom Ewing for his excellence in Gulf Coast geology by awarding him the highly deserved 2018 Don R. Boyd Medal.

With greatest respect,

*Bonnie Weise*
*Gene Ames, Jr.*
*Gene Ames III*

# ENERGY!


## Ready for another round.