

# NOGS LOG

Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

August 2006

Volume 47, Number 2

## AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

### NOGS Events

#### August 7 - NOGS Luncheon

Ken LaBry of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, Inc. will present "High Definition Underwater Acoustic Imaging and Measurement."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

#### LE PAVILLON HOTEL

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Lunch served at 11:30am

#### ADMISSION:

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#### August 24-25 - 10th Annual GOM Deepwater Technical Symposium

The Symposium is a joint effort between the Delta Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS), and American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE). New Orleans Hilton Riverside. Register at <http://www.spe-delta.org/>. Schedule and additional information on pages 20-22.

#### September 11 - NOGS Luncheon

Roger Kocken, Staff Geologist with Chevron North America Upstream, Gulf of Mexico Business Unit will present: "Recovery Factors and Residual Hydrocarbon Saturations Based on Wells Drilled Through Depleted Reservoirs; Examples From South Pass 78 Field, Gulf of Mexico."

Special thanks this month to Tim Piwowar and Al DuVernay. Tim has put together a new column to run monthly called Blast from NOGS Past. The column will feature events from NOGS past that will offer an entertaining perspective. Thanks also to Al DuVernay of Shell for sharing his personal experience and retrospect in Anatomy of a Storm, Katrina, 29 August, 2005. If you have a story you would like told, personal achievement, oil & gas discovery story, brief comments, opinions, or other, please send them to us at [log@nogs.org](mailto:log@nogs.org). We are interested in hearing from you.

#### FROM THE EDITOR



Robert Rooney  
Editor *NOGS Log*

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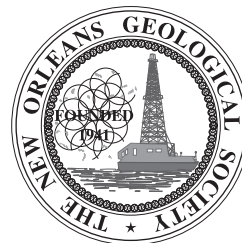
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The office is located at Suite 300, 810 Union Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.

Sent to press on July 13, 2006.

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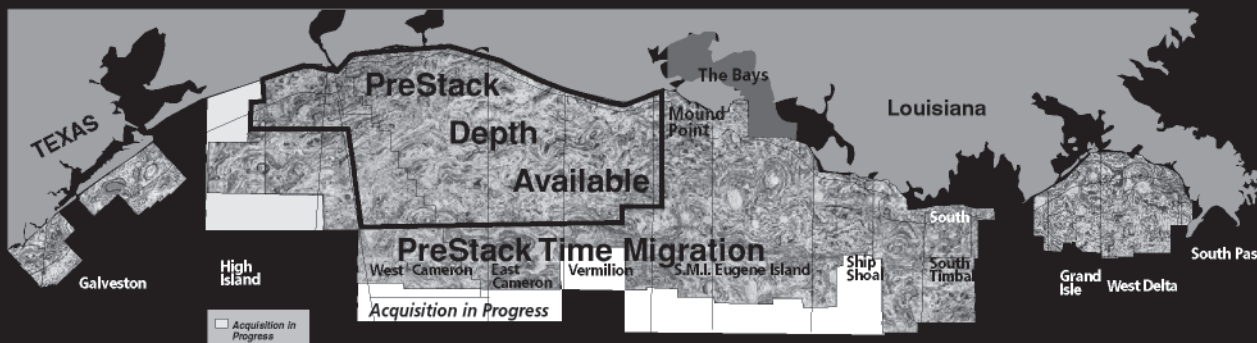
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*from the President*

## **“Initiatives”**

One of the best by-products of my five-month exile in Houston was the opportunity to attend a number of Houston Geological Society Meetings. Those meetings lead to networking extensions, seeing old friends, and setting up future contacts. They also gave me a first-hand look at programs that worked in HGS, and what we might be able to implement within NOGS. In terms of size (HGS is about an order of magnitude larger than NOGS) there are critical mass issues that would affect us, but not even be speed bumps for them.

One really good idea is their Vendor's Corner. As explained to me by my old friend Paul Babcock, who currently chairs that committee, the concept is to have one or more purveyors located at each of the dinner meetings (like, near the bar) where they can talk to members, distribute literature, or show their materials. HGS accordingly derives income from this deal, which actually goes toward support for North Harris Community College and HGS scholarships.

NOGS has always believed our advertisers and sponsors must be treated with the greatest amount of respect. They are the people financing much of our society. We need to provide them more traffic opportunities from our web site, and more opportunities to

tell you about their goods and services. In order to get to that point, we are currently working to measure our web traffic. When we have established a base line, we hope to entice you to visit our site with a contest, perhaps one running month to month. We hope by adding content at the same time we will be able to boost traffic enough to justify ad emplacement on the site itself - more content, and good people to cover its expenses. Our variant on the HGS model would be a Vendor-of-the-Month. That company would set up in the buffet room of Le Pavillon - where you HAVE TO pass by in order to get fed. For one month, they would have a featured spot on the home page of the NOGS website with a link to their own site. In return, NOGS would receive their sponsorship in support of the monthly luncheon.

When we get you used to utilizing the website, we can begin working the ideas of assigning a member number, and links to online courses, online registration for lunches, and perhaps even an online directory.

A second initiative involves membership. Now that the first waves of your renewals are in, Penne Rappold, our new Membership Chairman, will be analyzing the data for its demographic trends. The quick June luncheon hand poll on membership residence suggested that about 60% of our members live on the south shore, east bank; 30% live on the north shore; and only 10% live on the west bank. Perhaps the failure to make a minimum attendance for the aborted June 9 party had something to do with that demographic.

In order to better serve an evolving membership, we will need to determine not only where you live, but where you currently work, and where you will be working one or two years out. This will guide how we construct social events, such as the planned wine-tasting later this year, as well as consider where we will hold luncheons and continuing education seminars. We will need to make decisions on whether to seek members from non-traditional sources (Penne's idea).

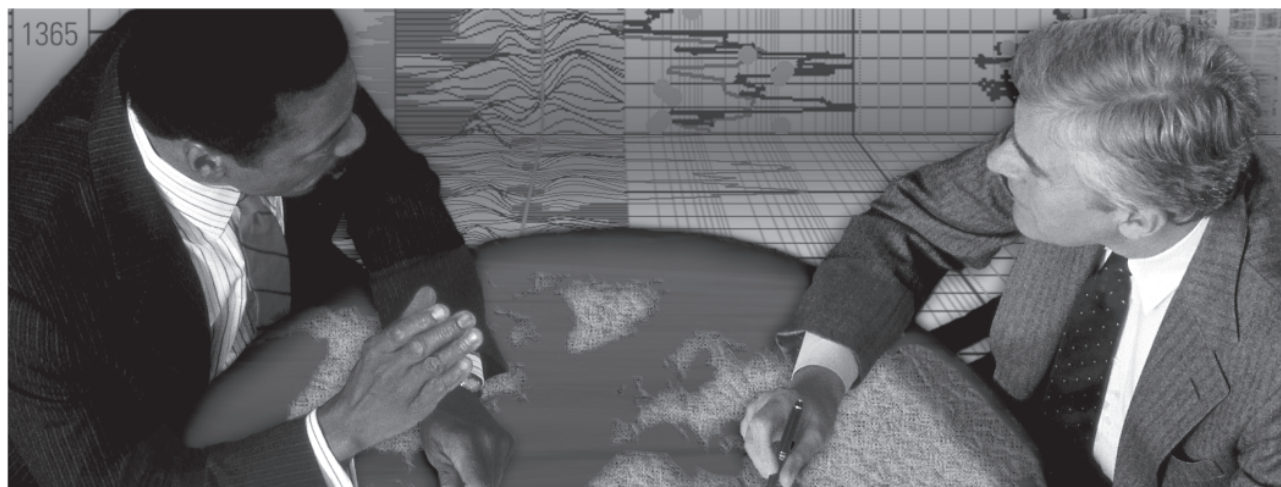
### **UNO Geology Student Disaster Fund**

The University of New Orleans has set up a student Disaster fund to assist the students with financial needs as a result of Hurricane Katrina related obstacles such as the high cost of daily travel from Baton Rouge and Lafayette. If you wish to make a contribution to this fund, please mail a check payable to “UNO Foundation Geology Relief Fund” c/o:

Dr. Mark Kulp  
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA 70148

continued on page 8

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## August 7 Luncheon Presentation

### High Definition Underwater Acoustic Imaging and Measurement

presented by

Ken LaBry

C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, Inc.

#### ABSTRACT

Ken LaBry will discuss Fenstermaker's underwater acoustic services with emphasis on Fenstermaker's unique capability to provide high definition acoustic image visualization and high precision acoustic measurement in shallow, "Brown Water" environments.

The applications of this technology cover a wide area from inspections for structural deformities, to water bottom topography and inspections for security concerns.

