



GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES  
and  
GULF COAST SECTION SEPM

## 69<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by the Houston Geological Society

Houston, Texas  
October 23-25, 2019

## OPENING SESSION & AWARDS CEREMONY

Welcome - *Jon Blickwede, HGS President*

Convention Highlights - *Mike Erpenbeck, 2019 General Chair*

Reports of the Presidents

*Deborah Sacrey, GCAGS President*

*Thomas D. Demchuk, GCSSEPM President*

Presentation of Awards - see pages 2-3 for order



## REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS

Deborah Sacrey, GCAGS President (see p. 4)

Thomas D. Demchuk, GCSSEPM President (see p. 5)

## ORDER OF AWARD PRESENTATION

2019 *GCAGS Transactions* Dedication (see p. 7)

In Memory of Kenneth E. Nemeth

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2019 Imperial Barrel Award (AAPG Gulf Coast Sectional) (see p. 9)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	University of Houston
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	University of Texas
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Auburn University

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2018 A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award (AAPG) (see p. 11)

Anish Kumar

Co-Authors: Josselin Kherroubi, Florent Bringer, George Richard Kear, Robert Laronga, and Juan Herrera

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2018 President's Award for Outstanding Paper, *GCAGS Journal* (see p. 13)

Lauri A. Burke

Co-Authors: Ofori N. Pearson, Scott A. Kinney, and Janet K. Pitman

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2018 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Thomas A. Philpott  
Excellence of Presentation Award (see p. 14)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Steven Walkinshaw

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Robert G. Loucks

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Mary L. Barrett

Best Student Oral Presentation: Kiana McFadden

Co-Author: Ezat Heydari

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2018 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Gordon I. Atwater Best Poster Award (see p. 16)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Omar Zavala

Co-Author: Paul Mann

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jack Kenning

Co-Author: Paul Mann

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Muhammad Nawaz Bugti  
Co-Author: Paul Mann

Best Student Poster Presentation: Omar Zavala  
Co-Author: Paul Mann

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2018 GCAGS/GCSSEPM Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Award (see p. 19)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Anish Kumar  
Co-Authors: Josselin Kherroubi, Florent Bringer, George Richard Kear, Robert Laronga, and Juan Herrera

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Nick B. Pollard  
Co-Author: Nicole Elhaj

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Thomas E. Ewing

Best Student Published Paper: Gregory J. Ferguson  
Co-Authors: James J. Willis, Duncan S. McIntosh, Jr., Jesse W. Zwennes,  
James Pasley, and Garrett M. Goettel

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2019 GCSSEPM Honorary Membership Award (see p. 24)

Tony D'Agostino

Jory Pacht

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2019 GCSSEPM Doris Malkin Curtis Medal (see p. 26)

John B. Anderson

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2019 GCAGS Distinguished Service Award (see p. 28)

Kenneth R. Helm

Timothy J. McGovern

Dwight "Clint" Moore

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## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL

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### DEBORAH SACREY



Welcome to Houston, Texas—the “kick-off” city for the newly branded GCAGS Convention! It is the 69th Annual Convention for the GCAGS—and we are ushering in a new name. The GEOGULF concept was the brain-child of Dr. Tom Ewing and others who felt that people were having issues with all the acronyms associated with the Convention. We have a new logo and a new color scheme, which you will be seeing all over the Convention space this year. This brand will carry us forward for many years and hopefully will be recognized by all as an excellent meeting to come to for networking and outstanding technical information.

The thoughts behind creating the GEOGULF brand come from the fact that this convention represents the ENTIRE coastal basin—both onshore and offshore. When GCAGS first got started in 1950, most of the activity was onshore. But over the years the trend has moved to offshore, both in state waters and the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. We want to make sure everyone is represented in this brand.

We have such a wonderful organizing committee this year, and I would like to thank each and every one of them for the outstanding job they have done putting this meeting together. A huge clap of hands goes to the General Chair, Mike Erpenbeck, and Vice-Chair, Larry Bartell. And of course, we wouldn't have a successful meeting without an outstanding Technical Program without the Technical Program Committee lead by Linda Sternbach. When you see these hard-working volunteers on the Convention floor, please thank them for their hard work and service. Of course, they don't work in a vacuum—but have a huge group of volunteers behind them to make sure the field trips, short courses, oral presentations and poster sessions come off without a hitch. Another THANK YOU goes to James Willis, the Editor of the *GCAGS Transactions* this year.

Our partner in this first GEOGULF is GCSSEPM, and without them this meeting would not be complete. Please join us at the Awards Ceremony so that you can see the deserving individuals from both organizations get their awards for hard work and good science. The GCSSEPM is also hosting a luncheon, two short courses, as well as a slate of excellent speakers lined up throughout the meeting.

This organization couldn't continue running smoothly without the wonderful help of our Executive Director, Kate Kipper. Her long-standing service and knowledge base continues to keep us on track and out of trouble. In addition, our standing committees, Continuity, Finance, Awards, and Constitution and Bylaws make sure we are financially stable, in good stead with our partner Societies and honoring those that deserve acknowledgement. We have 13 local Societies with whom we work to bring outstanding science to the fore.

Finally, I would sincerely like to thank our SPONSORS and EXHIBITORS. We REALLY couldn't put on a “good show” without them. This year, instead of one Sponsor Chairman, it was decided that the best policy in lean times would be to “divide and conquer.” A team of well-connected people were brought together to help solicit funds to cover costs of this event. The team had about 10 people, but the Team Leader, Steve Brachman, deserves many kudos for “herding cats” so to speak, and keeping everyone on track with our goals. It was a tough year for getting sponsorships...but we appreciate every company and person who stepped forward to allow this GEOGULF 19 to be a wonderful experience for everyone!

*Deborah Sacrey*  
GCAGS President

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## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT GULF COAST SECTION SEPM

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**THOMAS D. DEMCHUK, PH.D.**



Welcome to the 69th Annual Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies this year known as GeoGulf 2019. We hope you are all looking forward to a great conference. The conference is under great leadership and the technical program and associated events all look spectacular. I wish to thank Dorene West for acting as GCSSEPM liaison to GCAGS to ensure our functions are appropriately organized and move forward efficiently.

This year GCSSEPM is sponsoring a number of activities at the meeting and most importantly hosting the GCSSEPM Luncheon on the Friday. The guest speaker will be Dr. Jim Pindell (Tectonic Analysis) who will be giving the luncheon talk entitled, "The Geological Evolution of Mexico." Prior to the luncheon on Friday, Dr. Pindell will be giving a GCSSEPM sponsored short course entitled, "Principles of Paleogeographic Evolutionary Synthesis." In addition to these functions, GCSSEPM will be hosting the two events being organized by John Rotzien (Basin Dynamics), a short course "Fundamentals of Deepwater Stratigraphy and Reservoirs," as well the accompanying session during the technical program. Finally, GCSSEPM will be hosting the short course, "A User's Guide to Micropaleontology and Biostratigraphy: Applications in Research and Industry" being organized by myself, Ryan Weber (PaleoData Inc.), and Rebecca Hackworth (Chevron).

