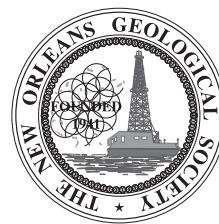


NOGS LOG

WWW.NOGS.ORG



Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

June 2007
Volume 47, Number 12

JUNE AND JULY ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

June 4 - NOGS Luncheon

NOGS will host "Technomania" in place of a speaker presentation. 'Technomania' will be NOGS' first exhibit hall function in celebration of our sponsors and advertisers.

(See Page 7 for more announcement)

Note: As of July, luncheon costs will increase due to increased overhead associated with hotel charges. Please make note of the new luncheon costs.

LE PAVILLON HOTEL

Check with concierge or front
desk for location
Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation \$30.00
without reservation \$35.00
Student Member with reservation Free

May 21 - Former Presidents Luncheon

Le Pavillon Hotel, \$35.00 per person. Cocktails on NOGS, Prime Rib for Lunch.
Contact the NOGS office for reservations

July 9 - NOGS Luncheon

Ivor Van Heerden, deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, and Author of "The Storm: What Went Wrong During Hurricane Katrina - The Inside Story From One Louisiana Scientist", will present "Hurricane Blues".

FROM THE EDITOR



A big thanks to you, our membership and advertisers, for your support this past year. Thanks also to those members who have taken time out of their schedules to submit technical and personal interest stories. If you wish to view any past issues from 2006/2007, they are located in their entirety on our website at www.nogs.org. Thanks to the *NOGS Log* Staff: Annette Hudson, Jannette Sturm-Mexic, Paul Post, and Tim Piwowar, who have consistently contributed to *Log* content, some in the face of personal trials following the weather catastrophes that have battered our region including the tornadoes of 2007. Please welcome and support NOGS' 2007/2008 editor Tim Piwowar as he takes over the *Log* in July.

My reflections on the past year.....geoscientists have a passion for their work and their hobbies. If the two can be merged then there is a recipe for happiness. The best stories are those that convey the author's personality, and can be either through a personal interest story or a technical abstract or paper. People like to read the opinions, experiences and technical achievements of their peers, and it is a special few who feel compelled to oblige.

Adieu!

- Robert Rooney, Editor *NOGS Log*

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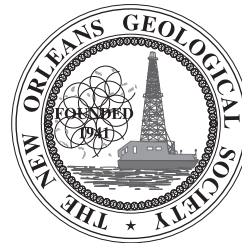
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Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.

Sent to press on May 22, 2007.

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from the President

The Fat Lady....errr....Guy Sings

And now the moment you have all been waiting for....the end. Yes indeed, this is my final column prior to my promotion to Memorial Fund Chairman. For this concluding missive; however, I wanted you to know what you, as members, as advertisers, and as sponsors, made possible for NOGS 2006-2007.

This has not been a rebuilding year for the New Orleans Geological Society; it has been a year of growth and achievement. It has been a year of returning to our dependable veterans for leadership, and bringing not only those who have never been asked, but also those newer to the profession into participation. Although we have not achieved all our goals, we are proud to have accumulated an impressive body of work.

I usually save this part for last, but it is where NOGS starts. Nothing moves inside of NOGS without our Office Manager Annette Hudson. Her 15 years of dedicated NOGS service, her intellectual knowledge and sharp recollection of society history are priceless. Her "old school" reliability and dependability are what keep the wheels of the organization rolling. NOGS would quickly grind to a halt without Annette. This past year, we funded a new computer and flat screen monitor for her from your donations to the "Friends of the NOGS Office" Fund.

Post-storm, we have continuously held our monthly luncheons since February of 2006. They have featured speakers from government, industry and academia. We have dissected the results of Katrina through the Corps of Engineers, independent contractors, and academic consultants. Our speakers have represented our three largest Universities, UNO, Tulane, and LSU. Our talks have ranged from levee repair to deep shelf. Credit Bob Murphy with an outstanding plethora of geological variety. Credit also Le Pavilion for their consistent performance in providing fine cuisine, quality service, and attention to details when we really needed it.