#### BIOGRAPHY

Ken LaBry has over 27 years of experience in Underwater Acoustics Surveying, having directed and performed structure and sea bottom inspections and mapping for several thousand Oil and Gas production facilities and exploration sites in the Gulf of Mexico and other offshore Oil and Gas theaters of operation, as well as having directed the inspection of the underwater components of significant bridge structures including the Huey P. Long Bridge in New Orleans, LA. He is also responsible for developing standardized methodologies and processes for the application of underwater imaging to underwater structure

inspection sea floor obstruction detection and mapping and sea floor site assessment, and training technical professionals in these methods and processes. Mr. LaBry is the inventor of record for an acoustic system and process, and has also authored articles in technical journals "Underwater", "Sea Technology", "P.O.B.", "Marine Technology Reporter" and "Hydro International". He also has extensive experience in spatial image analysis, GIS, AutoCAD, GPS, and various Geographic positioning, orientation and attitude reference systems as well as LIDAR and Synthetic aperture radar remote sensing systems.

Also:

#### University of New Orleans Earth and Environmental Sciences Department Update

By: Dr. Shea Penland

Hurricane Katrina has dealt a powerful blow to UNO's recently renamed Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (formerly the Department of Geology and Geophysics). The department has only been back in the building since early June, 2006. Damage sustained to the labs, vehicles, field equipment and computer rooms is still being assessed; but department personnel are optimistic on the role UNO will play in the future of New Orleans, and in South Louisiana coastal restoration. Dr. Penland will describe recent curriculum changes within the department, and his vision of how the department can best serve the New Orleans area.

As part of NOGS's commitment to the local University Earth Science Departments, NOGS will present a check to Dr. Shea Penland for the UNO Foundation Geology Relief Fund to assist in the department's recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

**THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 2, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!**

#### "And Looking Ahead..."

The next luncheon will be September 11. Roger Kocken, Staff Geologist with Chevron North America Upstream, Gulf of Mexico Business Unit will present: "Recovery Factors and Residual Hydrocarbon Saturations Based on Wells Drilled Through Depleted Reservoirs; Examples From South Pass 78 Field, Gulf of Mexico." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website ([www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org)) to make your reservation.



Mike Fein (l) greeting luncheon speaker Robert Cunningham, on July 10th at Le Pavillon.

## President's Letter, continued from page 5

A third initiative involves researching whether NOGS - and the industry in general in New Orleans - can support a New Geologist or even a New Petroleum Professional program. In Houston, the HGS NeoGeos (new geologists) committee has over 400 names alone on their mailing list, which is only slightly less than the current NOGS membership. There are a number of issues with which we must contend before we can decide in what direction, if any, our New Geologist program will go. I thank Dianna Phu of HGS for her assistance in helping crystallize my understanding of what has to be done. Currently, we are evaluating the results of work done by Nathan Kuhle of Chevron and David Garner of Shell. These members reviewed the training programs of their respective companies in order to determine whether there was a role NOGS could play in the continuing education of their newer, as well as veteran geologists. When we find such items, we can put together a program tailored to new geologists or industry professionals for in-person format, or online - and we are back to better utilization of the web page.

A Fourth initiative is the increase in our sponsorship efforts. NOGS meetings have been expensive to hold, especially with rising audio-visual costs. This is despite owning our own laptop, and Chevron's generous monthly donation of their projector. NOGS is now taking the step of having sponsorship co-chairmen in two cities. Consultant David Cole will continue to handle duties in Houston, but we also welcome Leslie Broussard of Diversified Well Logging as our new co-chairman in New Orleans. These people will be of significant assistance in helping find companies and individuals to help with our luncheon costs, as well as eventually coordinate the aforementioned "Vendor-of-the-Month" program.

There is a lot for NOGS to do that is far more than just rebuilding. It is going forward, not treading water. It is being visionary, not looking in the rear-view mirror.

My thanks to HGS and my old friend and former NOGS committee colleague Dave Rensink (outgoing HGS President); and thanks also to his fine committee chairmen who have always provided great assistance to me.

*Michael Fein*

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--- continued from page 3 ---

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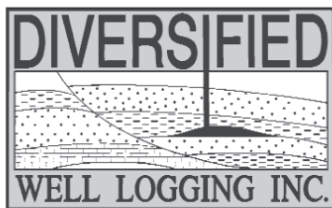
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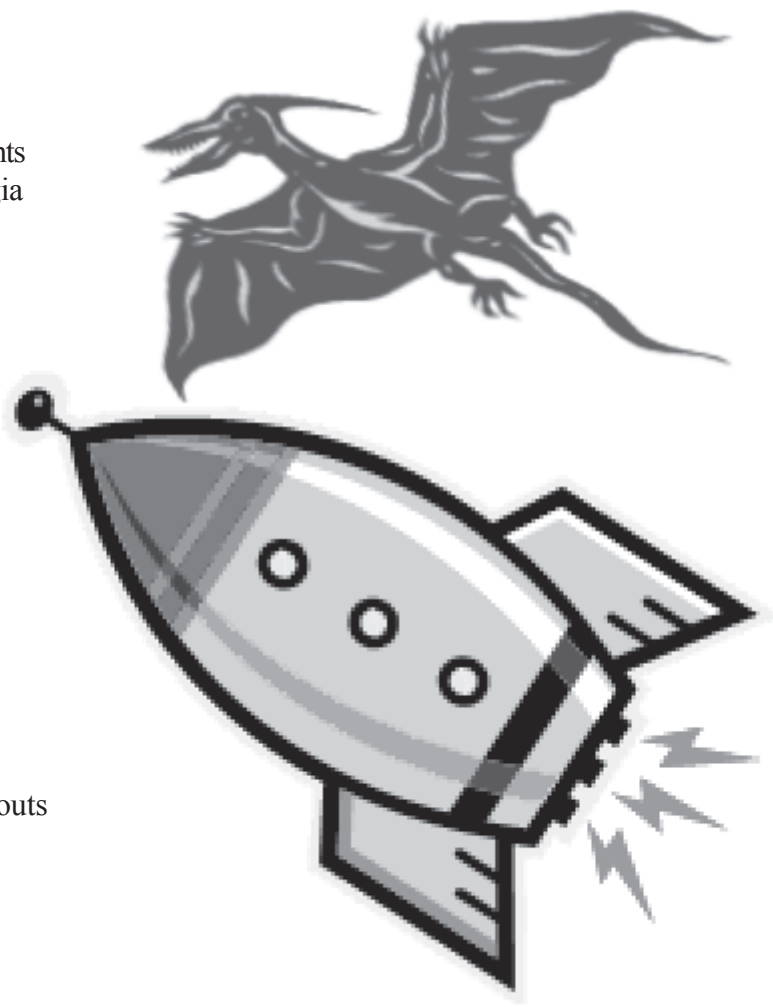
Beginning this month, we will be printing several highlights from the past. We hope to touch on all types of nostalgia from serious to humorous and may occasionally include a photo of interest.

10 Years Ago (Aug. 1996): The President's Column by Michael J. Gallagher led off by addressing the improving health of the industry. "Prices are up and holding steady."

20 Years Ago (Aug. 1986): A full-page announcement of the upcoming "Bahama Mama Beach Party" promised music by the Shale Shakers.

46 Years Ago (Dec. 1960): The second ever issue of the NOGS LOG announced the kick-off of the NOGS sponsored Geology Merit Badge Program for the Boy Scouts. "An estimated 185 New Orleans area Boy Scouts overflowed the auditorium of the New Orleans Public Library."

-Tim Piwowar



(Photo courtesy Parker Drilling)

## **GCSSEPM Foundation 26th Annual Bob F. Perkins Research Conference**

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**Houston Marriott Westchase Dec. 3-6, 2006**

**Information and Registration Available at**

**[www.gcssepm.org](http://www.gcssepm.org)**

✂ **Geology and Hurricane-Protection Strategies in the Greater New Orleans Area, Public Information Series No. 11, Summer 2006, by Richard P. McCulloh, Paul V. Heinrich, and Bill Good, Louisiana Geological Survey.** This recent document is available free of charge and covers the unique geologic setting of New Orleans, man-made alterations to the landscape, flood control, a look-back of Louisiana hurricane activity, and some alternative strategies for addressing flooding problems in New Orleans. It is available online at <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/pubs/11strategies.pdf>.