GCSSEPM also has a number of awards to present at the opening ceremony of the Conference. Importantly we will be presenting our Doris Malkin Curtis Medal (The Society's highest recognition) to Dr. John Anderson (Rice University). This medal recognizes geologists for "their career contributions in the development of new concepts for understanding the geology of the Gulf of Mexico and other basins." I am certain you will agree that Dr. Anderson is a most worthy recipient for his decades of research particularly of the Gulf of Mexico, but on global basins as well. The award is named in honor of Doris Malkin Curtis, one of the pioneers in the study of paleontology and stratigraphy of the Gulf Coast. Dr. Curtis worked in the Gulf Basin for more than 50 years and served the geologic profession in many ways. When you run into John at the meeting, please congratulate him on this prestigious award.

In addition to the Doris Malkin Curtis Medal, the Section will be presenting two Honorary Memberships to long-time volunteers and members of the Section, Tony D'Agostino and Jory Pacht. Most recently Tony was Director of the GCSSEPM Foundation, and Jory was a Foundation Trustee for several terms. We thank them very much for their dedication to the Section and the Foundation.

Last year was a unique year in that the GCSSEPM Foundation did not host a Perkins-Rosen Research Conference. For 2019, the conference preparations are mostly settled, and the theme will be, "Salt Tectonics, Associated Processes, and Exploration Potential: Revisited 1989-2019." The conveners are Carl Fiduk, Van Mount, and Thomas Hearon: GCSSEPM Foundation Director John Suter has been working hard to get this all accomplished. The meeting will be held December 3-6, 2019 at the Charles Davidson Hall, Noble Energy (Houston, Texas). We hope all of you will attend and make the conference a great success.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my Executive Council and two people in particular: the President-Elect Don van Nieuwenhuise who has helped out considerably with all the Section happenings, and Milly Wright our Secretary who keeps us all informed and keeps our records well organized. Additional thanks to the Treasurer Julitta Kirkova Pourciau and Vice-President Mike Sweet for their support of the Section and their volunteer time. Finally and importantly, I would like to thank Foundation Director John Suter for keeping me on my toes with Section happenings and things that needed to be done.

I hope you all have an excellent time at this year's GCAGS/GeoGulf conference. Thanks to all the volunteers and members who gave their time towards the organization of the conference, and its ultimate success.

Regards,

*Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk*  
RGCSSEPM President

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## DEDICATION

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### IN MEMORY OF KENNETH E. NEMETH



The Houston Geological Society proudly dedicates Volume 69 of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions in memory of Kenneth E. Nemeth. As the GCAGS and Gulf Coast Section of SEPM embark on their newly rebranded joint annual convention, GeoGulf, it is particularly fitting that we remember and honor those who have contributed so much time and effort in service to the Gulf Coast geoscience community. Ken Nemeth indeed was the perfect example of a servant leader passionately committed to developing and effecting the goals of our geoscience organizations and leading geoscience students on the threshold of their careers.

In 1973, Ken earned a B.A. degree in Geology with honors from Albion College in Michigan, where he also played NCAA Division II football and was co-captain of his team during his senior year. In 1976, he completed his M.A. degree in Geology at the University of Texas at Austin. While at UT, he also was a teaching assistant in the Department of Geological Sciences and a research assistant at the Bureau of Economic Geology.

Upon receiving his Master's degree, Ken immediately reported for employment in New Orleans, where he worked from 1976 to the fall of 1981, first with Shell Oil Company and then with Louisiana Land & Exploration. In late 1981, he moved to Houston, taking a job with BlueSky Oil & Gas and later joining Adobe Resources. From 1987 to 1991, he worked as a consultant in Houston. He moved to Dallas in 1991 to work for Browning Oil Company. In 1998, Schlumberger hired Ken in Dallas, then transferred him back to Houston in 1999, where he remained for the rest of his career.

Shortly after Ken had arrived in Houston in 1981 for the first of his two stints there, he began his long service to the Houston Geological Society, first as a member and chair of the Entertainment Committee and then as a member of the Employment Committee. During this time, he also made the first of his many contributions to the GCAGS, serving on the Publicity Committee for the 1982 Annual Convention.

When Ken's employment took him to Dallas, he did not skip a beat in his professional society work, serving the Dallas Geological Society as President-Elect/Secretary, President, and Past President, as well as Editor and member and chair of various committees. The DGS honored him with its Outstanding Service Award in 1998.

After his return to Houston, Ken resumed his service to the HGS as a member or chair of several committees, including the Finance, Website, Guest Night, Office, and Nominations Committees. He served the Society as Treasurer (2004–2006) and as President-Elect, President, and Past President (2013–2016). The HGS honored Ken for his invaluable contributions to the Society with several awards: Rising Star Award (2003), President's Award (2005), Distinguished Service Award (2007), and Honorary Membership (2010).

The GCAGS likewise has been a direct, major beneficiary of Ken Nemeth's passion for serving and promoting excellence in our professional organizations. Ken served as Vice President (President-Elect) in 2006–2007, President in 2007–2008, and Past President in 2008–2009. He used his outstanding organizational skills to clarify procedures and create valuable management tools for the Association's leadership. He produced the GCAGS President's Handbook, made significant contributions to the Annual Meeting Operations Manual, and compiled and organized 25 years of GCAGS minutes.

Recognizing the value of greater involvement of the Affiliated Societies within the GCAGS, Ken developed a survey of the Societies to identify their needs, practices, and goals, re-

established contact with non-participating Societies, and successfully caused several to re-engage with GCAGS. He played an integral role in the Association's establishment of long-term business relationships with convention and publication consultants, and as a Continuity Committee member and Chair (2006-2012), Ken focused on streamlining the organization's convention scheduling and planning process, for which specific service he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the GCAGS. He also served the Association on its Awards & Nominations Committee (2008-2011). In recognition of his outstanding and long-term service to the GCAGS and the geoscience profession, the GCAGS awarded Ken with Honorary Membership in 2012.

Ken's service to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists was also greatly inspiring, and undoubtedly his most valuable contribution was his involvement from 2009 to 2018 on the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Committee, which conducts the highly acclaimed IBA exploration training and competition for geoscience students. He organized and hosted the first AAPG Gulf Coast Section (GCAGS) IBA competition and continued to be one of the driving forces of the IBA program, serving as Vice Chair for the AAPG IBA Committee from 2009 to 2012.

Ken also served the AAPG on convention committees, as Southwest Section Secretary ((1998-1999), and in Delegate positions for both the Houston Geological Society and the Dallas Geological Society. The AAPG awarded Ken with a Certificate of Recognition in 1998 and with Certificates of Appreciation in 2007 and 2008, and honored him posthumously with the AAPG Distinguished Service Award at the 2019 Annual Convention and Exhibition.

Away from his professional activities, Ken was an avid tennis player, attended multiple tournaments across the Gulf Coast, and participated regularly for many years in the World Oilman's Tennis Tournament held in Houston.

Sadly, Ken departed this world far too early, passing away on June 14, 2018, one day before his 67th birthday. He is survived by Sandra, his loving wife of 41 years, daughter Samantha, sister Debbie and brother John and their families. Ken provided many fond memories for all whose lives he touched, and he also left behind a wonderful legacy and model of exceptional professional service.

