# NOGS LOG

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December 2006

Volume 47, Number 6

Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

### **DECEMBER AND JANUARY ACTIVITIES**

### NOGS Events

### December 4 - NOGS Luncheon

Micheal Quinn, Gulf Oil Corporation, will present "No Guts, No Glory - Two Recent Discoveries in Stratigraphically Controlled Upper Miocene/Lower Pliocene Sands in Ship Shoal 181 and 194/206."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

LE PAVILLON HOTEL ADMISSION:

Check with concierge or front desk for location without reservation \$30.00

Lunch served at 11:30am Student Member with reservation ..... Free

### December 8 - NOGS Holiday Party

At Vincent's, 4411 Chastant Street in Metairie See announcement on page 11

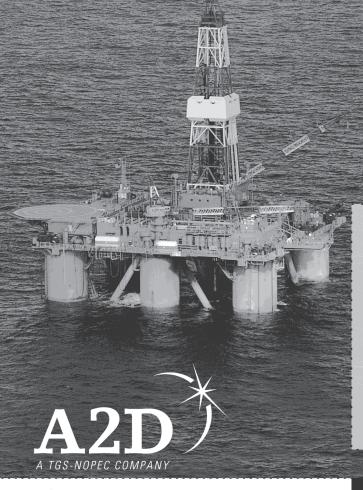
### January 8 - NOGS Luncheon

Richard D. Fritz, Executive Director of AAPG, will present "Geohuman vs. Geodigital - Access for the Future."

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## **GOM New Release Data**

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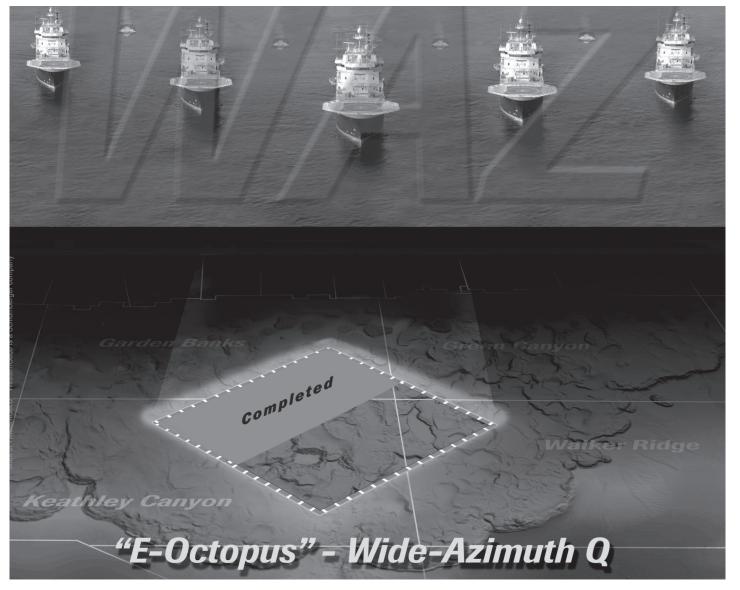
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The office is located at Suite 300, 810 Union Street, New Orleans, LA 70112. Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.

Sent to press on November 17, 2006.



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## from the President

### **Characters**

I just *had* to smile when she came over to our group. We had watched her over by the house slab next to us, when she approached Dr. Dawers and began her rant. She was decently dressed, not particularly overweight for 52, and her brown hair was coiffed nicely around her shoulders.

It was Saturday, November 4, maybe near 2PM, and Dr. Steve Nelson was describing the origin of the thrust and its relationship to the breech of the 17th Street Canal at our NOGS field trip's final stop. It wasn't but sixty minutes earlier, out on the lakefront, that he described when and why the River levee was blown in 1927, and that no levee had been blown since.

She came from our right, from the slab next door, and walked on the sidewalk past us, ranting the whole time, carrying the theme of levee destruction by economic class, until she decided to approach Dr. Nelson, who was still trying to lecture over her voice. When she got in his face, there was no ignoring her any more. There was never any animosity from either side, but between the stresses of life, her Katrina experiences, and the suggestion of some form of alcohol, she was misguided but passionate. She was nevertheless unhearing to what Dr. Nelson was telling her about why we geologists were doing what we were doing in her neighborhood. Her language was clean and very spiritual, but after awhile she began to sound like the dreaded Fortran "do-loop". We were about to cut the trip short to avoid any further problem.

"Just in time" we were rescued by a gentleman who was a resident of the neighborhood as well, but also claimed to be a geologist, as well as her former boyfriend. I just had to keep smiling, because these are the things we remember about life, and the people who make up our city. She was one of those "characters" that make this city memorable, and make life in New Orleans such a unique experience.

We have all experienced characters of New Orleans: Ruthie, the Duck Lady, with her brood in the French Quarter; Moses, the Saints fan, who when you think about it, has been wandering about as long in Saints

Purgatory as the Bible says the original Moses wandered in the desert; and characters such as Vic Schiro, Buddy Diliberto, Ann Rice, Nash Roberts, and Bill Craig. Then there was Bob.

I first met Bob Sabate' at an offshore development partnership meeting around 1980, when he was still a VP at Koch. I was impressed with his understanding of the issues, his decisiveness, and willingness to get things done. This was the same way he led as well, in his professional offices including the NOGS presidency. Bob always had that confident little smile, which broadened when he knew he had you nailed in a debate. He could tell a story to make a point, especially in his staunch support of Second Amendment rights. One of Bob's favorite stories in that regard was a short version of the Warsaw ghetto uprising in April of 1943, in which a small band of ill-equipped, condemned residents held off the German army for more than a month.