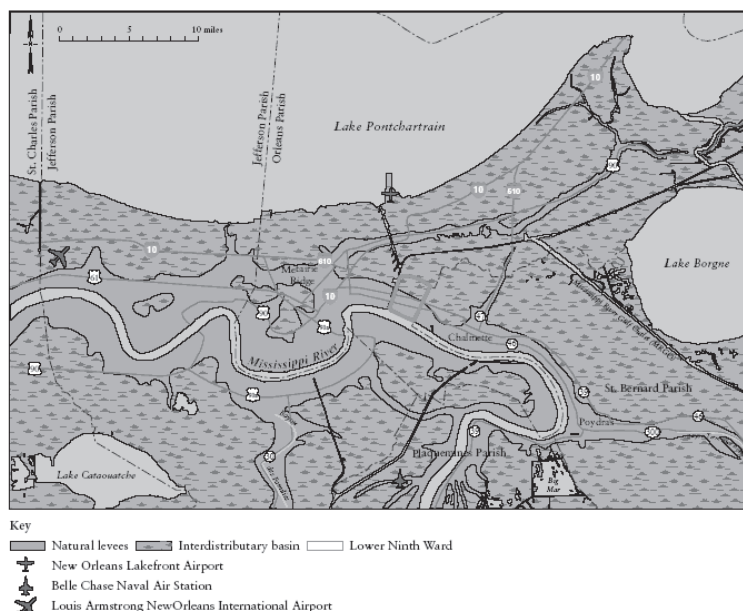
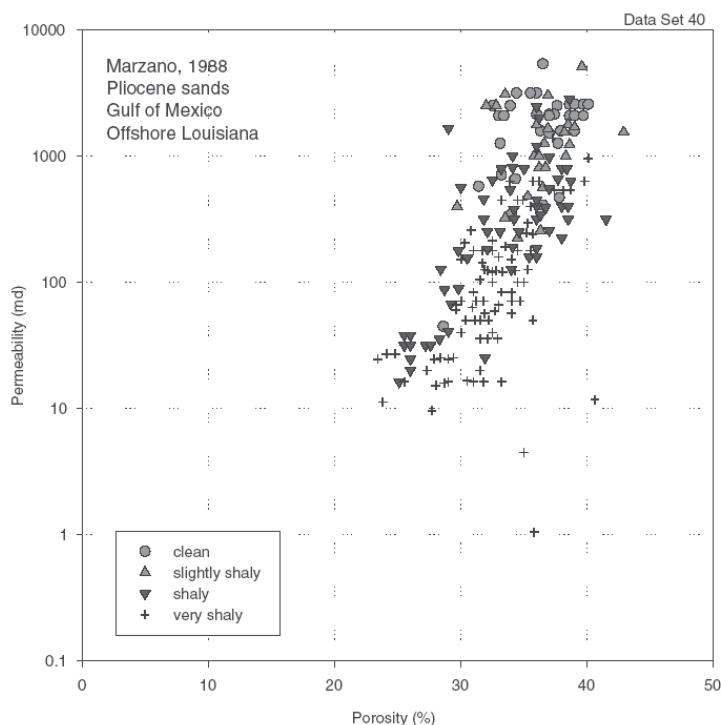


Figure 4. Geologic map of New Orleans. Mapped by using soil surveys, 1:24,000-scale topographic maps, and Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) digital elevation models (DEMs). (Interpretation by P. V. Heinrich, adapted from Heinrich and others, 2004.)

✂ **Topographic/Geologic Street Map of New Orleans:** Rob Cunningham, RS/GIS Coordinator - LSU, is soliciting volunteers from NOGS to assist in publication of a New Orleans Area Topographic/Geologic Street Map. The effort will involve reviewing and editing various iterations of the map project to assist LSU cartographers in the use of shaded color-relief for optimal presentation, and to provide geological expertise in the preparation of displays to illustrate the geologic setting, and geomorphic features of the Greater New Orleans area. The map project is to be funded by the McNight Foundation, and LSU, and is intended to be made available to the general public. If you are interested in assisting this effort as a volunteer, please contact Robert Rooney, email [log@nogs.org](mailto:log@nogs.org), or by phone at (504) 835-1909.

✂ **Useful Website: A Catalog of Porosity and Permeability from Core Plugs in Siliciclastic Rocks,** by Phillip H. Nelson, and Joyce E. Kibler, Open-File Report 03-420, 2004: This open file report contains porosity-permeability datasets that can be accessed from the USGS website at the following address: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2003/ofr-03-420/Table1.htm>. Includes author, date, geologic age, formation name, location, basin, and field name. View plots, spreadsheet, and description. Measurements are from cored samples from siliciclastic formations and include 70 data sets. To the right is one of many Porosity vs. Permeability plots available online.



**Robert Rooney**



# Unmasked Opportunities! **SEG 2006**

International Exposition and Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting  
New Orleans, Louisiana • 1-6 October 2006



## SEG New Orleans 2006

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- ▶ Input online at <http://meeting.seg.org>
- ▶ Use forms inserted in the Annual Meeting Announcement
- ▶ Contact SEG Business Office, and we will fax the forms to you

▶ Advance Registration ..... Opens – 6 July 2006

▶ Housing Reservations .... Opens – 1 July 2006

### TECHNICAL LUNCHEONS AND MEETINGS

All 2006 Annual Meeting registrants are welcome to attend the Technical Luncheons and Receptions held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Seating is limited.

#### Tuesday, 3 October:

##### GRAVITY AND MAGNETICS LUNCHEON

Speaker: Dr. Anthony D. Socci Topic: Near-Term and Long-Term Effects of Climate Change

##### NEAR-SURFACE GEOPHYSICS SECTION MEETING AND RECEPTION

#### Wednesday, 4 October:

##### DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION LUNCHEON

Speaker: Nader C. Dutta Topic: Natural Gas Hydrates: Detection and Quantification of This Potential Hydrocarbon Resource and Drilling Hazard

##### MINING AND GEOTHERMAL LUNCHEON

Speaker: Mike Doggett Topic: The Economics of Mineral Discovery in the Early 21st Century



WALK  
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WALK

### VISUALIZATION THEATRE

This year SEG will feature an 80-seat Open Visualization Theatre located in the Exhibit Hall. This open-theatre concept will provide attendees to the conference with three days of presentations covering most visualization solutions that are currently available to the E&P industry.



### WORKSHOPS

Convention Workshops are offered after the Technical Sessions close on Thursday and continue through Friday. Entry into any or all workshops is available for only US\$60 with advance registration. Students are admitted free with their "Student" badge.

#### Thursday, 5 October:

- SQUID Technology for Geophysical Exploration
- Integration of Seismic and Electromagnetic Measurements
- Modern Acoustic Logs: What Are We Measuring?
- The 10 Feb 2006, Magnitude 5.2 Gulf of Mexico Earthquake: Insights and Implications

#### Friday, 6 October:

- Geophysics of Heavy Oil
- The Value of Borehole Seismic to Reservoir Characterization
- Stress Effects on Velocities
- How Inaccurate Is My Interpretation? A Workshop on Uncertainty
- Geophysical Methods and Techniques Applied to Uranium Exploration
- The University Partnership: Healthy or Not?



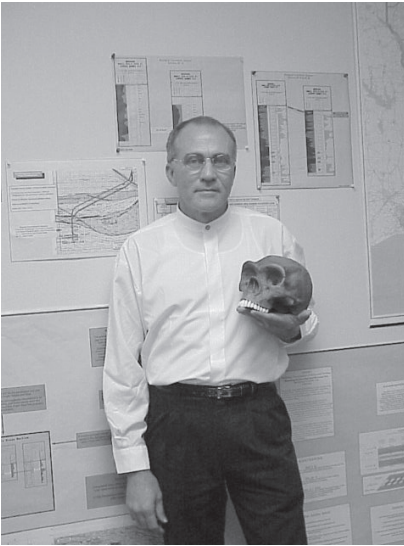
**[www.seg.org](http://www.seg.org)**  
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For more information or to receive a 2006 SEG New Orleans Annual Meeting Announcement, contact: 1+918-497-5539 • Fax 1+918-497-5552 • Email: [meetings@seg.org](mailto:meetings@seg.org)

## Anatomy of a Storm

### Katrina, 29 August 2005

#### Al DuVernay



As a species, we must react and adapt to our environment. The alternative is extinction. The list of human inventions for protecting ourselves from the elements is endless and dates back to our earliest ancestors: caves, huts, animal skins, foul weather gear, storm and quake proof structures, mechanically conditioned air, etc. Then one day Mother Nature approaches gently and methodically, but seemingly with purpose and resolve. This time she must clearly demonstrate her status in the scheme of things. She enters your life and dares you to stand toe-to-toe with your puny man-made adaptations. "Go ahead," she says. "Put on your slicker suit. No, not that one, the expensive one you bought from Sharper Image for '*protection in extreme conditions*'. I dare you!" She whispers, "Use your Swiss Army knife and release that fine garment from its hermetically sealed, vacuum-pack."

"Let's dance!" She demands.

Preparation for Hurricane Katrina proceeded like so many other storms in my memory of a half-century or so. I collected, compiled, and spamodulated in anticipation that the worst might happen. Every storm is the same drill, the notion being that with proper anticipation and equipment, personal harm can be mitigated and aid to those less prepared can be given. Staring down Mother Nature had never felt arrogant or foolish; it is simply what I've always done.