So, in recognition and appreciation of his many contributions and selfless, devoted service to the GCAGS, the Houston Geological Society, and the profession, let us now dedicate this Volume 69 of the *GCAGS Transactions* to Kenneth E. Nemeth.

With greatest respect,  
*The Houston Geological Society*



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## IMPERIAL BARREL AWARD GULF COAST SECTION OF AAPG

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The 2019 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 Houston, followed by the University of Texas, and Auburn University. The University of Houston went on to win the 2019 Global IBA competition, their 2nd global win, and the 6th for the Gulf Coast Section.

### Gulf Coast Finals

1st Place	University of Houston
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	University of Texas
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Auburn University

The University of Houston went on to win the International Finals at the AAPG convention on Saturday, May 18!

### **FIRST PLACE (2019)**

**Jacob Miller, Patrick Chandler, Aydin Shahtakhtinskiy,  
Spencer Fuston, and Andrew Stearns**

*University of Houston*



**SECOND PLACE (2019)**

**Sam Robbins, Cole Speed, Leo Zeng, Mark Reid, and Esben Pedersen**

*University of Texas*



**THIRD PLACE (2019)**

**Alicia Fischer, Sharif Mustaque, Connor Cain, Ozan Turkes, Raeann Garcia, and advisor Dr. Ashraf Uddin**

*Auburn University*



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## BEST PRESENTATION AWARDS

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### 2018 A. I. LEVORSEN MEMORIAL AWARD (Gulf Coast Section, AAPG)

**“Slabbing Borehole Images: A True 2D Visualization of Wellbore Geology”**

**Anish Kumar, Josselin Kherroubi, Florent Bringer, George Richard Kear,  
Robert Laronga, and Juan Herrera**



**Anish Kumar**

Anish Kumar received his Ph.D. in Geology at Texas Tech University in 1997. He worked with Special Core Analysis Labs, Inc., Midland, Texas, as a Geologist and Lab Manager till 2001, when he began his career with Schlumberger in New Orleans as an Interpretation Development Geologist with a focus on Borehole Geology and deepwater deposits. Anish is currently based in Houston, and is a Geology Domain Champion for Schlumberger’s Western Hemisphere offshore Wireline operations.



**Josselin Kherroubi**

Josselin Kherroubi is a Principal Engineer, active in Interpretation Engineering and Project Management. He graduated from CentraleSupélec (Marcel Schlumberger’s alma mater) with a specialization in Applied Mathematics and a focus on image processing and machine learning. After 4 years as an R&D engineer at Thales working on radar tracking systems, he joined Schlumberger Riboud Product Center (SRPC) in Clamart in 2006. In Schlumberger, he has worked on automated fracture extraction and characterization, fracture modeling, signal processing, and inversion for dielectric measurement interpretation software, and leads a team developing of advanced image analysis modules on the Techlog wellbore software platform.

As AI Technical Manager, he is currently participating in the development of the new European Artificial Intelligence Lab, supervising a growing team, and accelerating new AI workflows.



**Florent Bringer**

Florent Bringer holds a Master in Geology from Montpellier University obtained in 2008. After his university he joined Techsia, as Geologist/Petrophysicist and work on the development of Techlog. After the Schlumberger acquisition he left the software world to work as petrophysicist in Colombia, Ecuador, Algeria, and today in Aberdeen where he is covering the petrophysics for Schlumberger wireline over Europe.



**George Richard Kear**

George Richard Kear graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in March of 1972. In April 1972, he joined Schlumberger Offshore Services, Lake Charles, LA where he worked as a field engineer, general field engineer and special services specialist. From 1976 to 1996, Rick held many positions with Schlumberger including, District Manager of New Orleans East, City Sales Manager and Division Sales Manager in Shreveport, LA, and Division Sales Manager Mid-America in Oklahoma City, OK. In 1996, he came to work in a full time technical role in Geosciences in New Orleans, LA as Gulf Coast Division Interpretation Development Geologist. Rick worked for Schlumberger for 42 years, and retired as the North America Land Geology Domain Champion and Geoscience Advisor in 2014.

Upon retiring, Rick started Kear Geoscience, LLC of which he is president and sole active scientist. His firm specializes in teaching while leading geological field courses in a number of different depositional environments.



**Robert Laronga**

Robert Laronga graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Geology and joined Schlumberger as a Wireline Field Engineer in the Permian Basin in 1994. While in the field he also worked offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, and internationally aboard the drillship JOIDES Resolution during two years spent with the Ocean Drilling Program. In 2001 he moved overseas and took on a variety of sales, marketing, and technical positions, including a five-year assignment as Headquarters Geologist for Schlumberger Wireline based in Clamart, France. Robert returned to Houston in late 2015 to lead the Wireline Unconventional Domain Team, where his focus has been the smart application and integration of measurements to improve unconventional project value in onshore North America.



**Juan Herrera**

Juan is a seasoned Geologist with diverse research expertise spanning several areas including fluvial sedimentology, sequence stratigraphy, volcanoclastics, karst geomorphology, basin analysis, and geoscience education. Juan obtained his Ph.D. in Earth Science from Purdue University in 2012. He is currently a Senior Geologist in the SIS Data Services division of Schlumberger where he works in the interpretation and integration of borehole images in formation evaluation and reservoir characterization for single and multiwell projects in the Gulf of Mexico, South, and West Texas.

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**PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PAPER**  
**GCAGS JOURNAL, Vol. 7 (2018)**  
**Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies**

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**“Methodology for Correcting Bottomhole Temperatures Acquired from Wireline Logging Measurements in the Onshore U.S. Gulf of Mexico Basin to Characterize the Thermal Regime of Total Petroleum Systems”**

**Lauri A. Burke, Ofori N. Pearson, Scott A. Kinney, and Janet K. Pitman**



**Lauri A. Burke**

Lauri A. Burke, Ph.D. is a Research Geophysicist and Principal Investigator for the Gulf Coast Geopressure and Geohazards Project with the Energy Resources Science Center at the U.S. Geological Survey. She has authored and co-authored 20 scientific publications. She served 8 years as Director of the regional scientific organization Denver Well Logging Society, and is an active member of SPWLA, SEG, and AAPG. Lauri earned her Ph.D. in geophysics from Colorado School of Mines. Current research interests include regional modeling of geopressure systems; pressure-temperature constraints on known and undiscovered hydrocarbon accumulations; migration modeling in unconventional rocks; and regional formation evaluation of conventional and continuous plays.



**Ofori N. Pearson**

Ofori N. Pearson, Ph.D. is the Deputy Science Center Director for the Central Energy Resources Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey. He has authored and co-authored 22 scientific publications on geologic energy resources and assessments of undiscovered oil and gas accumulations within strata of the domestic Gulf Coast. As a structural geologist, his scientific interests include seismic stratigraphy, paleo-reconstruction of the Gulf of Mexico Basin, and quantitative assessments of known and undiscovered hydrocarbon resources of the domestic Gulf Coast region. Prior to joining the U.S. Geological Survey, Ofori worked for BP Exploration in Houston, where he worked primarily in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. Ofori received his Ph.D. in structural geology from the University of Arizona.