He was justifiably proud of his heritage, and heaven help you if you left the accent mark off the "e" when writing his last name. After Bob tracked his genealogy back to 15th century Spain, he found his ancestors suffered through the Spanish Inquisition, predating the victimization of their Acadian descendents. With that revelation, Bob and I had another commonality between us.

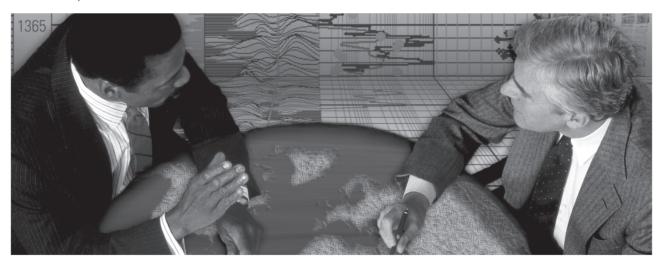
And who can forget the year he and Judy dressed as members of Hell's Angels for Mardi Gras? For Bob, perhaps that was more than just living the fantasy: his Babe and his Bike. I am certain that one of his greatest heartbreaks from Katrina was the loss of his beloved bikes to the flooding.

He was not just a leader, a spokesman, and an oil-finder; he was a man who was the epitome of ethics, honesty, and integrity. But most of all, he was a Louisiana man; and bless his memory, Robert W. Sabate was a character of New Orleans.

### Michael Fein

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## December 4 Luncheon Presentation

## No Guts, No Glory - Two Recent Discoveries in Stratigraphically Controlled Upper Miocene/Lower Pliocene Sands in Ship Shoal 181 and 194/206

presented by Michael Quinn Gulf Oil Corporation

### **ABSTRACT**

The distribution of stratigraphically isolated porous sands as a result of sea level fall and rise is often difficult to understand, and even more difficult to explain. For that reason stratigraphic plays can be a hard sell when seeking drilling capital. Continued search for hydrocarbons in the mature shelf area of the Gulf of Mexico has led to the recent drilling of two non-traditional amplitude defined and stratigraphically controlled discoveries in Upper Miocene/Lower Pliocene sands in the vicinity of the Ship Shoal 169 field.

In this area, the sands deposited during sea level fall immediately following the 6.0 Ma maximum flooding event are markedly different than those deposited during the rising stage immediately prior to the 5.2 Ma flooding

event. End-member fourth-order parasequence sets have been examined, and log suites and regional amplitude extractions will be used to highlight those differences. Depositional models show the prospect sands immediately above the 6.0 Ma flooding event to be isolated lobate upper slope delta front deposits, while the sands found immediately below the 5.2Ma flooding event appear to be transgressive ravinement lags deposited in low relief incised valleys.

Structure maps, log suites, and production plots show that wells drilled into these stratigraphically controlled traps have recoverable reserves combined with robust production rates that make them highly economic, especially with strong market pricing.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Michael Quinn was born June 10, 1956 in Orléans, France. Mike was raised as a military brat, and moved fairly regularly until his father retired from the Air Force in 1968 and settled the family in Minnesota. Mike received his B.S. in Geology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 1978 and joined the Gulf Oil Corporation in 1980 after receiving his M.S. in Geology from the University of Florida.

Mike has spent most of his career as a Development Geologist and has worked delineation/

development projects on the Texas Gulf Coast, both the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys in California, the Cook Inlet and North Slope of Alaska, northeastern Oklahoma, and most recently the Gulf of Mexico shelf, offshore Louisiana.

Mike is a past member of the Northern California and Houston Geological Societies and has been an Active member of the AAPG for 25 years including 12 years as a member of the DEG. He is currently the acting Past-President of the Lafayette Geological Society.

### THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 29, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

## "And Looking Ahead..."

The next luncheon will be January 8. Richard D. Fritz, Executive Director of AAPG, will present "Geohuman vs. Geodigital - Access for the Future." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.



Dr. Tim Matava presenting at the November luncheon at LePavillon.

## **BLAST FROM NOGS PAST**

10 Years Ago (Dec.1996): Al Baker's President's column contained the following: "Slowly but surely the NOGS office is creeping out of the 20th Century. Great was the day that we acquired a fax machine and even greater the day when a separate telephone line would be dedicated to that machine! Well, November 6th was the day."

20 Years Ago (Dec. 1986): Richard Edmund's President's column announced the recent implementation of "a phone-in reservation system through the NOGS office or by mail with the reservation card printed on the back of your Log."

30 Years Ago (Dec. 1976): From the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting: "The Saxony contract expires at the end of 1976. After Board discussion of pro and con about Saxony, we concluded that NOGS should not change unless a better place was found." This came only three months after the "incident" involving a certain seafood dish.

40 Years Ago (Dec. 1966): Under the headline "A.A.P.G. Offers Jewelry" was the announcement that a display kit of the AAPG's emblematic jewelry would be available for inspection at the next NOGS monthly meeting.

-Tim Piwowar

### From the editor....

December has traditionally been the month that the *NOGS Log* celebrates the Memorial Scholarship Award recipients from the earth science departments of our local universities,

LSU, Tulane, and UNO. It has been a pleasure reading the biographies of these talented students who represent the diversity of geoscience research and study being performed here in our region. As NOGS members, it makes us proud to see our society providing support in recognition of academic talent and strong work ethic exhibited by these individuals.

NOGS is also supportive of publishing updates of research projects at the local universities, such as the abstract on Fault Related Subsidence and Land Loss near Empire, Louisiana, that was submitted by Martin, Dawers, Haggar, and Gagliano in our October issue. We look forward to receiving more technical abstracts from academia and industry for future NOGS Log publications.

Also, it can help us to keep our publishing costs under control if more members elect to download the digital version of the Log from our website at www.nogs.org.