I'd been monitoring the storm's projected path for days on the Web and did so one last time before leaving work on Friday. No worries for us; it would seem that poor Florida was to be hit by another monster. Saturday morning however, the neighborhood was a buzz with storm and evacuation talk. Had I missed something? My back door neighbor suggested I have a fresh look at the weather sites. Sure enough, most of the models had her pointing right at New Orleans with category 5 winds and surge in tow. Damn - time to gear-up in earnest.

It's a familiar exercise but a chore none-the-less: charge up the boat batteries; top off gas tanks (boat, truck, bike, chain saw, extra tanks); fill containers with water (plastic bottles, drums, ice chests, bath tubs, buckets) - some for drinking, some for sanitation; provision the boat (canned food, 12V TV, radio, chain saw, ropes, axe, 1st aid, rain gear, clothes); police the grounds for potential missiles (seemingly heavy or even fixed objects become destructive in 100mph winds); fill several ice boxes with block ice; and finally, stage some perishables in the refrigerator and freezer so that they can quickly be moved into ice boxes when the power outage is imminent.

Saturday came and went; Sunday brought more bad news, i.e., Katrina was still bound for the Delta. Rob Sloan, my Chef Menteur camp partner wanted to lighten the load in his freezer before he evacuated, so we met at the camp and baited the crab traps. Blue Crabs always run great after a storm. There's a better than average chance you'll loose your freezer contents and this year we had a lot to loose. Within the three weeks prior, two events had filled our freezers: we slammed the Trout at Grand Isle, and I had hit the Lake Pontchartrain Pogy run just right - three throws with my 7 ft cast net filled an 80 qt icebox. I'd a freezer full of the best eating fish on the planet and enough bait to get me through the Spring Catfish run and Summer Crab season for the coming year.

I spent that Sunday monitoring the news; moving my Dad from his house in Metry to mine in Lakeview; and staging supplies, provisions, tools, and equipment where they would be most needed. The local news was filled with scenario building and animated desperation as the leadership floundered with suggestions and eventually demands on what we should and should not be doing. Something was missing - indeed, a crisp implementation plan.

That evening and the following morning was the single most impressive thing I'd ever experienced. Most of you, my geo-colleagues, can appreciate that this is a bold declaration. Like me you've seen some things. Peered down the throat of an active volcano? Canoeed glacier lakes and rapids? Kicked through miles of cactus in Mexico? Survived Vino and Grapa overdose on the Mediterranean? Or maybe you've grappled for hours freeing yourself from the death grip of the Louisiana flotant marsh? Ours is a life of passion for the extreme.



For hours the house shuddered with each gust of wind and there was a continuous din of snapping trees and limbs. I'd monitored the rainwater street flooding in front of my house all night and morning. It was flowing (as it should have been) from South to North. By daybreak the storm winds began to subside, so I walked the neighborhood to assess the damage before going down for a well overdue nap. Gratefully, I whispered a prayer of thanks that we had dodged yet another deadly bullet. Simultaneously I observed that the flow regime had made a 180-degree change and was now flowing North to South - my prayer changed to one of mercy. Relentlessly, doggedly, the water crept up the lawn. To the sidewalk, over the porch and into the house it came with ambivalence yet malicious results. Something was wrong I remember thinking. It had to be a break in the levee. Surely the peak surge had passed so the levee could not have been topped. It was about 9:00 am and time to dance - no time for a nap.

There is no way to describe what it feels like to watch everything you own being slowly digested by putrid urban flood waters. Further, no one could've imagined what an ominous and persistent shadow this event would cast on our lovely city. No one could've believed how ineffectual our local and federal leaders would prove to be; and equally, how impotent their emergency planning. I didn't at the time. I was operating on pure inspiration and adrenalin - no humanity, no sense of past or future, no blame, guilt, or remorse. It was fight or flight time - instinctive and primal.

Dad and I got the mutts and all of our provisions from their staging area up to the camelback rooms above the garage. My neighbor Shannon had evacuated and called for an update; the best I could come up with was, "Your house is fine so far, but I can't talk now because the water is rising!" Within an hour, the water was waist deep and it was time to float the boat out of the garage and prepare for our escape. We tied the boat off to the upstairs window and monitored the radio for information while measuring the water's rate of rise. Fortunately WWL radio was broadcasting and doing their best given the breakdown in typical communication tools. Frustrated at the information (or lack there of) coming across, I tried calling in to provide a real-time account. Alas, cell phone usage was dismal.

We watched and listened for a few hours more and decided to motor off toward dry land. The water was steadily rising and showed no signs of stopping. From a lucky phone connection I'd made earlier, we knew that just West of the 17th St Canal was relatively dry. That would be our destination if we could navigate through the labyrinth of broken trees, power lines, and neighborhood debris. Immediately, we realized that this would not be a simple exercise in navigation. Our modest fishing vessel, a sixteen-foot aluminum flat, was quickly transformed into a lifeboat. I knew why I had not evacuated but why hadn't so many others; so many without proper means of escape; so many elderly and infirmed? Too many years of dumb luck and blind faith had given us all a false sense of security.

We picked up as many people as we safely could that afternoon and shuttled them to the Vets Hwy, 17th St Canal Bridge. If the boat were full, we would promise others that we would come back for them - and did. Darkness came and it was too dangerous to continue. I remember wondering while tying my boat to a tree for the night - where is the real cavalry? I left the keys and spare gas tanks in the boat in case it might be useful for others. Mentally, I'd written my boat off - another casualty of the storm.



---continued on pages 16-18---



My good friend Richard Thurman picked us up in his truck and brought us to my Dad's house a mile or so away. It was high and dry, suitable for catching up on some news from my 12V TV, and getting a few hours of restless sleep before reigniting the adrenalin jets. We had plenty of food, but eating was the furthest thing from my mind. I opted for a couple of cold Abita beers on the front stoop instead - they wouldn't be cold for long.

That evening was unforgettable. There was no power, running water, people, birds, bugs, nor wind. There was no sound. The night sky was beautiful but wrong - too many stars for suburban America. The silence was deafening - peaceful but frightening.

I was jolted out of bed on Tuesday at 4:00am to the rude yet protective barking of our dogs. My (soon to be) good friend Dickie Durham was walking the street with his neighbor Maria looking for people and/or resources to help rescue her family who was trapped in the flood. We talked for a bit and planned to meet at the boat at first light. She was desperate to get to them right away, and I did my best to explain how hazardous it would be to attempt such a rescue in the dark. She was not convinced but reluctantly complied.

Unable to go back to sleep, I armed myself with axe, bottled water and tobacco; and walked back to the boat. It was still tied off where I had left it so I swam out to it and sorted through the tools, ropes, provisions and such while waiting for daylight and my helpers.

Dawn broke soon. Dickie and I shoved off for our first mission, and I was thankful that I hadn't much time for reflection. The water was still rising so negotiating the currents under bridges, around trees and over power lines was a bit tricky. We found Maria's family and easily got them out of a second story window into the boat. Four generations were happily alive and well - great grandparents visiting from Italy, Grand-ma, Mom, and her three children including an angel of only six weeks old. When I took hold of the tiny basket from the window and saw that delicate human child gently breathing, eyes closed, and at peace - well, maybe the storm itself wasn't so impressive after all compared to this.



Maria and her family were reunited and we continued penetrating the neighborhood to pull people, pets and belongings off of roofs and out of windows. In short order a couple of other civilians launched boats and joined in the ersatz rescue force. Richard joined me in my boat and Dickie and another good friend Charlie Dominic found other boats to crew with.

After a couple of hours the Coast Guard choppers were working the area as well. We watched them hover over a house and effectively (albeit slowly) haul one person at a time into their vehicle. Meanwhile we would get two or three folks and as many pets from two or three different houses and shuttle them all back to dry land - six to nine per boat load. I remember thinking how efficient this

effort could be if those choppers were systematically locating and mapping out where the people in need were, and communicating that information to those of us on the water.

We dropped off our passengers on the Vets Hwy, 17th St Canal Bridge where private citizens from the dry side of the disaster had congregated. One woman had set up a lean-to out of plastic for shade and took care of the orphaned pets. People were helping each other - strangers in life but brothers and sisters in spirit, they shared towels, dry clothes, food and water. They drove the rescued off in their cars, maybe to their own homes, I don't know. Dickie's wife became the self-appointed site director. She enlisted support from what would have otherwise been a random collection of sightseers. She rallied the congregation with clear but curt direction, solicited gasoline and drinking water for the boats, and with conviction of purpose curtailed inappropriate behaviors. She made me take a break and eat a cheese sandwich (white bread, no Mayo) - a mundane yet crystalline act of humanity.

The task was daunting, i.e., too many people with too few resources (and still no cavalry). Richard left me to go get his neighbor's boat and put it into the fray. It was only late morning and I already felt spent and sun-baked - my God it was hot. I kicked back to have a long drink of water and roll up some nicotine before pushing off back into the neighborhood. This time I would be alone.