**Scott A. Kinney**

Scott A. Kinney has worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for the past twenty years as a Physical Scientist with the Central Energy Resources Science Center. He has co-authored 34 scientific publications on geologic energy resources and assessments of undiscovered oil and gas accumulations. He has worked on the National coal assessment and has been part of the Gulf Coast project since 2000.

**Janet K. Pitman**

Janet K. Pitman is Scientist Emeritus with the Central Energy Resources Science Center. Her research interests include modeling of thermal maturity and quantitative assessment of known and undiscovered hydrocarbon resources nationally and internationally.

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## BEST PRESENTATION AWARDS, CONTINUED

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### 2018 THOMAS A. PHILPOTT EXCELLENCE OF PRESENTATION AWARDS (Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM)

#### FIRST PLACE - 2018

#### “The Jackson Gas Rock, a Unique Upper Cretaceous (Selma Chalk) Lithofacies, Mississippi”

Steven Walkinshaw



**Steven Walkinshaw**

Steve Walkinshaw is an independent petroleum geologist based in the greater Jackson, Mississippi area, and is the owner and manager of Vision Exploration, LLC. Steve graduated from Millsaps College in 1981 and has 38 years of experience in oil & gas exploration and development. As an adjunct professor, Steve has also taught Petroleum Geology at Millsaps College. He is a Registered Professional Geologist in the State of Mississippi, a Licensed Professional Geoscientist in the State of Louisiana, and an AAPG/DPA Certified Petroleum Geologist. Since 2017, Steve has served as the Chairman of the Mississippi State Mapping Committee, which oversees and approves the annual agenda of the State's Office of Geology. He has also served as past President of the Mississippi Geological Society and AAPG delegate. Steve recently served as Presenter for the Unconventional Lower Smackover Brown Dense Lime Trend at numerous shale conferences and professional society meetings from 2011 to 2015. Steve received the NOGS Best Paper Award in 2001 for his presentation “Magma, Salt, and the Chicxulub Impact: Intriguing Questions about the End of the Cretaceous in the Mississippi Embayment”.

#### SECOND PLACE - 2018

#### “Eagle Ford—A Depositional Setting and Processes in Southwestern Texas: An Example of Deeper-Water, Below-Storm-Wave-Base Carbonate Sedimentation on a Drowned Shelf”

Robert G. Loucks



**Robert G. Loucks**

Dr. Robert 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. He is Co-PI of the Carbonate Research Characterization Research Laboratory (RCRL). He is the author or co-author of approximately 200 papers.

**THIRD PLACE - 2018**

**“A History of Louisiana Casinghead Gas Venting and Flaring:  
Patching Together Incomplete Regulatory Records, 1930s-1970s”**

**Mary L. Barrett**



**Mary L. Barrett**

Dr. Mary Barrett is a sedimentary and petroleum geologist with professional backgrounds in both academia and industry. She received B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, and a Ph.D. degree in geology from the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Barrett was a petroleum geologist with Mobil Oil in Dallas, New Orleans and Denver. She was a geology professor at Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, from 1992 to 2009, and is a professor emeriti. She has served as a consultant to independent exploration companies concerning the Austin Chalk, Eagle Ford, and Woodbine formations of southeast Texas, and the Smackover Formation of Alabama and Arkansas. In the mid-1990s, she added to her interest in old hydrocarbon fields and their technical history and began the study of the history of oilfield wastes in our country. She is presently a consulting geologist with interests in oilfield waste history and impacts. Barrett is the immediate past-president of the Division of Environment Geosciences, AAPG.

**2018 BEST STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD**

**(Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section SEPM)**

**“Sedimentology, Petrography, and Mineralogy of the Tallahatta Formation  
near the City of Meridian, Mississippi”**

**Kiana McFadden and Ezat Heydari**



**Kiana McFadden**

Kiana McFadden is a graduate of Jones County Junior College (JCJC) and a recent graduate of Jackson State University (JSU). She graduated with a B.S. Degree in Earth System Science. During her tenures at JCJC and JSU she was able to participate in numerous undergraduate experiences such as NASA’s Community College and Aerospace Scholars Program and Texas A&M University’s Atmosphere Sciences’ Undergraduate Research Experience in the Gulf Coast Region. Recently, Kiana McFadden has been accepted to the University of Arizona Lunar and Planetary Laboratory where she plans to pursue her doctorate in Planetary Science..

**Ezat Heydari**

Dr. Ezat Heydari is a Professor of Geoscience at Jackson State University (JSU). He received his Ph.D. degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1990, his Master’s of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1982, and Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tehran, Iran, in 1976. He specializes in sedimentology, stratigraphy, diagenesis, and low tem-



perature geochemistry of carbonate rocks. Prior to joining JSU, he worked as a Research Associate and Research Professor at LSU (1990-1999), and as an Administrator with the Mississippi Office of Geology (1999-2001). He entered JSU in 2001 at the rank of an Assistant Professor, promoted to an Associate Professor in 2006, and to a Full Professor in 2012. Heydari has extensive experience in teaching, research, and reservoir characterization of petroleum reservoirs. He has investigated Mesozoic rocks of the U.S. Gulf Coast and the Upper Permian and Lower Triassic strata of the Middle East. His most recent endeavor is the Geology of the planet Mars. He is the author of over 50 published research papers and about 100 conference presentations. He has the honor of being a member of science team with NASA's Curiosity Rover currently exploring Gale Crater, Mars.

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

**FIRST PLACE - 2018**

**“Comparison of Multi-Stage Cooling Histories on Conjugate Rift Margins of the South Atlantic Ocean”**

**Omar Zavala and Paul Mann**



**Omar Zavala**

Omar worked as a GIS Specialist/Research Assistant for the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons (CBTH) project at the University of Houston department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. He graduated from the University of Houston on May 11th, 2018, with his Bachelor of Science degree in geophysics alongside a minor in mathematics. He completed his undergraduate senior research project on using subsidence histories of offshore wells and low-temperature thermochronology ages from the South American and west African conjugate margins to study the rift history of the South Atlantic Ocean.

Omar plans on pursuing a masters degree in the near future.



**Paul Mann**

Paul Mann is currently the Robert E. Sheriff Endowed Professor at the University of Houston where he teaches courses on basin analysis and petroleum geology and where he directs the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons industry consortium.



**SECOND PLACE - 2018**

**“Role of Eocene-Oligocene Mass Transport Deposits for Controlling Along-Strike Variations in Thickness, Structural Geometry, and Hydrocarbon Sealing in the Mexican Ridges Fold-Thrust Belt, Western Gulf of Mexico”**

**Jack Kenning and Paul Mann**



**Jack Kenning**

Jack Kenning is a Ph.D. student and research assistant with the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons Research Group at the University of Houston, under the advisement of Dr. Paul Mann. He received a B.Sc. in geology from the University of Manchester, and an M.Sc. in Petroleum Geoscience from Royal Holloway, University of London in the United Kingdom. Jack has previously been involved in projects focusing on North Africa, the U.S. Gulf Coast, and the southern Atlantic continental margins. Current work on his Ph.D. dissertation involves studying the role of tectonics, structure, and stratigraphy impacting the petroleum systems potential of the eastern Mexican continental margin and western Gulf of Mexico.