FROM THE EDITOR



## Relax. We'll keep you posted.

Your rig is offshore and you are not. How do you know what's going on so many miles away? You know because we tell you. Daily or even hourly, Diversified Well Logging's engineers update you on the status of your rig. We are your eyes and ears, especially when it comes to deep water or high pressure, high temperature areas. Diversified offers 24-hour surface evaluation. We provide secure and customized real-time data communication, in-house research and development and 24/7 on-call support for our equipment and our engineers. Whether you have a 10-day job or 110-day job, we provide the specialized attention you require. So, relax. We're with you every step of the way.

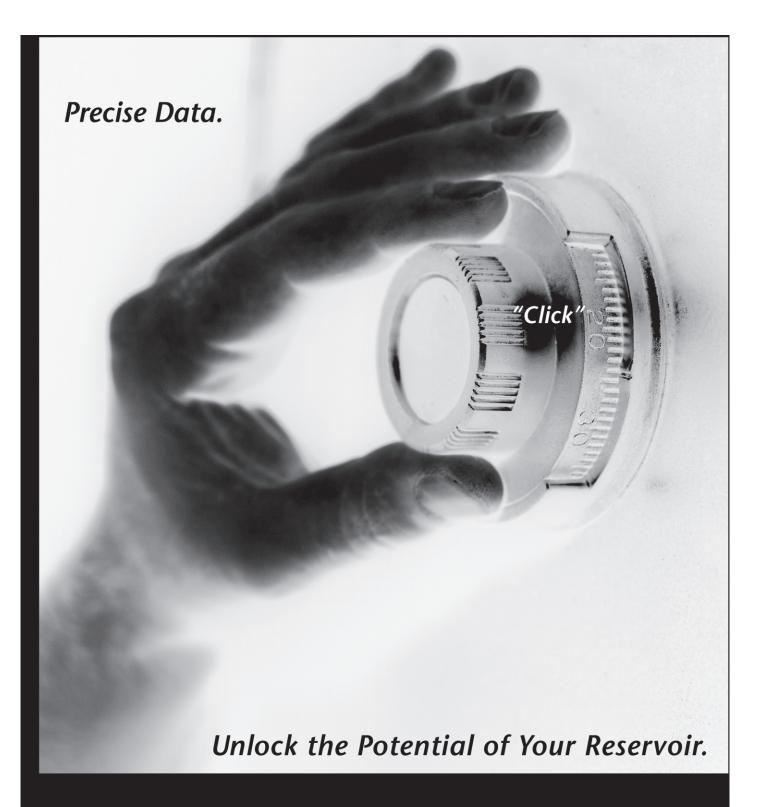


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# NOGS Holiday Party December 8, 2006

7:30-10:30 pm

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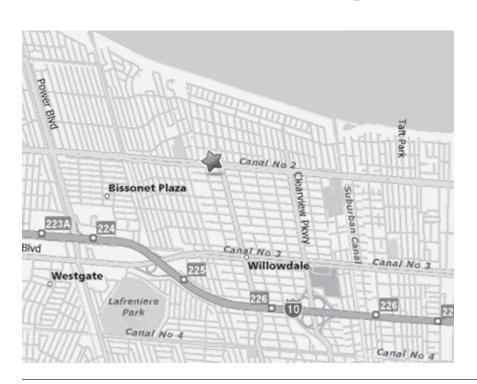
## Vincent's

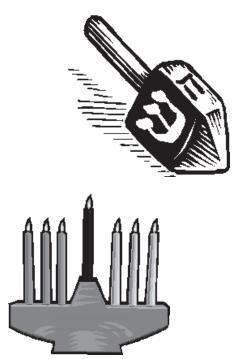
4411 Chastant Street Metairie (Just above west Esplanade)



Includes: Italian Buffet Open Bar







### **GRADUATE**

### Lee H. Meltzer Memorial

\$3,000 Cash Award

### LSU

**Samuel Gray** grew up on an organic farm in Noti, Oregon. He graduated from Elmira High School in 2001 and enrolled at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. While at Colby, he pursued a degree in geology and spent four years competing with the varsity crew team. After graduating from Colby in 2005, he began work on his masters in geology at Louisiana State University. Currently he is working on his thesis, which aims to test oxygen isotope derived historical climate change using sediment flux and stratal stacking patterns.



### James A. Gilreath Memorial

\$3,000 Cash Award

### **TULANE**

Juan Luis Gonzalez is a graduate student working on his Doctorate at Tulane University. Juan graduated from Colegio de San Jose High School, in Medellin, Columbia. Juan's interest in geology was born at an early age when as a child he witnessed the devastation caused by earthquakes, flashfloods, land slides and storm surges and became captivated by high energy events that shaped the earth's surface. During Juan's academic career he has been awarded a GSA Student Research Grant and a UIC, EAES Department graduate student research grant in 2002, a GSA student grant in 2003, and the UIC Provost's award for graduate research in 2004. Juan's professional interests lie in the area of coastal evolution and sea-level change. After earning his PhD, Juan would like continue his research in this area.



### **NOGS** Memorial Foundation

\$3,000 Cash Award

### UNO

Michael D. Miner was born and raised in New Orleans and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of New Orleans in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. He received a B.S. and M.S. in geology from The University of Mississippi where his thesis work focused on a stratigraphic investigation of northern Gulf of Mexico Lower Cretaceous carbonates using well log, palynological, petrographic, and stable isotope data. At UNO, Mike has been awarded the Crescent City Doctoral Scholarship and is a research assistant with the UNO Coastal Research Laboratory. His research, under the direction of Dr. Mark Kulp, is centered on the morphologic and stratigraphic evolution of tidal inlets along the Mississippi



River delta plain coastal zone. He is applying historical and recent bathymetric surveys, vibracore, and high-resolution shallow seismic reflection data to determine long and short-term inlet evolution driven by the rapid relative sea-level rise of the delta plain. He is also applying his stratigraphic model of transgressive tidal inlet fills in Louisiana to better identify and constrain ancient transgressive deposits. After graduating from UNO, Mike plans to pursue a career as a research geologist focusing on the stratigraphy and geomorphology of the northern Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River delta plain with applications to coastal management and flood protection. Michael has an overall GPA of 4.0.