A guy with black rubber boots and a formidable collection of cameras around his neck approached my boat. He introduced himself as Chris Graythen, a Times Picayune Photographer, and asked if he could ride with me and get some pictures of the event. My initial reaction was 'no way' because I could afford neither space nor weight in the boat for a photographer. I further allowed that I could use some help, and if in the process he could get some shots that would be fine. He agreed. Chris proved to be an awesome first mate. He was casually competent in the ways of boating and rescuing, his compassion was inspirational and energizing, and he stayed with me the whole day. A word on this last point: as a professional photographer, Chris could have been traversing the city capturing Pulitzer Prize winning images. Chris chose humanity and me; for that I shall be forever grateful.

About midday we learned that FEMA was set up on the I-610 overpass so we started dropping off our people there. The cavalry had arrived. Say what you want about that organization's rank and file but those folks on the ground were kicking butt. They had airboats, chainsaws, emergency medical, food, water, shelter, and busses. And they worked tirelessly.

We continued our civilian efforts until we started loosing light. Time to stand down and leave the mission to the professionals. Richard got his neighbors boat back home and Charlie rescued my boat with a spare trailer of his. With broken hearts and sore bodies, we proudly limped home. I'd have traded my pension for a shower that evening but had to settle for a towel bath with bottled water and Dr Tichenor's. What evil sort of microbes and chemicals had we been exposed to? Rash like blisters were bubbling up on my face, arms and chest. Paranoia set in.

How many people? How many pets? Unknown. Hundreds, I suspect. It all just ran together and it seemed like it couldn't get worse. After a few minutes watching the TV, I learned that it indeed was. Most of the city and points Eastward and South were in similarly dire or worse circumstances - Uptown, Downtown, Mid City, Gentilly, Ninth Ward, Arabi, St Bernard, North Shore, Mississippi, etc, etc, etc. Horrific reports of panic in the Dome, looting, and car jacking overwhelmed me with a sense of dread as I had no means of transportation out of the area.

The rest of that evening and the next morning I inventoried provisions and laid out rations to last for several weeks. We were armed, prepared and alive. And like so many others, we were wondering what recovery would look like and when it would begin? Local and national leadership was thin at best, and it was clear that survival would be a personal matter. Salvation arrived mid-morning. Richard came by the house and declared that we could have his truck, he would use his motorcycle, and that we should all escape to safety and sanity. White knuckled and ten hours later, Dad and I arrived at my sister's house in Houston. Ten months later, I'm still waiting to see some leadership and grateful that I'm not dependent on them for my personal recovery efforts.

Casualties of the storm: they are indeed many and diverse - lives, pets, property, hearts, minds, futures, etc. What has this event done for us? These experiences have enhanced our personal power and resolve. We share a special bond that others will never understand, never empathize with, and can never relate to nor tolerate. We are more tolerant because we've all gone a little crazy and back (often). We are more patient because we've learned that to behave



---continued on page 18---

otherwise will merely enhance the frenzy. We embrace simple and mundane pleasures as if they were priceless treasures because we have been reduced to 'starting over' in the fullest extent of the phrase. Those who were lucky started with a car and a change of underwear, or a boat and some tools, or their pets and a friend's sofa for rest. We cherish the tolerance and charity of others because we understand personal inequities, judgment lapses, and inexplicable reactions brought on by the event. We are comrades of cause and effect.

Compared to nature, we humans are so tiny, yet through simple choices and adrenaline-driven gestures springing from those choices, we have so much power to affect the outcome of events beyond our control. I wonder what the ripple effects of our gestures will be? I wonder how those people we helped will touch the lives of others? I wonder who and what the baby in the basket will grow up to be and how many lives that child will touch through the years? I wonder...

My heart has been shredded in so many ways and at so many levels throughout this event. Oddly, it did not start with the water inundating and destroying my home while my Dad and I escaped in the boat. It began days later when I finally got connected to full time media coverage and witnessed their gross misrepresentation, and the obvious instigation styles, tools, techniques, and agenda. Agenda? Find the angriest person around, spin the report, and fuel the negative energy with subjective interpretation.

For the few days of the storm my spirit was glowing with the kindness, generosity, and tender mercies of humankind. The on-demand rescue fleet, sharing of resources, and general concern for each other's well-being was abundant. I saw little of that on the news. Yes, there were extremely bad things happening and indeed very bad people doing those things. There were however, equally good things happening. Again, I saw little of that on the news. Both are news and information, and the public deserves the whole story. Not just the sensational horror that might as well be slapped on a plastic lunch box and sold at the dime store.

I believe in the goodness of people despite some of the media's obsession for the contrary. I believe that my time spent with the civilian rescue fleet validates my belief. I still feel the love, the caring, the perseverance, and the overwhelming camaraderie. I see the bad stories. I see the evil portraits. I choose to believe in what I feel. This I believe.

In life there are many events,  
Some with cause to pine,  
These aren't they.  
Tomorrow is mine.

*Al DuVernay is a Paleontologist with Shell for 28 years. He is native to New Orleans and intends to reestablish residency there.*





## NOGS 2005 – 2006 Awards

NOGS awards for 2005-2006 were presented at the July 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon at the Le Pavillon. Below from left to right: Tom Hudson – award for service as secretary, and recipient of the NOGS Outstanding Service Award 2005 – 2006; Tim Kleibert accepted the Corporate Citizenship Award for Diversified Well Logging, Inc.; Annette Hudson – NOGS Outstanding Service Award 2005-2006; Brett Hampton – award for service as president, and recipient of Honorary Life Membership; Paul Post – award for service as editor 2005-2006, and recipient of the President's Award 2005-2006; not pictured, but present at the meeting, Dave Balcer – award for service as treasurer 2005-2006.



### Outstanding Achievement Award

Dave Balcer (l) Treasurer 2005-06, and Mike Fein (r) President 2006-07, presented Annette Hudson with the NOGS Outstanding Service Award for her extraordinary efforts to maintain the daily management that kept the NOGS office operational through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and through the transition to normal operations in 2006. All of this while dealing with her own storm-related challenges. Annette has been NOGS office manager since 1992 when she was hired by Jack Langford. Prior to that she was a stay at home mom and raised two daughters. In her own words: "I have loved getting to know the Society members and their spouses and feel fortunate to have grown in my computer skills while keeping up with the NOGS' office day to day management". The Society is grateful for her dedication.



Dave Balcer also received an award for his service as treasurer 2005-06.

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GULF OF MEXICO DEEPWATER TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM

Redefining the Future

## SCHEDULE:

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 - Morning**

**Continental Breakfast 7:00 – 9:00**

**Registration 7:00 – 3:00**

**Exhibition Hall Open 8:00 – 6:30**

**Reception 4:30 – 6:30**

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 9:00 – 11:00

### EMERGING TECHNOLOGY – Lead Chair: Angie Gobert

The technical limits of the oil industry continue to evolve as we redefine what is possible. As our industry forges ahead into areas with ever-increasing levels of difficulty and as the cost of deepwater projects continues to increase, industry leaders develop creative approaches to meet today's technological and financial hurdles. Hostile geologic environments, deep wells, ultra-deep water, loop currents, and tropical storms combine to provide some of the most challenging conditions faced anywhere in the world. Presentations in this session illustrate new methods developed to meet these conditions and the accompanying challenges of regulatory approval.

1. Regulating Emerging Technologies in Deepwater Gulf of Mexico
2. Managed Pressure Drilling in Deepwater – A Method for Success
3. NPT Reduction for DW Operations through an Integrated Systems Approach
4. Emerging Technologies and Regulatory Requirements in Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Riser Design

### GEOSCIENCE – Lead Chair: Bob Meltz

The geosciences continue to play a critical role in the expansion of deepwater activity, whether it is the exploitation of mature assets in amplitude-associated minibasin fields, or the recent successes in the Lower Tertiary and Miocene fold belt plays. This session will highlight geoscience projects ranging from the conception of new play ideas in the rank exploration business, all the way through the use of sophisticated modeling techniques to high-grade, in-field development drilling opportunities.

1. Practical Limitations of the Interpretation of Deepwater Gulf of Mexico Subsalt Seismic Data
2. Salt Tectonic Framework and Evolution of Southeast Green Canyon
3. Great White Reservoir Characterization: Implications for Risk and Opportunity Management
4. Evaluation with Explicit Large Scale Shared Earth Models for Ursa Field

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 - Afternoon**

## LUNCH & KEYNOTE ADDRESS 11:30 – 1:30

**Mars Recovery from Katrina - Greg Guidry, Shell GOM East – Asset Manager**

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1:30 – 4:30

### DRILLING TECHNOLOGY – Lead Chair: John Combes

Evolutionary and revolutionary changes in drilling technology are vital in meeting the challenges of the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. In keeping with the Symposium's theme, Redefining the Future, this session showcases recent drilling technology developments and presents a view of what's yet to come.