**Paul Mann**

Paul Mann is currently the Robert E. Sheriff Endowed Professor at the University of Houston where he teaches courses on basin analysis and petroleum geology and where he directs the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons industry consortium.

**THIRD PLACE - 2018**

**“Structural Modeling and Kinematic Restoration of the Corsair Normal Fault Trend, Northwestern Gulf of Mexico”**

**Muhammad Nawaz Bugti and Paul Mann**



**Muhammad Nawaz Bugti**

Nawaz Bugti is a researcher and a Ph.D. student at the University of Houston. He has 19 years of experience in upstream E&P and four years in Oil & Gas industry-funded research. He specializes in basin analysis, prospect evaluation, seismic interpretation, reservoir characterization, and scientific research. His graduate research is on structural evolution and prospectivity of Port Isabel fold-thrust belt in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.



**Paul Mann**

Paul Mann is currently the Robert E. Sheriff Endowed Professor at the University of Houston where he teaches courses on basin analysis and petroleum geology and where he directs the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons industry consortium.

**2018 BEST STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD**

**“Comparison of Multi-Stage Cooling Histories on Conjugate Rift Margins of the South Atlantic Ocean”**

**Omar Zavala and Paul Mann**



**Omar Zavala**

Omar worked as a GIS Specialist/Research Assistant for the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons (CBTH) project at the University of Houston department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. He graduated from the University of Houston on May 11th, 2018, with his Bachelor of Science degree in geophysics alongside a minor in mathematics. He completed his undergraduate senior research project on using subsidence histories of offshore wells and low-temperature thermochronology ages from the South American and west African conjugate margins to study the rift history of the South Atlantic Ocean.

Omar plans on pursuing a masters degree in the near future.



**Paul Mann**

Paul Mann is currently the Robert E. Sheriff Endowed Professor at the University of Houston where he teaches courses on basin analysis and petroleum geology and where he directs the Conjugate Basins, Tectonics, and Hydrocarbons industry consortium.

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## GROVER E. MURRAY BEST PUBLISHED PAPER AWARDS

### GCAGS / GCSSEPM

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#### FIRST PLACE - 2018

**“Slabbing Borehole Images: A True 2D Visualization of Wellbore Geology”**

**Anish Kumar, Josselin Kherroubi, Florent Bringer, George Richard Kear,  
Robert Laronga, and Juan Herrera**



**Anish Kumar**

Anish Kumar received his Ph.D. in Geology at Texas Tech University in 1997. He worked with Special Core Analysis Labs, Inc., Midland, Texas, as a Geologist and Lab Manager till 2001, when he began his career with Schlumberger in New Orleans as an Interpretation Development Geologist with a focus on Borehole Geology and deepwater deposits. Anish is currently based in Houston, and is a Geology Domain Champion for Schlumberger’s Western Hemisphere offshore Wireline operations.



**Josselin Kherroubi**

Josselin Kherroubi is a Principal Engineer, active in Interpretation Engineering and Project Management. He graduated from CentraleSupélec (Marcel Schlumberger’s alma mater) with a specialization in Applied Mathematics and a focus on image processing and machine learning. After 4 years as an R&D engineer at Thales working on radar tracking systems, he joined Schlumberger Riboud Product Center (SRPC) in Clamart in 2006. In Schlumberger, he has worked on automated fracture extraction and characterization, fracture modeling, signal processing, and inversion for dielectric measurement interpretation software, and leads a team developing of advanced image analysis modules on the Techlog wellbore software platform.

As AI Technical Manager, he is currently participating in the development of the new European Artificial Intelligence Lab, supervising a growing team, and accelerating new AI workflows.



**Florent Bringer**

Florent Bringer holds a Master in Geology from Montpellier University obtained in 2008. After his university he joined Techsia, as Geologist/Petrophysicist and work on the development of Techlog. After the Schlumberger acquisition he left the software world to work as petrophysicist in Colombia, Ecuador, Algeria, and today in Aberdeen where he is covering the petrophysics for Schlumberger wireline over Europe.



### **George Richard Kear**

George Richard Kear graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in March of 1972. In April 1972, he joined Schlumberger Offshore Services, Lake Charles, LA where he worked as a field engineer, general field engineer and special services specialist. From 1976 to 1996, Rick held many positions with Schlumberger including, District Manager of New Orleans East, City Sales Manager and Division Sales Manager in Shreveport, LA, and Division Sales Manager Mid-America in Oklahoma City, OK. In 1996, he came to work in a full time technical role in Geosciences in New Orleans, LA as Gulf Coast Division Interpretation Development Geologist. Rick worked for Schlumberger for 42 years, and retired as the North America Land Geology Domain Champion and Geoscience Advisor in 2014.

Upon retiring, Rick started Kear Geoscience, LLC of which he is president and sole active scientist. His firm specializes in teaching while leading geological field courses in a number of different depositional environments.



### **Robert Laronga**

Robert Laronga graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Geology and joined Schlumberger as a Wireline Field Engineer in the Permian Basin in 1994. While in the field he also worked offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, and internationally aboard the drillship JOIDES Resolution during two years spent with the Ocean Drilling Program. In 2001 he moved overseas and took on a variety of sales, marketing, and technical positions, including a five-year assignment as Headquarters Geologist for Schlumberger Wireline based in Clamart, France. Robert returned to Houston in late 2015 to lead the Wireline Unconventional Domain Team, where his focus has been the smart application and integration of measurements to improve unconventional project value in onshore North America.



### **Juan Herrera**

Juan is a seasoned Geologist with diverse research expertise spanning several areas including fluvial sedimentology, sequence stratigraphy, volcanoclastics, karst geomorphology, basin analysis, and geoscience education. Juan obtained his Ph.D. in Earth Science from Purdue University in 2012. He is currently a Senior Geologist in the SIS Data Services division of Schlumberger where he works in the interpretation and integration of borehole images in formation evaluation and reservoir characterization for single and multiwell projects in the Gulf of Mexico, South, and West Texas.

**SECOND PLACE - 2018**

**“A Microseismic Case Study: Cotton Valley Taylor Sandstones, Overton Field, Texas”**

**Nick B. Pollard and Nicole Elhaj**



**Nick B. Pollard**

Experienced energy professional (30+ years) with extensive technical, operations, business development and management experience working the East Texas, North Louisiana, and Gulf Coast basins. Graduated from the University of Texas in 1984 with a BS in geology and started career under the part-time tutelage of Clay Durham while obtaining a MS degree in geology from the University of Houston. Moved to Tyler, TX in 1990 to take the position of Exploration Geologist with Lake Ronel Oil Company. After three years, accepted a position with Sonat Exploration in Tyler office and worked the Austin chalk and pinnacle reef trends. In 1998 became Chief Geologist for C W Resources in Longview, actively involved in over 75 operated and non-operated new drills. In 2007 co-founded Tanos Exploration, Tanos Exploration II in 2013 and Tanos Exploration III in 2015. The three companies combined have deployed over \$1.3 B in acquisitions and development, while Tanos II and III are still active in the Ark-La-Tex basins.