## **SENIOR**

## Jules & Olga Braunstein Memorial

\$2,500 Cash Award

### LSU

Elizabeth Kathleen Mier is the daughter of Louis and Kathy Mier. Her father worked at Georgia Pacific in Zachary, LA and is a recent retiree. Her mother is a teacher at Northeast High School in Pride, LA. Elizabeth is the youngest of five children. She was born and raised in Zachary, Louisiana, and graduated from Zachary High School in 2002 as Valedictorian. She entered Louisiana State University in the fall of 2002 as an undecided student and after much searching, found Geology. The intriguing, demanding coursework coupled with her love and curiosity for nature made her realize this is what she wanted to study. In 2005-06, she attended Humboldt State University (HSU) in Arcata, California as a participant in the National Student Exchange program. At HSU, she participated



in field studies along the coast of California and Oregon, which included creating detailed rock descriptions, stratigraphic columns, and structure maps. This hands-on fieldwork solidified her classroom knowledge as well as her love for Geology. She has been a member of Phi Kappa Phi during 2004-2006, and is working at the Louisiana Geology Survey during her senior year. She will graduate from LSU with a BS in Geology in 2007 after completing summer field camp in Colorado. After graduation, she plans to work for an environmental firm for a couple of years prior to going to graduate school.

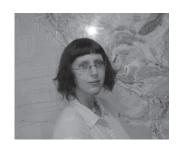
### TULANE

**Tiffany Dawn Jobe** is a Senior at Tulane University with a GPA of 3.338. Tiffany graduated from Birdville High School in North Richland Hills, Texas. She became interested in majoring in Geology after taking freshman level courses. Tiffany is a member of the Wesley Foundation, Geology Club and Green Club at Tulane, and has received the Founders Scholarship Level II, and was on the Dean's List in 2005. Tiffany plans to attend Graduate School, where she would like to study mineral resources, sedimentology or systems science.



### UNO

Miranda Robbins is a geology senior at the University of New Orleans. Miranda has an overall GPA of 3.67. Her major interests include mineralogy, geochemistry, and the study of komatiites. She is currently working with Dr. "Skip" Simmons on a senior thesis that will investigate the paragenesis of a secondary phosphate suite within the Hagendorf Pegmatite of Bavaria, Germany. Miranda is currently the secretary for the UNO Society of Earth and Environmental Students (SEES) and a member of the Mineralogical Society of America, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, and Society for Exploration Geologists. Her future plans include a two-year service with the Peace Corps followed by a master's degree in urban education. She intends to use the experience gained in the Peace Corp and urban education to teach the earth sciences to inner-city children. Eventually she plans on pursuing a doctorate degree in the geosciences.



## **JUNIOR**

## Jules & Olga Braunstein Memorial

\$2,000 Cash Award

#### LSU

Amy Lasseigne is a 20 year old native of Louisiana. She is currently a junior in geology at LSU, and was previously named "outstanding sophomore" in her department. She is in the Honors College there and has a 4.0 GPA. Amy graduated from St. Joseph's Academy of Baton Rouge in 2004 as valedictorian and a National Merit Finalist. Also named an Alumni Top 100 and Chancellor's Future Leaders in Research student at LSU, she is completing her 2nd year of research at LSU by participating in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Research Program. Her current project is titled "Processes governing fate and transport of carcinogenic organic chemicals through geologic media," which will be presented in the SURF poster session at the end of the summer.



### **UNO**

Edmi Padron is a junior in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans. Edmi has an overall GPA of 3.65. He was born in Habana, Cuba but came to Louisiana in 1995. Even before he graduated from Warren Easton Senior High School in New Orleans Edmi realized that he wanted to study geology as a career option. This occurred during his enrollment in the UNO Summer Minority Program. As part of the program he traveled through many of the western states and quickly realized the beauty of studying the earth and its processes. After the field trip he declared geology as his college major and by the end of his freshmen year had established an internship with Freeport McMoRan. In addition to his experience with Freeport he has also interned with ExxonMobil and intends to pursue a masters degree in geology after graduating from UNO. In his spare time Edmi enjoys listening to music and traveling to new places.



### SPECIAL AWARD

## NOGS Scholarship Special Award

\$2,500 Cash Award

### **UNO**

**Sean Kerrin** is an undergraduate senior with a GPA of 3.345 in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans. In 2002, he graduated high school from Eleanor McMain Secondary school located in New Orleans, LA. As a result of Hurricane Katrina, he attended the University of Texas at Austin from September 2005 to May 2006, but returned to UNO in August 2006 to finish his degree. He is currently working on a senior thesis under the guidance of Professor Skip Simmons, and expects to be completed in May 2007, his planned date of graduation. His thesis is a comprehensive study of pegmatites in the Erongo Mountains of Namibia, where little work has previously been done. He will be doing whole



rock and major mineral constituent analyses in order to obtain a better understanding of the chemistry of the pegmatites in this region. Sean has always enjoyed examining the earth and understanding its processes, a curiosity developed as a child, when he would go on camping trips with his father and they would collect rocks together. Sean has a great ambition for the outdoors and goes on camping and hiking trips whenever possible. After graduation, he plans on continuing his education as a graduate student, either at the University of Texas, or the University of New Orleans.