1. Feasibility Study of Alternative Approaches to Dual Gradient Drilling
2. Pushing Drilling Technology to a World Record Depth
3. Development of Alternative Reference Drilling Fluids for Use in Deepwater Gulf of Mexico
4. Use of Pressure-activated Sealant for Repair of Deepwater Drilling Riser Leaks – A Case Study
5. Formation Leakoff Test Data Capture and Analysis Aid in Assurance of Accurate Minimum Stress Identification
6. Where is the Deepwater Rig Market Headed?

**RESERVOIR & ECONOMICS – Lead Chair: Richard Hannan**

Accurate reservoir characterization, uncertainty assessment, and development optimization are keys to economic success in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. Understanding and management of both reservoir and economic risk are fundamental contributors to overall project success. This session will demonstrate the value achieved with quality data, thorough analysis, and optimized development.

1. Shell's Experience with Reservoir Performance in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico
2. Using Statistics to Quantify Uncertainty in the Shape of Poorly-Imaged Subsalt Structures
3. The Blind Faith Development - A Deepwater Challenge
4. Kepler Field Study
5. An Overview of a Planned Disconnectable, Ship-Shape Floating Production Unit for Gulf of Mexico Service
6. Water-flooding IOR in Ultra-Deepwater Middle Miocene to Paleocene age Reservoirs, Gulf of Mexico

**RECEPTION 4:30 – 6:30**

<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 25</b>
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**Continental Breakfast 7:00 – 8:00****Registration 7:00 – 10:00****Exhibition Hall Open 8:00 – 4:00****CONCURRENT SESSIONS 8:00 – 10:00****WELL COMPLETIONS – Lead Chair: Tommy Grigsby**

As our industry continues to develop difficult, deep and ultra deepwater fields, the challenges for well completions and interventions continue to grow. Presentations in this session will cover techniques and hardware that were developed to meet these challenges.

1. Innovative Method for Predicting Down-Hole Pressure during Frac Pack Pumping Operations Allows for More Successful Completions
2. Project-Specific High-Pressure Completion Tubular for Chevron's Tahiti Project
3. Coulomb-Nakika: Deepest Water Subsea Completion

**PRODUCTION SYSTEMS & FLOW ASSURANCE – Lead Chair: Allen Wiley**

Operating systems in Deepwater are aligned to handle produced fluids that meet all government regulations within the Minerals Management Service, United States Coast Guard and State/ Federal Officials. With given operating parameters system design and the dynamics of the produced fluids being handled can greatly impact the success or failure of a production system. This session will be comprised of presentations directly related to these producing systems.

1. De-watering Gas Well Flow Lines Sub - Sea
2. Surface Separation Equipment Design Deep-Water Facilities
3. Controlling Reservoir Souring During H2O Flooding
4. Designing a Deep-Water H2O Flood

**BREAK 10:00 – 10:15****CONCURRENT SESSIONS 10:15 – 11:30****PRODUCTION SYSTEMS & FLOW ASSURANCE – CONTINUED**

5. De-Bottle Necking A Deep-Water Production Facility
6. Effects of Sub-Sea Wellhead Chokes on Hydrate Regions

--continued on page 22--



**HSE & REGULATORY – Lead Chair: Sandi Fury**

From salvage to advancing new projects, effective regulatory schemes have been a critical business enabler of oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricanes of 2005 had a very significant impact on offshore infrastructure. As a result, the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program has become increasingly popular as the means to salvage damaged offshore platforms to the benefit of the Industry and the marine environment. On the side of advancing new projects, riser technology and design has evolved and become increasingly complex with new deepwater projects. The static designs of the past have been replaced with very dynamic systems in deeper water depths and at temperatures and pressures that push technology to new limits. The discussions hosted will explore the regulatory challenges and benefits of these end-of-life and new project opportunities.

1. Balancing opportunities and program needs to insure that the Rigs to Reef component of the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program is sustainable into the future
2. The MMS requirements of the new “riser certification verification agent” (CVA) program, its objectives, challenges and keys to successful integration into ongoing deepwater projects.

**LUNCH & KEYNOTE ADDRESS 11:30 – 1:30**

Speaker and topic to be announced

**MANAGEMENT PANEL 1:30–3:00****What attracted recent entrants into the GOM Deepwater? Facilitator: Tom Hudson**

Recently, a number of international exploration and production companies have entered the deepwater Gulf of Mexico almost 20 years after the first deepwater leases were awarded. The obvious fields were discovered long ago, current trends are heavily leased, and new plays are progressively more difficult to find, drill, and produce. A number of major companies and larger independents have dominated deepwater activity for years but new players continue to enter the arena. The discussion will explore the factors that continue to lure newcomers to deepwater and their vision for the deepwater Gulf of Mexico.

- Mr. Cesar Cainelli, Exploration Vice-President, Petrobras
- Mr. Einar Jensen, Vice-President, Development and Production, Statoil Gulf of Mexico
- Mr. David McCubbin, President, Woodside USA
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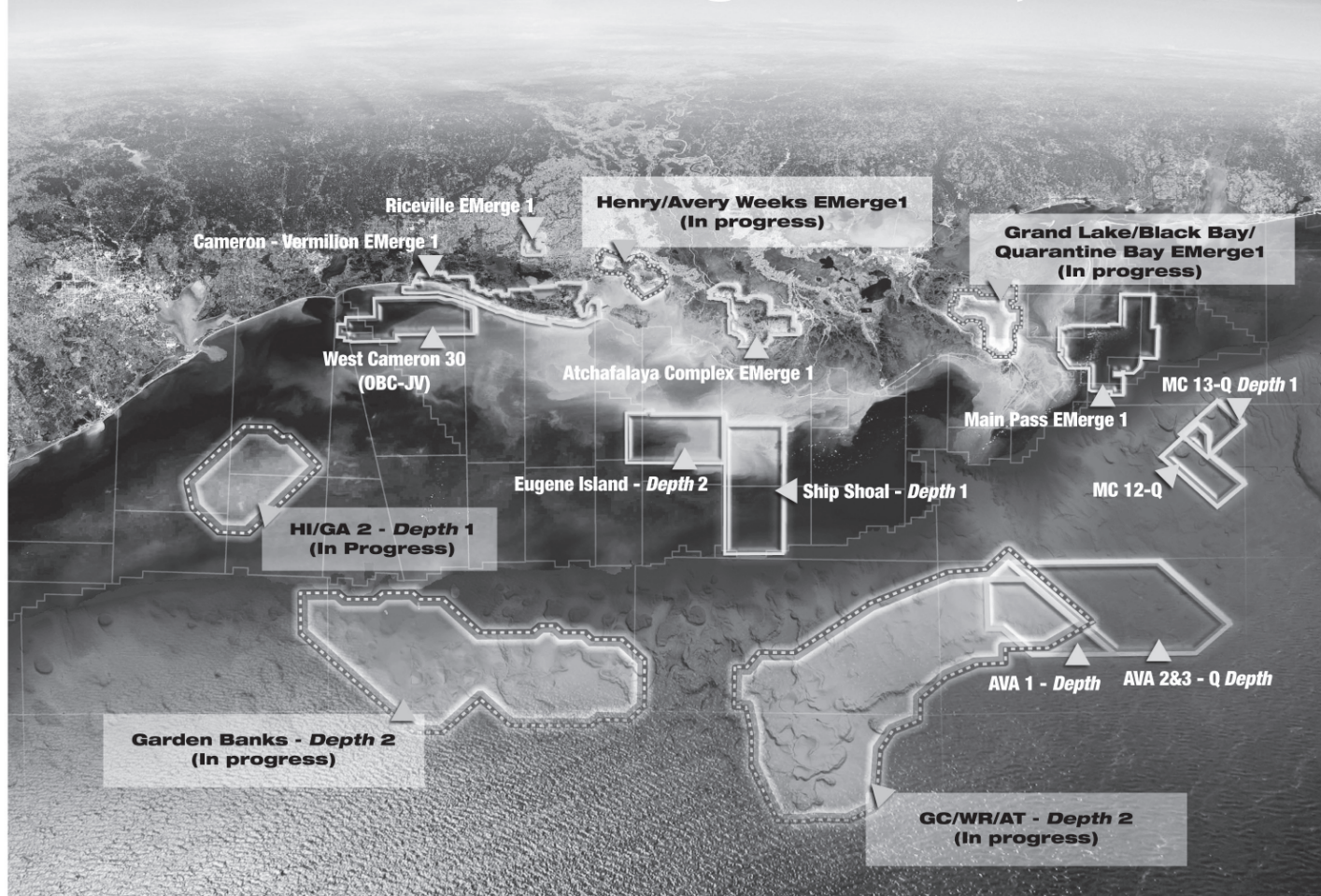
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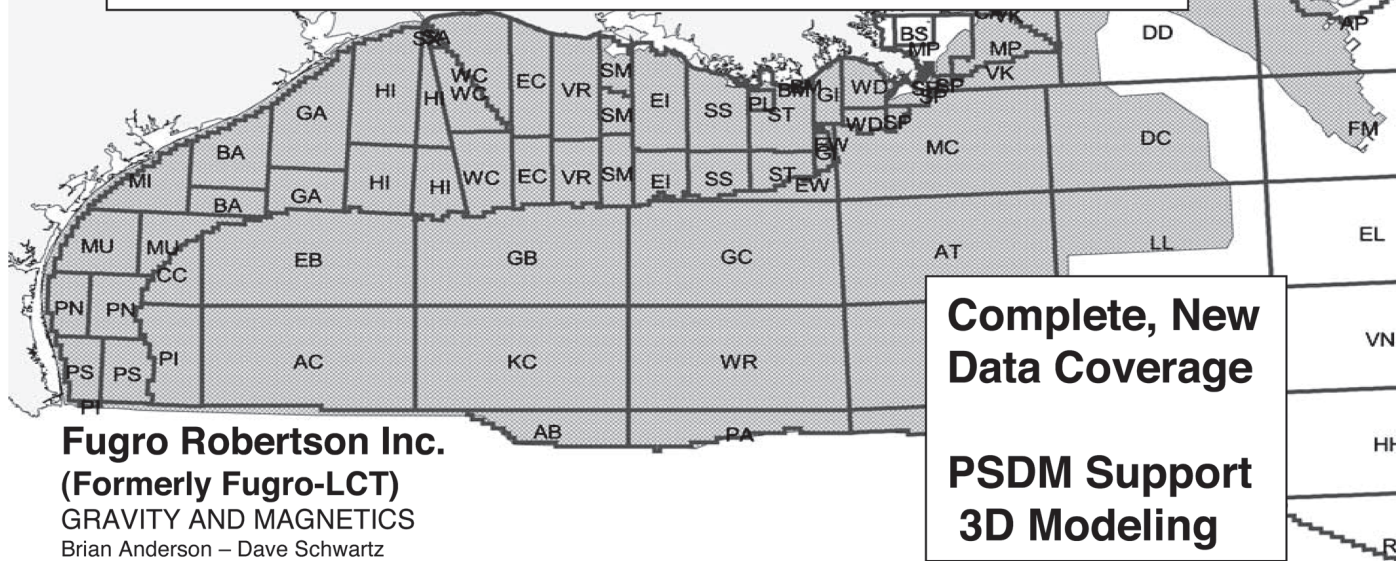