**Nicole Elhaj**

Biography not available as of press time.

**THIRD PLACE - 2018**

**“The Peripheral Graben System in Texas: An Overview”**

**Thomas E. Ewing**



**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 the 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 Liederkrantz.

## 2018 BEST STUDENT PUBLISHED PAPER AWARD

### “Influence of Shale Distribution Types on the Effective Porosity of Sandstone Reservoirs”

**Gregory J. Ferguson, James J. Willis, Duncan S. McIntosh, Jr., Jesse W. Zwennes, James Pasley, and Garrett M. Goettel**



**Gregory J. Ferguson**

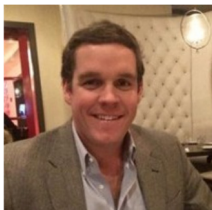
Gregory John Ferguson was born in Alaska and grew up in Texas before he attended the University of Arkansas where he received his Bachelor of Science in Geology and his Bachelor of Arts in German. He subsequently attended graduate school at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he completed his Master of Science degree in Geology and competed in AAPG’s Imperial Barrel Award winning team for UL in 2018. Greg now works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Durham, North Carolina, where he is learning how to write and develop air quality regulations to protect human health and the environment. In his free time he enjoys reading, watching films, writing fiction, cooking, and traveling.

### **James J. Willis**

James is the founder of the Willis School of Applied Geoscience, reformulating his international industry training curriculum to provide graduate student education at no cost to them. He has served GCAGS 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, 2018, and 2019. In 2017, he was named Permanent *Transactions* Editor.

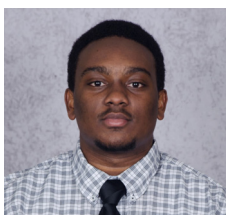


(Note: As the *Transactions* Editor in 2018, James recused himself from the decision process for the best paper awards, the final ranking of which comes from the GCSSEPM Judging and Awards Committee.)



#### **Duncan S. McIntosh, Jr.**

Duncan McIntosh joined Johnson Rice in 2017 as an equity securities analyst where he specializes in the small cap E&P space. After graduating with his Master's in Geology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the Spring of 2017, Duncan McIntosh joined Tellurian Inc., where he worked with both the subsurface and business development groups under Tellurian Production Company. He received a B.Sc. in Geology from the College of Charleston.



#### **Jesse W. Zwennes**

Jesse W. Zwennes is a Professional Science Master's candidate at Arizona State University's (ASU) Solar Energy Engineering and Commercialization department. He is also a Program Assistant at the Center for Advanced Studies in Global Education (CASGE) at ASU.

Jesse received his Master of Science in Geology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2017 and his Bachelor of Science in Geology from Wittenberg University in 2014. Jesse's research interests lie in various aspects of the energy industry and previously, mineralogy. His current research focuses on exploring the solar energy policies in place in select West African countries and the push to expedite or introduce policies favorable to solar energy implementation to solve energy needs.

Jesse was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, and has so far enjoyed working in academia in the US.



#### **James Pasley**

James Pasley received his B.S. in Geology from the University of Mississippi in 2014 and his M.S. in Geology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2018. He has worked projects for Halliburton in the US GoM, offshore Nigeria for Chevron, and Egyptian Western Desert for Apache Corporation. James is currently working in Houston, TX as a geologist for the Zama development/appraisal team at Talos Energy.



#### **Garrett M. Goettel**

Garrett M. Goettel was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and grew up in Pueblo West, Colorado. Garrett attended Western State Colorado University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geology in May of 2017. Garrett completed a summer internship with Antero Resources Corporation before moving to Lafayette, Louisiana, where he earned a Master of Science in Geology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Garrett completed his Master's and began an internship with Baker Hughes, a GE Company in the summer of 2019. Garrett's geological interests include well log petrophysics, volatile hydrocarbon analysis, subsurface mapping, and seismic interpretation. Personal interests include the study of architecture, travel, and current events.

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## 2019 GCSSEPM HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

### 69<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION, 2019

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#### TONY D'AGOSTINO



Honorary Membership is granted to Tony D'Agostino, who for an extended period, has supported the activities of the GCSSEPM Section and Foundation in a substantial way through his time, effort, and fiduciary advice and support. Tony's ongoing eighteen-plus-years of service to our organization has earned them Honorary Membership.

Tony served as Executive Director of the GCSSEPM Foundation from 2016 through 2018 and as Trustee from 2008 through 2018. In 2010, Tony was recipient of the GCSSEPM Distinguished Service Award.

Tony served the GCSSEPM Executive Council as Past President in 2003, as President in 2002, as President Elect in 2001, and as Vice President in 2000.

Tony graduated with a B.S. in Geology from Illinois State University, then continued to graduate school at Northern Illinois University. While there, he studied under the renowned Antarctic researcher Peter N. Webb. In 1980, upon completion of his thesis on Miocene foraminifera from the Ross Sea, he was awarded an M.S. in Geology, and accepted a job as a biostratigrapher at ARCO in Houston.

In his early years at Arco, Tony concentrated mostly on the difficult Paleogene section of the Gulf Coast. In 1982, he spent 2 months at sea as a Shipboard Scientist on DSDP Leg 86 (Shatsky Rise and NW Pacific). This Leg collected some of the first physical evidence supporting the impact theory for the K/T boundary event. That same year Tony joined GCSSEPM. During the tenure at ARCO, Tony was exposed to a broad range of experiences that gave him a unique perspective on applied stratigraphy. This perspective enabled him to provide groundbreaking influence on our Section's functions.

In 1991, Tony left the Gulf Coast region, moved to Midland, and began active participation in the Permian Basin Section. While in Midland, Tony broadened his skills by acquiring expertise in conodonts and doing extensive work with carbonates. He left ARCO and worked several years as an independent consultant in Midland. His consulting work gave him the opportunity to apply his skills not only to the Western Interior of the US, but also to Mexico and Venezuela.

In 1997, he accepted a job with PGS and returned to Houston. He immediately resumed active participation in GCSSEPM activities. He initiated (with Robert Nail and Norm Rosen) the redesign and upgrade of the Section web pages. Participation in Earth Science Week also became a permanent duty of the Section's President-Elect during Tony's tenure in that position.

After another year as an independent contractor, Tony accepted a position as Biostratigraphic Coordinator with Omni/Weatherford Labs. During his tenure there he pioneered the use of bio- and sequence-stratigraphic principals in unconventional plays.

In 2008, Tony left Weatherford Labs and accepted a position working unconventional resources with Hess Corporation. Also, in 2008, the GCSSEPM Executive Council elected Tony to the GCSSEPM Foundation Board of Trustees.

Tony has contributed to both the GCSSEPM and to the science of geology. He contributed papers to three research conferences and, he was the first person to bring a core to a GCSSEPM Research Conference (1984). Tony initiated our social media presence by creating the GCSSEPM Facebook page. His dedication to service has been essential to the success of our organization throughout the years, and he has well-earned the Honorary Membership Award.