UNO Professors with NOGS Foundation Scholarship winners at the November luncheon: (from left to right) Dr. Karen Webber, Edmi Padron (Junior Award), Dr. Shea Penland, Sean Kerrin (Special Senior Award), Miranda Robins (Senior Award), Mike Miner (Graduate), and Mike Fein

Tulane Professor Steve Nelson with NOGS Foundation Scholarship winners at the November luncheon (from left to right): Dr. Steve Nelson, Juan Luis Gonzalez (Graduate), and Tiffany Dawn Jobe (Senior)









LSU - NOGS Foundation Scholarship winners Samuel Gray (Graduate), Amy Lasseigne (Junior), and Elizabeth Mier (Senior) each with Scott Wainwright (Chairman of the Memorial Foundation) at the October luncheon

## BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF THE INDIVIDUALS FOR WHOM OUR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ARE NAMED

### Jules & Olga Braunstein



Both were New York natives — he from Buffalo, she from New York City — Jules graduated from Columbia University in 1936 during the Great Depression. After sending out many resumés Jules landed a job in Houston with Shell Oil Company. Jules remained a loyal employee for the company until his retirement some 41 years later in 1978. All his career was spent working in the Gulf Coast — initially as a paleontologist and later as a stratigrapher. His early career assignments, after Houston, included Shreveport and Jackson, Mississippi. In 1952 he and Olga relocated to New Orleans with Shell where they became deeply rooted in the geologic community. Jules and Olga were patrons of the arts and quickly became involved with the New Orleans Symphony, helped establish the Friends of Music concert series, and they volunteered their time extensively to the New Orleans Museum of Art. Of art— they probably knew all of the local artists, as they could be seen at all art gallery openings. Both were very gifted and knowledgeable in all art forms and music.

Jules involvement in the geologic arena was even more intense. He served as our society's president, as well as other positions, as General Chairman of GCAGS, AAPG and GSA conventions, as well as being President of the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair in 1976-78. Perhaps his best known expertise was that of editing the written word. One always submitted his or her writings to Jules for editing with great trepidation! For sure, the finished product was assured to be flawless!

Upon his retirement from Shell in 1978 Jules became an Adjunct Professor on the faculty of the University of New Orleans until his untimely death in March of 1983. In recognition of his long and unselfish career dedicated to the gulf coast geologic community, the 1983 GCAGS *Transactions* volume was dedicated to him. — Jules Braunstein is the only person to be so honored twice, as the 1971 volume was also dedicated to this exceptionally talented and unselfish geologist.

Olga, Jules' devoted spouse for over 49 years, died on July 13, 1990. Having no children, the residue of the estate was bequeathed to the NOGS Memorial Scholarship Fund. Thus — it is entirely appropriate that all of the undergraduate Memorial Scholarship Awards be named for Jules and Olga Braunstein.

### James Allen (Al) Gilreath



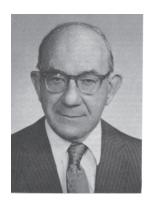
Al was a native of Cartersville, Georgia and a graduate of Georgia Tech. He went to work for Schlumberger in January, 1949 and moved through the ranks from Field Engineer to Advanced Applications Development Engineer. He retired in 1989 after more than 40 years with Schlumberger. Around the world, quit literally, Al was known as "Mr. Dipmeter". Almost single-handily, he developed the instrumentation for this down-hole tool, and also, the "pattern" method of dipmeter interpretation. This methodology became the foundation of essentially all modern dipmeter interpretation. Al was a gifted teacher and technical writer— he authored more than 45 technical papers. In the late 1970s he provided the expertise in developing a computer-based interpretation of dipmeter data. This geologically interactive program is still in widespread use today.

Al was very active with the New Orleans Geological Society and served as Treasurer, 2nd. Vice President, Vice President, and Director. He was a world-wide AAPG Distinguished Lecturer,

Vice-Chairman of the AAPG House of Delegates, and served on the Membership Committee. Al supported the GCAGS and served on committees of all NOGS hosted GCAGS conventions.

Al died in the spring of 1989. In recognition of his special talents of teaching others the interpretive techniques he developed through the years it is most appropriate that a Memorial Scholarship be named in his honor.





Lee was born in Chicago in 1915 and graduated from the University of Chicago with a BS in Geology in 1936. Like Jules Braunstein experienced, Lee likewise, graduated during the Great Depression—he had to earn his way through school and experienced difficulty in finding employment. Ironically, Lee's first job in the petroleum industry was with Shell Oil as a geophysicist in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Later, he moved to Beeville, Texas with Union Producing as a geologist. In 1941 Union moved Lee to their Shreveport offices where he moved up the corporate ladder to Exploration Manager. Lee resigned from Union Producing in 1956 and, with his wife Doris and their four children, moved to New Orleans where he opened his very successful consulting practice. Lee quickly built a reputation as an expert in oil and gas appraisal and in exploration.

Lee's contributions to professional geologic organizations are manifold. For NOGS, he received the Outstanding Service Award in 1964; served as President in 1968; as Director 1969-70;

received Honorary Life Membership in 1971; and, served on the Technical Projects Committee. Lee worked very hard for the Gulf Coast Association of Geological societies for many years; and, in recognition of his efforts, he was presented Honorary Life Membership in the Association in 1982. Lee was equally active in the AAPG, GSA, and other organizations— too numerous to mention here.

In 1988 the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies *Transactions* volume was dedicated to this extraordinarily gifted and generous individual. As his citationist Dick Boebel so adequately expressed in the dedication: "He is a quizzical and intriguing luncheon companion with satirical wit, enlivening the mundane. A conversation can compare clastic deposition in Wyoming with Mississippi, leap to French culture of the Napoleonic era, and wander through the mazes of Louisiana politics." Truly — he was a man of all seasons!