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## South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

- **Meridian Resource Corporation** announced initial production test results on its Goodrich-Cocke #4 development well on the Son of Pink Floyd prospect, in Iberia Parish in the Weeks Island Field on May 23, 2006. The well was drilled to a MD of approximately 8,100' and logged approximately 91' of gross gas pay in the Miocene "BF4" sand section. The well was tested through a total of 24' of perforations in three separate intervals at a gross daily flow rate of up to 640 BOPD and 4.3 MMCFGPD with a FTP of approximately 2,100 psi through a 22/64" choke. Shut in tubing pressure was approximately 2,600 psi. Production from the well will require construction of a pipeline and production facility tie-ins, which the company expects to be completed during the second quarter of 2006. Meridian anticipates owning an estimated 68% working interest (50% net revenue interest) in the well, subject to final unitization approval by the Louisiana Department of Conservation.

The rig utilized to drill this well was moved within Iberia Parish to drill the J.A. Smith No. 1 well on the exploratory "Y-Not" prospect to test a sand in the Lower Miocene formation at a depth of approximately 16,000' MD.

- **BHP Billiton** announced on 7-June that the Shenzi oil and gas field in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico was approved for development. The Shenzi facility will have a design capacity to produce up to 100,000 BOPD and 50 MMCFGPD. BHP Billiton is the operator of the field and has a 44 per cent interest in the project. Other partners in the project are BP (28%) and Hess Corporation (28%). Shenzi comprises Green Canyon Blocks 609 and 610 (acquired by BP in 1996 for \$258,800 and \$256,800 respectively), 653 and 654 (acquired by BP and BHP in 1998 for \$788,555 and \$791,575 respectively). Water depths are approximately 4,300'. The initial field development will consist of seven producing wells, with the full field development expected to have up to 15 producing wells and possible water injection. A standalone TLP has been selected for the production facility. The proposed facilities, wells, and completions are proven designs successfully implemented in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. All major contracts are in place to commence the project. Gross costs for the full field development through 2015 are estimated at approximately US\$4.4 billion. Recoverable reserves in the portion of the field covered by the approved expenditure will be assessed further during development drilling; however, they are currently estimated to be 350 - 400 MMBOE. Additional potential reserves will be targeted for follow-up development. First oil is expected by mid-year 2009 with seven initial pre-drilled subsea production wells being tied back to the TLP. Oil will be exported via a new-build pipeline to Ship Shoal 332, with the gas going via a new-build lateral into a connection in the Cleopatra trunk lines, then on to Ship Shoal 332.
- **Shell** is targeting sanction of its Great White facility, now referred to as the Perdido Regional Host, sometime before year-end. The facility will be in the GoM's Alaminos Canyon protraction area in ~8,000' of water. It will serve Great White, a prospect that includes all or parts of AC 813, 814, 857, 858, 900 and 901. The leases were acquired by Shell, BP, and Chevron (either solely or in various combinations) for a total bonus of \$9.4 million in OCS Sales 161 and 171 in 1996 and 1998, respectively. Water depths range from 7,500' to 9,500'. The operator and partners are moving



ahead with a truss spar hub facility that will host production from the Great White discovery along with volumes from other nearby fields in the Perdido Fold Belt, such as the Chevron-operated Trident, Silvertip, Tobago, and Tiger discoveries. The Perdido Regional Host will be the deepest spar production facility in the world. First oil from the project is likely to come on-stream around the end of 2008 or early 2009. The hub will be Shell's first operated spar platform.

- **Noble Energy, Inc.** announced preliminary drilling results for the Raton prospect (MC 248 #1) in the GoM on June 15. While stating that it was premature to estimate resources, the well encountered 90' of hydrocarbon pay over three zones. Pre-drill prospect reserves had been estimated to be >70 MMBOE. MC 248 and west-adjacent MC 247 were acquired by Noble at OCS Sale 194 in March 2005 for bids of \$2,417,069 and \$608,429 respectively. The well was temporarily abandoned pending further delineation drilling, currently scheduled for the fourth quarter this year. The Raton #1 was spudded on April 15, 2006 in approximately 3,400' of water, and was drilled to a MTD of 20,106'. "The results of the initial well at Raton are encouraging, particularly in light of the proximity of the well to our Redrock discovery," said Dave Stover, Noble's Senior Vice President for North America. "The Raton delineation, planned for the fourth quarter, along with expected appraisal work at our recent Redrock discovery just five miles to the north, will be important in helping us formulate a combined development plan for both discoveries." For additional information, please refer to the June, 2006 Drill Bits. Interests in the discovery are Noble Energy (50% and operator), Samson Offshore Company (25%), and Energy Partners, Ltd. (25%).
- **McMoRan** continued to have success with its deep wells. On 15-June, the company provided an update on its exploration activities announcing a successful production test on the Liberty Canal discovery well, Vermilion Parish, with a flow test at a rate of ~26 MMCFGPD and 1,700 BCPD, with FTP of ~6,100 psi on a 38/64" choke. As previously reported; the well was evaluated with LWD tools and confirmed with wireline logs to have two hydrocarbon bearing sand intervals totaling 199' gross (125' net). The well is expected to commence production in the third quarter of 2006. The Liberty Canal discovery is located on a significant north-south ridge where McMoRan controls 13,000 acres and has several additional exploration prospects. McMoRan is incorporating the results from this well with its 3-D seismic data and has developed the Zigler Canal prospect two miles northwest of the Liberty Canal discovery. McMoRan currently has a rig on that location and, as of 15-June, was preparing to spud.

McMoRan also announced a successful production test on its King of the Hill No. 2 discovery at High Island 131. With the well testing facility limiting the flow rate to 20 MMCFGPD, the well tested at a gross rate of 11.5 MMCFGPD and ~60 BCPD on a 14/64" choke. Production is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2006. The lease is eligible for Deep Gas Royalty Relief.
- **Murphy** announced a discovery at Thunder Bird prospect in MC 819, part of their on-going exploration program in the Boarshead basin, within which Thunder Horse, North Thunder Horse, and Thunder Hawk have already been discovered. Interestingly, no additional details were provided in the initial press release. The well was drilled in 5,673' of water; it had a pre-drill cost estimate of \$53.6 MM, and a PTD of 27,965'. Prospect pre-drill resource potential was estimated to be 50 - 75 MMBOE. Development options for the discovery have not been finalized, but the oil found at Thunder Bird will likely be produced as a subsea tie-back to a facility nearby. MC 819 was acquired by a Murphy-lead group at OCS Sale 194 in 2005 for a bonus of \$20,153,300. Current interest holders are Murphy (37.5% and operator), Dominion Exp. & Prod., Inc. (25%), Hydro Gulf of Mexico, L.L.C. (25%), and Marubeni Offshore Prod. (USA) Inc. (12.5%).