## **JORY A. PACTH**



Honorary Membership is granted to Jory A. Pacht, who for an extended period, has supported the activities of the GCSSEPM Section and Foundation in a substantial way through his time, effort, and fiduciary advice and support. Jory's ongoing sixteen-plus-years of service to our organization has earned him Honorary Membership.

Jory served as Trustee of the GCSSEPM Foundation from 2011 through 2018. He served the GCSSEPM Executive Council as Past President in 2005, as President in 2004, as President Elect in 2003, and as Vice President in 2002.

Jory Pacht began his career at ARCO in the exploration research department in 1980, where his work focused on using seismic and wireline data to delineate depositional features. His work continued at RPI International as a Senior Scientist working on sequence stratigraphic and structural projects and at TGS as a principal geoscientist on regional offshore studies.

In 1992, Jory founded Seis-Strat Services, Inc., a full service geological and geophysical company which employed up to 32 geoscientists on a full-time and contract basis. He sold Seis Strat Services in 2007 to a staffing company. In 2003, Jory started EnergyQuest, an oil and gas production company with two partners. They became EnergyQuest Resources in 2004 and they purchased and developed oil and gas fields in Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana, and Texas, and developed a large CBM position in the Cherokee Basin in Oklahoma and Kansas. In 2007, EnergyQuest sold their conventional assets to Layline Production and their unconventional assets to Constellation Energy Partners. Shortly thereafter, Jory and partners started EnergyQuest II, which owned and operated multiple oil and gas fields in Louisiana and Texas. EnergyQuest II was producing approximately 5500 BOEPD when he and his partners sold the producing assets to TPIC in 2010. Jory and partners founded Pintail Oil and Gas in 2013 and he served as CEO. Jory and his team built Pintail's production to over 2000 BOEPD. Jory left Pintail in 2016 and formed Telos Oil and Gas LLC in 2017. In 2018, he formed Strandline Energy to exploit untapped resources in Gulf Coast fields using horizontal technology.

Jory A. Pacht received his B.S. in Geology from Ohio University, his M.S. in geology at University of Wyoming, and his Ph.D. in geology from Ohio State University. While finishing his Ph.D., he served as an Assistant Professor, Geology at Kent State University.

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## 2019 GCSSEPM DORIS MALKIN CURTIS MEDAL

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### DR. JOHN B. ANDERSON



*In recognition of outstanding contributions to the understanding of sedimentology, marine geology, and cryosphere studies in the Gulf of Mexico and World Oceans*

John Anderson, recipient of the 2019 Curtis Medal, was born in Alabama, where he first developed his life-long interest in the Gulf Coast. He studied geology at the University of South Alabama and then moved to Albuquerque for an M.S. at University of New Mexico. At UNM, he worked mapping the area around the Nacimiento Uplift, a temporary change from coastal and marine work. After New Mexico, John moved to Tallahassee and completed his Ph.D. in 1972 at Florida State University, a school with a great history of Antarctic research. There, he began what would be a research project that, in a broad sense, has lasted nearly 50 years. His dissertation focused on glacial-marine sediments in the Weddell Sea, Antarctica—work that still informs our understanding of the area today. The dissertation itself includes beautiful drawings of forams that many of us admire as art that we can't achieve ourselves other than by SEM.

John's first position was as an assistant professor at Hope College, in Holland, MI. He taught geology there for three years and studied the nearby lakes and environmental geology. In 1975, he joined the faculty at Rice University in Houston, TX, and he spent the rest of his career there, retiring as the Maurice Ewing Professor of Oceanography. At Rice, John taught courses in sedimentology, stratigraphy, marine geology, glacial geology, and seminars focused specifically on Antarctica or the Gulf Coast, teaching just about every student to come through the department studying geology. While at Rice, he led many field trips back to New Mexico, focused on the sedimentary rocks in the area where he had once been a student.

John spent much of his career applying sedimentology, geophysics, paleontology, and geochemistry to study the history of ice sheets and to learn how they behave, providing essential knowledge for understanding changes in sea level. During this work John led 24 scientific expeditions to the Southern Ocean as chief scientist or co-chief. His work on the glacial history of Antarctica has shown the ice sheet exhibited both long-term stability and short-term rapid retreats, developing the physical understanding that humans could trigger changes that would be dangerous for coasts. At the same time, he has studied the coast along the northern Gulf of Mexico, with many projects that have built not only our understanding of the long-term development of the margin, but also how the coast responds to both storms and sea-level rise. And, by studying the past and ongoing response of the Texas shelf to the rising sea level, he informs decision makers tasked with adapting to the changes.

John successfully supervised ~64 students completing research for their master's degree, Ph.D., or both. Many of the students, along with scores of undergraduates and guests from various other universities, were able to participate in cruises to the Antarctic, where it became clear how much John enjoyed being at sea. Some were equally inspired by the experience of being in Antarctica and found it launched their careers, although there were certainly a few that discovered they were not suited to being at sea and decided to pursue future land-based studies. Like John, many students had projects in both Antarctica and in the Gulf of Mexico as part of their research, allowing each student to see the impact and interconnectedness of the two programs. Fourteen of John's graduate students went on to hold faculty positions and have supervised dozens of additional students studying glacial history, sea-level change, coastal geology, sediment transport, and sequence stratigraphy, among other topics. A few dozen of John's former students have gone to work in the oil industry, in Houston and around the world; these students are equally successful in their careers and are influencing the petroleum industry, in part by re-

cruiting later generations of students to internships and jobs. Other past students have gone on to work in science education and outreach, Antarctic logistics management, and the environmental industry.

John has received many awards throughout his career, including the GCAGS Outstanding Educator Award (1992), Graduate Teacher of the Year at Rice University (1995), the SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) Shepard Medal (2007), and election to Fellowship in the Geological Society of America (1995). He was an AAPG Haas-Pratt Distinguished Lecturer and the president of the Society of Sedimentary Geology, among many other roles and distinctions.

Throughout his life, going back to his start in Alabama, John's wife, Doris, has been by his side. After many years of holidays when John was in the Antarctic, Doris joined a cruise off of the coast of Chile and took her turn as a watch stander along with all the students. In Texas, many field trips have ended with splitting cores and washing equipment in their yard, or happy hour on the deck, so that dozens of geologists have been able to enjoy their perch on Galveston Island with a view of the bay.

John retired officially from Rice in 2018. However, as I write this, John is with me, two additional alumni from his lab, each of the three of us with our own graduate students, all describing sediment cores in a repository on the West Coast. He is continuing to share his insight along with inspiring an additional generation of researchers and we all hope he will keep joining us.

*Julia Smith Wellner*  
University of Houston

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## 2019 GCAGS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS 69<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION, 2019

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### KENNETH R. HELM



*Ken Helm is honored with the 2019 Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding leadership in the South Texas Geological Society and exemplary service to the GCAGS. Through his work on the STGS Scholarship Committee, his contributions to the geology students of South Texas have been enormous.*

Ken Helm has been actively engaged in the Geosciences and the Oil and Gas Industry for 38 years. He graduated *Cum Laude* from Duke University with a BS in Geology and an MA in Geoscience from Binghamton University. He is a Texas Professional Geoscientist (PG #5012) and an AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist (#4131).