Lee died on July 19, 1991 leaving a personal and professional legacy for all to emulate. It is especially fitting that a Memorial Scholarship Award be named in his memory.

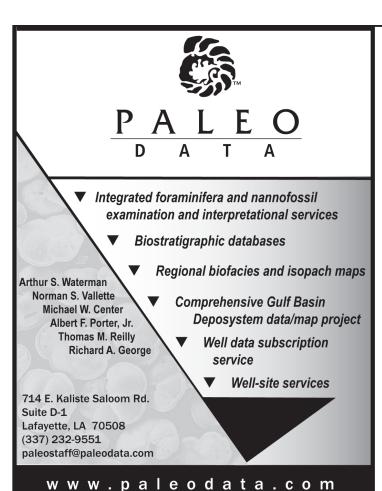
Edward B. Picou, Jr.

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--- continued from page 3 ---

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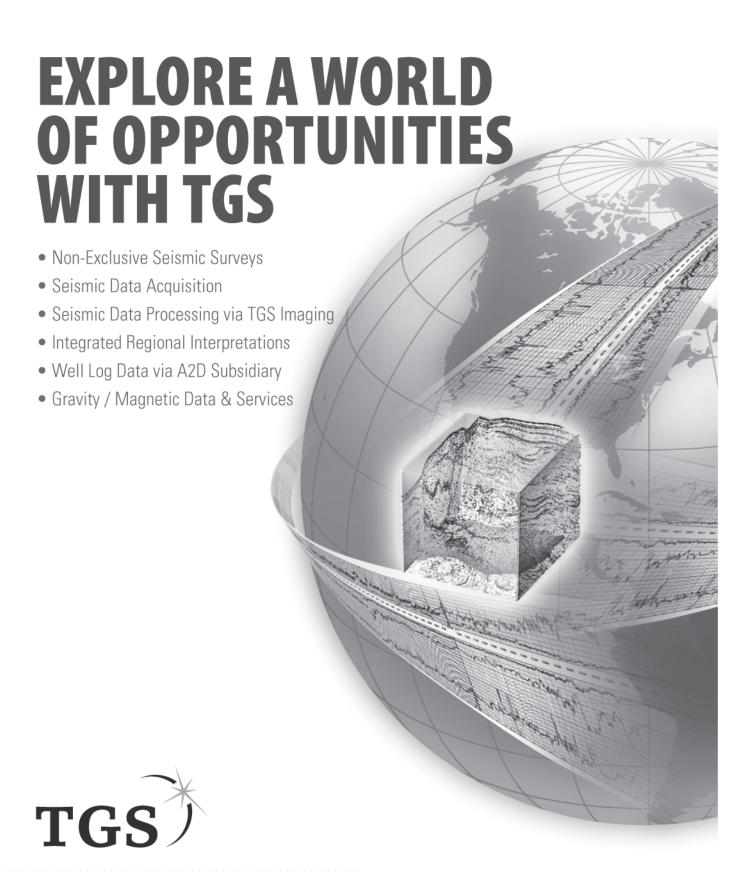
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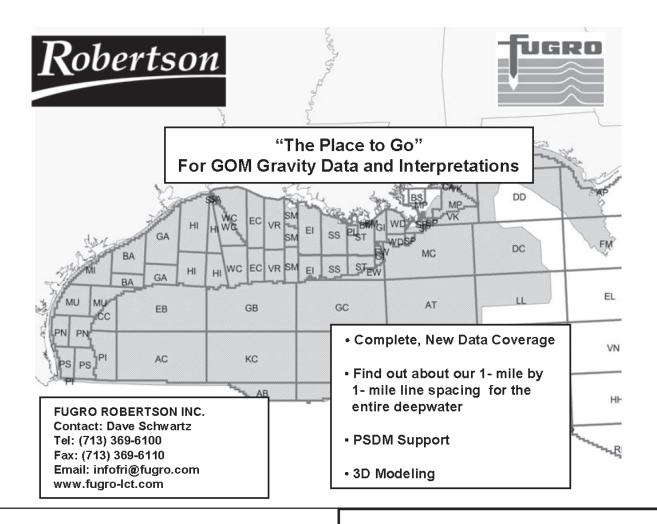






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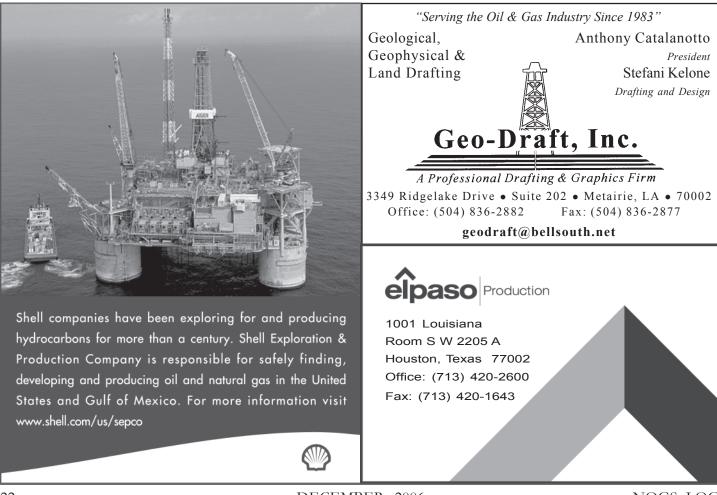
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# South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