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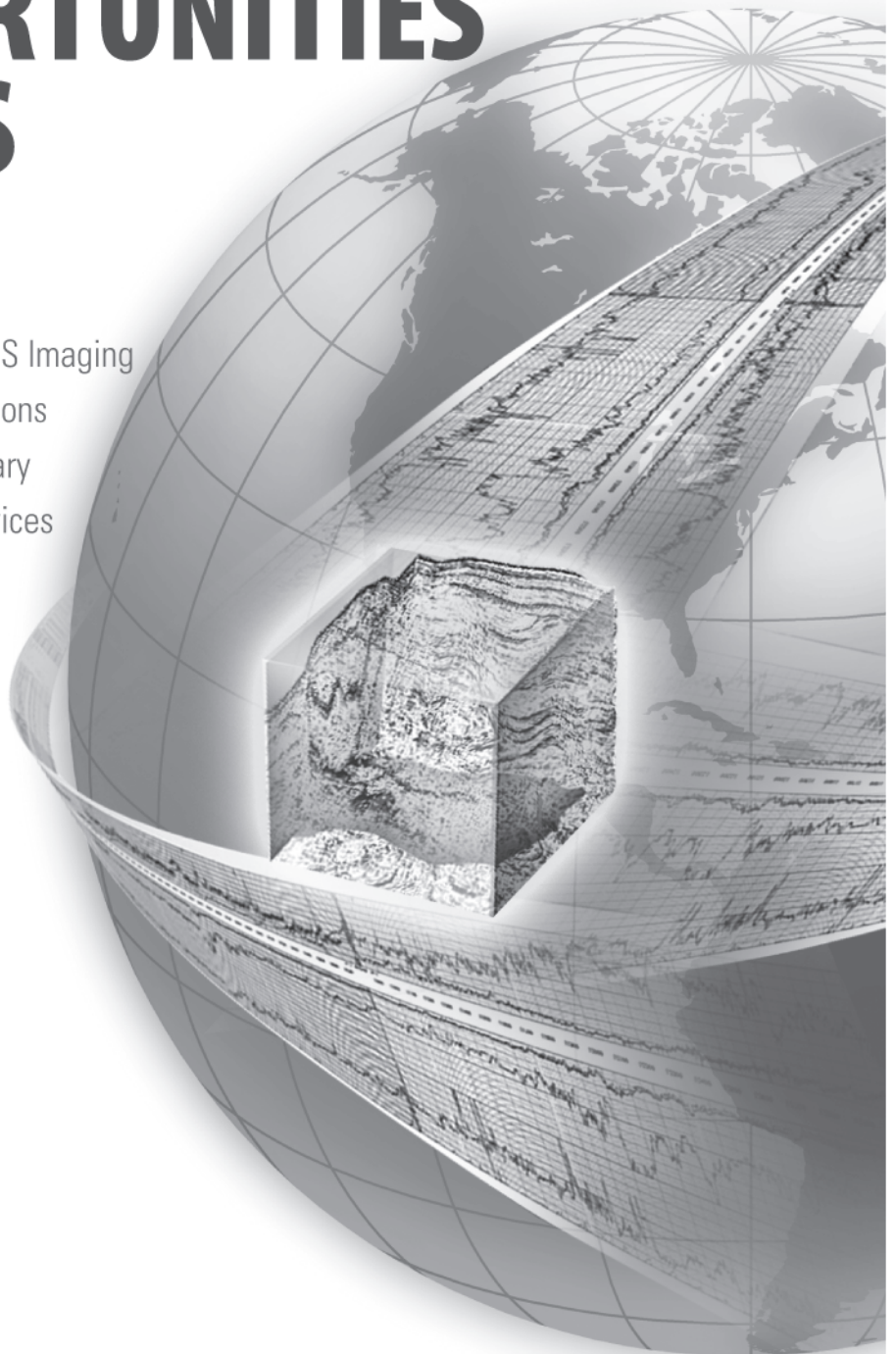
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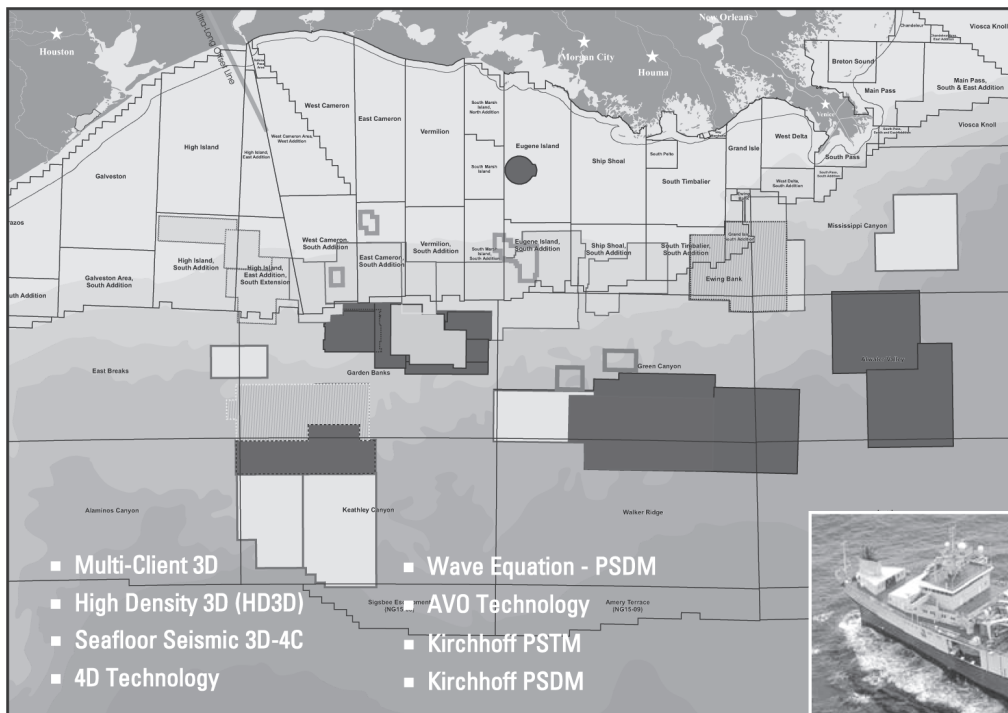


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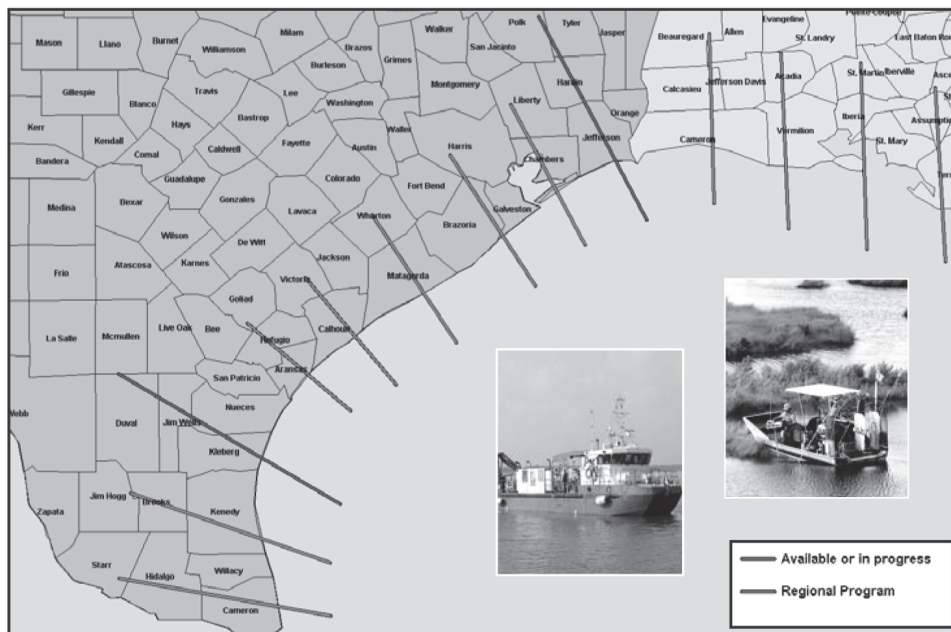
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