While working for a large exploration and production company, a small independent company and as a consulting geoscientist, he has been a proven hydrocarbon finder. He has also authored papers and given presentations to the geoscience community.

Ken has faithfully provided the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) and the South Texas Geological Society (STGS) with outstanding service over his career. He has served on many committees and was a Delegate to the AAPG House of Delegates. He has been active in various conventions that were held in San Antonio, including serving as the General Chairman of the 2011 SEG Convention. Ken served as the Golf Tournament Chairman at the 2004 and 2017 San Antonio GCAGS conventions and, as usual, used his organizational skills to make them enjoyable to all who participated and profitable for GCAGS.

Probably Ken's most long-lasting contribution to the geoscience community in Central and South Texas is his tireless service on the Scholarship Committee of the STGS. He has helped to raise thousands of dollars for the STGS Scholarship Fund. During his ten years of overseeing the Fund's investments, its assets have increased approximately 40%, not including the scholarships awarded to approximately 120 students. His stewardship of the investment of the Fund's assets has provided long-term fund stability and scholarships for worthy local geoscience students. His service on the San Antonio Energy Coalition, which has raised nearly \$400,000 over 12 years, has helped to fund the scholarship programs of ten San Antonio area oil & gas professional societies that cover the entire spectrum of our business including the local SIPES chapter and the San Antonio Geophysical Society. In this way Ken has literally helped dozens of San Antonio area college students fund their education with generous scholarships. This contribution to our industry will live on in the many students that he has helped.

Ken has always demonstrated the highest ethical and moral standards in his personal and professional life.

Ken is rightfully honored with the 2019 GCAGS Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the GCAGS and for his dedicated, long-term service to the STGS as an officer, HOD Delegate, committee chairman, and much more.

*Tom Fett*

## TIMOTHY J. MCGOVERN



*Timothy J. McGovern is honored with the 2019 Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding leadership in the South Texas Geological Society and exemplary service to the GCAGS as Convention Treasurer.*

Tim McGovern earned his BS degree in Geology from Texas A&M University in 2007, and was employed as Geologist with Ameritex Minerals (2007-10), as Vice President for Exploration with JL Resources (2010-15), and as Geological Consultant (2016-present). Although Tim can still be considered a young professional, he has already dedicated more service and leadership to our geoscience organizations than most people do over their entire careers. Once Tim joined the professional rank, he quickly took on executive roles in the South Texas Geological Society. He has served on the STGS Board of Directors as Treasurer (2009-14) and as President-Elect, President, and Past-President (2014-17). Since 2017, he has continued serving on the STGS Board with multiple terms as an Executive Committee member, including a current term running through 2020.

While on the STGS Board, Tim also has served continuously since 2013 as STGS Webmaster and represented the Society as Delegate to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists House of Delegates (2014-16). In addition to these leadership roles, Tim has contributed much time to the STGS in a variety of other ways, such as organizing special events, managing the Society's archives, and helping coordinate with AAPG Datapages in their digitization of older STGS publications. When the STGS hosted the GCAGS Annual Convention in 2017, Tim played a key role on the coordinating committee, serving as GCAGS Convention Treasurer and helping with the sponsorship drive through fund-raising activities.

In addition to the STGS, GCAGS, and AAPG, Tim has served other geoscience and petroleum-related organizations. He has served on the Council of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists; as 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and President of the San Antonio Geophysical Society; and as Treasurer of the San Antonio Chapter of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors for the Balcones Energy Library and a member of the Board of Governors for the Petroleum Club of San Antonio, serving as House Committee member and as Finance Chairman.

Somehow, miraculously, beyond all of his professional geoscience activities, Tim manages time for his other serious interests; he is an expert woodcrafter and cabinet maker, an accomplished guitarist and singer, and an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church. But of course, above all else, Tim treasures his family time spent with wife and fellow geologist, Chelsea, and their young son, Conlan.

Now, let us recognize Tim McGovern for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the STGS, the GCAGS, and the geoscience profession, and for his inspiration to all geoscientists, young and old alike, by bestowing upon him the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award.

*Bonnie R. Weise*

## DWIGHT "CLINT" MOORE



At this time, we remember Dwight "Clint" Moore, an inspired champion of Gulf Coast Geoscience throughout a long, productive, and remarkable professional career. Clint was highly deserving of the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award in 2019 for his tireless work in recruiting highly informative and attended talks over years of GCAGS Convention Meetings. Clint is best known for his volunteer service to AAPG, as past Treasurer and DPA/House of Delegates/Membership Committee. He deserves a special recognition for starting a series of full day and half day GCAGS sessions focusing on the GOM shelf and deepwater fields. These sessions proved so popular with attendees that often the rooms were overfilled and people had to stand in the back of the room to hear the details of each talk.

Clint's managerial and corporate background in business development at Anadarko gave him contacts needed to pull off the roster of speakers for his Gulf Coast play programs. He made a difference by organizing high level, invited sessions, and organizing speakers who were experts on their topics. Clint's first invited session rolled out for the GCAGS 2012 in Austin. The theme was "Onshore Shales of the Gulf Coast," including the Haynesville, Eagle Ford, and others. At the GCAGS in Lafayette in 2014, Clint Moore organized "Emerging Shelf Plays of the Gulf"—highlighting oil and gas field redevelopment, including Ship Shoal, Grand Isle 16, Timbalier 52, and his own presentation on the future of GOM deep shelf gas with Mike Neese.

In 2015, Clint continued with a impressive speaker line up for GCAGS 2015 on "U.S. Deepwater Fields" by organizing both a morning and afternoon session at the convention in Houston held at the George R Brown Convention Center. His list of speakers offered scientific details on Chinook, Cascade, Tahiti, Appomattox, Stones, Lucius, and other significant deepwater fields. GCAGS attendees were able to get an in depth geological and geophysical look into each discovery thanks to Clint's ability to shepherd difficult corporate permission pathways at major oil companies Chevron, Shell, BP, HESS and others.

This year in 2019, Clint was scheduled to host another great "U.S. Deepwater Fields" session in Houston before his untimely death at home in Houston. We are pleased to announce that this session will go forward as Clint would have wanted. The session will feature BP's Mad Dog and Atlantis fields and Murphy's Smackover and Norphlet plays.

GCAGS remembers Clint Moore for years of highly insightful programs on the onshore, the offshore shelf, subsalt, and U.S. deepwater plays. His high level corporate and scientific society connections, plus his persuasive phone and email activities behind the scenes, offered up unforgettable content to several GCAGS annual conventions from 2012 to today Gulf Coast geoscientists and explorers have long benefitted from Clint's exemplary efforts. It is fitting and proper that GCAGS remember him by bestowing the 2019 Distinguished Service Award. It is with great respect and humility that we remember Clint posthumously as a dedicated champion of GCAGS.

*Linda Sternbach and Charles Sternbach*

# GEOGULF19

H O U S T O N