- Mariner Energy, Inc. announced on 3-October a conventional shelf discovery in the High Island (HI) 116 #5ST1 well, drilled to a total measured depth of 14,683 feet (13,150 feet TVD). The well encountered approximately 540 feet of net vertical pay in thirteen sands. Completion operations are underway, with initial production anticipated later in the fourth quarter 2006. HI 116 is part of the asset base Mariner acquired from Forest Oil Corporation in March 2006. Mariner has a 100% working interest and an approximate 72% net revenue interest in the well. Internally estimated proved and probable reserves are in the range of 40 60 BCFE.
- Denbury Resources, Inc. and partners have completed a deep test in the Gibson Field located in northern Terrebonne Parish. The #2 K.K. Westervelt (40-17S-15E) was drilled to 19,345 feet. Eighty-eight feet of net pay was logged in the Robulus L section, and the well was completed as a gas well. It is expected to produce at a rate of 30 MMCFEPD. Denbury views this as a significant discovery and plans additional development. They recently announced a southwestern offset in sec. 45. The #1 CL&F is permitted to 20,500 feet and will test a deeper portion of the Robulus L section. Gibson was discovered in 1937 by the Shell Oil Co. #B-1 Realty Operators. The well was drilled to 9,493 feet, and completed as an oil well from a sand at 9,461 feet. On test, the zone flowed 781 BOPD on a 14/64" choke. Cumulative production for Gibson is 1.2 TCFG and 57.5 MMBbls.
- Contango Operators Inc. (COI) set production liner in their Dutch Prospect discovery after running logs at the offshore Louisiana well located in the southern half of Eugene Island Block 10. The well was spudded July 14 by TODCO's #55 jack-up. It is in 12 feet of water. The operator said it is still drilling the 1 OCS-G-23851. COI's independent third-party engineer estimates this well to have proved reserves net to COI of 25 BCFGE. Estimated costs net to COI to bring the well to full production status are \$2.7 million. COI has an 18.3% working interest and Republic Exploration, a subsidiary in which the COI owns a 43% interest, has a 65% working interest in the Dutch Prospect. The net revenue interests to COI and REX are estimated to be approximately 13% and 47%, respectively. The net revenue interest before payout to Contango, as a whole, is approximately 33%. The lease was originally acquired by Unocal in 2002 for a bonus of \$539,957, and eventually the block was farmed out to COI.
- PT Medco Energi Internasional reported on 19-October that its wholly owned subsidiary, Medco Energi US LLC, encountered natural gas after a recent drilling activity at Mustang Island 758 block, a 2,330-hectare oil and gas block located 154 feet underwater in offshore Texas. The discovery is located in federal waters approximately 50 miles due east of Corpus Christi, Texas. Medco US plans to install a braced caisson or minimal structure on the well in mid-2007. However, in order to determine the limits of the reservoir and productivity of the well, the well will be extensively tested when completed. The block was originally acquired by Paragon Petroleum in 2001 for a bonus of \$181,556.
- McMoRan Exploration Co., the GoM's most active deep driller updated its activities on 19-October. Since 2004, McMoRan has participated in 12 discoveries on 25 prospects drilled and evaluated, including four discoveries announced in

---continued on page 24---

2006. Four additional prospects are either in progress or not fully evaluated.

The Laphroaig exploratory well in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana was spudded on April 8, 2006. It was recently sidetracked and is currently below 15,500 feet with a PTD of 19,000 feet. McMoRan has a 37.5 percent working interest and a 27.8 percent net revenue interest.

The Zigler Canal well onshore Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, commenced drilling on June 17, 2006, and is currently being drilled below 17,600 feet. The PTD is 18,500 feet.

The Vermilion Block 54 well was spudded on August 4, 2006 and was drilled to a total depth of 14,669 feet. The Long Point Deep exploratory well at Louisiana State Lease 18091 in Vermilion Parish was spudded on April 27, 2006 and drilled to a total depth of 21,838 feet. Evaluation determined that the wells did not contain commercial quantities of hydrocarbons, and both wells are being plugged and abandoned.

McMoRan finally received the long-lead time equipment required to test the Blueberry Hill well at Louisiana State Lease 340 in the fourth quarter of 2006. As previously reported, the Blueberry Hill well, located five miles east of JB Mountain Deep, encountered four potentially productive hydrocarbon-bearing sands below 22,200 feet. Both areas (JB Mountain Deep and Blueberry Hill) demonstrate similar geologic settings and are targeting deep Miocene sands equivalent in age. Information obtained from the testing of the Blueberry Hill well will be incorporated in future plans for the JB Mountain Deep well.

McMoRan expects to spud at least two exploratory prospects during the fourth quarter of 2006, including Hurricane Deep at SMI 217 and Marlin at GI 18.

- Eni announced a new gas discovery on 23-October at the Longhorn North Prospect in Mississippi Canyon (MC) Block 502 (Eni 100% interest). Longhorn North, in a water depth of 2,330 feet, was drilled to a total depth of 11,155 feet and found gas sands with thickness and production quality higher than expected. The Longhorn North discovery, together with the south-adjacent Ringo discovery at MC 546, confirms the presence of a gas field in which Eni is already evaluating possible development alternatives with the aim of reaching an early production start up. ENI holds other interests in the area, and further exploration activities are planned. In the US, Eni holds interests in over 250 blocks in the Gulf of Mexico (of which 90% are in deepwater), with current production of ~44,000 BOEPD. Eni and Petrobras acquired the block in 2002 for a bonus of \$279,200.
- Shell Offshore Inc. (Shell) announced on 26-October that it will develop the Great White, Tobago and Silvertip Fields via a Perdido Regional Development host, located in Alaminos Canyon (AC), offshore Gulf of Mexico, approximately 200 miles south of Freeport, TX. Moored in about 8,000 feet of water, the regional DVA (direct vertical access) spar will be the deepest spar production facility in the world. First production from Perdido is expected around the turn of the decade, with the facility capable of handling 130,000 BOEPD.

The concept for regional development includes a common processing hub in AC Block 857 near the Great White discovery that incorporates drilling capability and functionality to gather, process, and export production within a 30-mile radius of the facility. This concept will provide regional synergies, reduced cost, and lower risk. It will also reduce the number and size of the facilities and operations in this challenging frontier area, resulting in a lower environmental impact than would otherwise be achieved.

"The Perdido Foldbelt is remote and is located in ultradeep waters from about 7,500 - 10,000 feet, with rugged seafloor terrain," explained Marvin Odum, Executive Vice President, EP Americas. "This geologic setting is different from what has previously been produced in the Gulf of Mexico and will establish the first production from the Lower Tertiary (Paleogene) play in the Gulf of Mexico. Shell has been a leader in the opening of this play, starting with exploration in the 1990's, and is proud to be at the leading edge of development and production. To accomplish this record-breaking feat, we will apply cutting-edge technology, engineering expertise and industry leadership."

Shell was at the forefront of opening up the Paleogene (Lower Tertiary) Play in the western deepwater Gulf of Mexico with the Great White discovery in AC, and will be the first to bring

production from this area to market. Shell, as operator, commenced exploratory drilling operations on March 6, 2002, in 8,009 feet of water. The well reached its final total depth on May 18, 2002. The original well was drilled to a true vertical depth of 14,405 feet. An appraisal well was drilled to a true vertical depth of 15,035 feet in 2002. Shell has drilled a total of five wells at Great White, with the most recent spud occurring in March 2004.

Shell will operate the Perdido Regional Host. It will be jointly owned by Shell (35%), Chevron (37.5%) and BP (27.5%). Great White is located in AC 812, 813, 814, 857, 900 and 901. Shell is the operator with a 33.34% interest. Chevron holds a 33.33% and BP has a 33.33% interest.

Tobago is located in AC 859 in approximately 9,600 feet of water. It is operated by Shell with 32.5% interest. Other interest owners are Chevron with 57.5% and Nexen with 10%. The discovery well was drilled in 2004 to a total depth of 18,510 feet. A sidetrack well was drilled to 18,425 feet.

Silvertip, in AC 815, is also operated by Shell with a 40% interest. Chevron holds the remaining 60%. Chevron drilled the AC 815 #1 discovery well in August 2004 in approximately 9,200 feet of water, to a total depth of 14,778 feet.

Paul Post and Roy Walther

## INFO TIDBITS

New Law Sets Up Dry Hole Well Program: The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will administer the Dry Hole Credit Well Program authorized by Act 298 of the 2005 Regular Legislative Session, and authored by state Sen. Reggie Dupre of Houma.

According to provisions of the Dry Hole Credit Well program, any new well drilled for purposes of developing and producing oil and gas resources which is spudded after July 1, 2005 and completed before June 30, 2009 can qualify as a royalty relief receiving well, provided the well is drilled after certification of a dry hole credit well and drilled on a state lease within the coastal zone. The regulation also requires the well to be drilled at a depth below 19,999 feet. The amount of the credit will be fifty percent of the cost of the dry hole.

Application for status as a Dry Hole Credit Well must be made with the DNR Office of Mineral Resources. As part of the certifying process, the office will require for verification various documents related to the well's history.

The new program is considered an incentive to oil and gas producers that have plans to drill deep wells. State officials expect the program will encourage oil and gas exploration in the coastal zone, within three-miles off the state's coast.

For reviewing specifications and procedures involved in the program online, go to http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/pubinfo/newsr/2006/1114min-dryholewell.pdf
Source: http://dnr.louisiana.gov/

### Robert Rooney

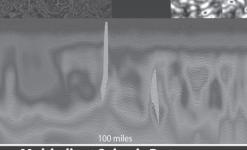
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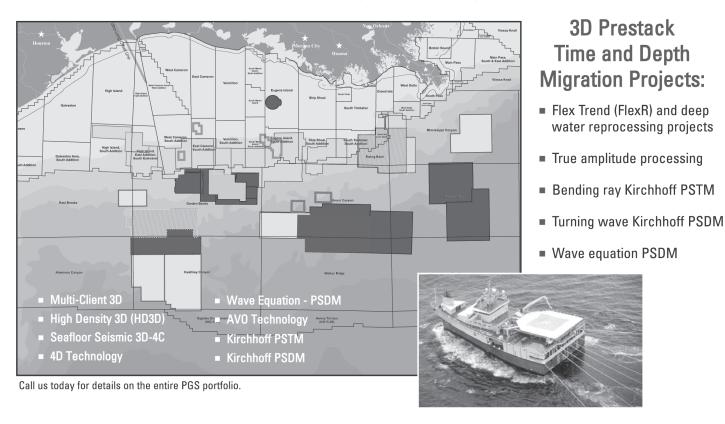
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Last month's question: Name the chemical compound which covers 3/4 of the earth's surface. It also filled 80% of New Orleans in August of 2005. No...not beer.... H2O!

To become next month's winner, remember to look for the hidden NOGS question on our website, www.nogs.org, and correctly answer the question. Happy surfing, and good luck finding and answering this month's question!



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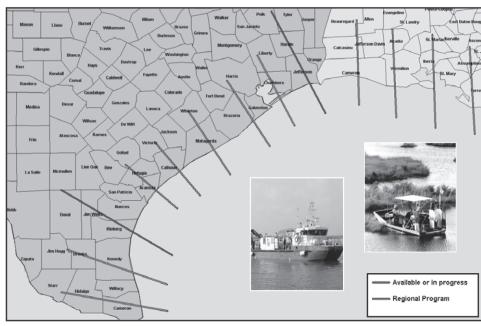


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