We held a well-attended continuing education seminar on depositional systems, taught by Dr. Mike Blum of LSU. On its heel will be a seminar on plays in the Gulf of Mexico, scheduled for October, with a lunch break set

around the regular NOGS luncheon meeting. Jeanne Phelps put this together. Jeanne also has hopes that the low-resistivity pay project she has been monitoring as Technical Projects chairman will be put back on track with the help of our friends at the MMS.

We have held several entertainment events this year: our kick-off party in September, which featured Jim Rapier, a local newspaper sports reporter; our Holiday party in December; and north shore/south shore dueling wine-tastings, held simultaneously April 21, with equal numbers at each venue. Kimberly Smith aided Entertainment Chairman Art Johnson in herding the members to our parties. We are getting old: there is far more call for dessert these days than there is for booze.

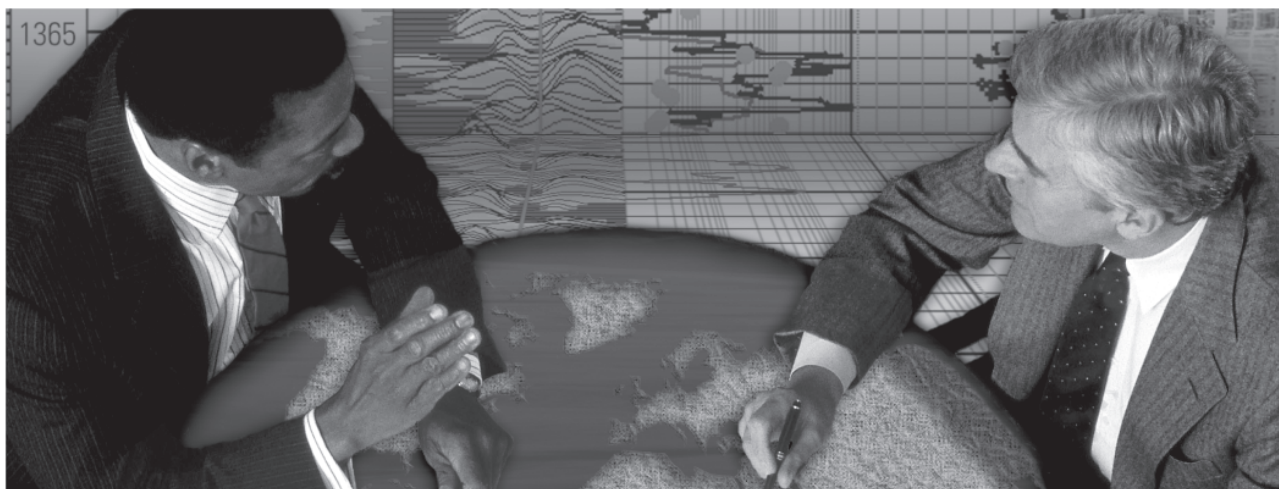
We held a very successful field trip put together by David Garner. He had Dr. Steve Nelson from Tulane conduct the outstanding trip on why the levees breached from Katrina. We attempted to follow that with Dr. Gagliano's geomorphology trip on the north shore, but had to postpone until the fall due to his tight schedule.

The NOGS LOG, done by Robert Rooney and Tim Piwowar, has had a great deal of original content this year. Tim has added the innovative "Blast From the Past" feature, and we have had many more photos in the LOG, as well as on the website. We have had guest editorials, guest articles, and each month Paul Post's Info Tidbits. Paul adds 2-4 pages of material to the LOG each month based upon press releases of public companies, but adds his geologic "spin" on the information. Paul is also the Employment Counseling Chairman for NOGS. The LOG this year not only retained 98% of its advertisers, but added a few new ones as well. This still bodes well for our future.

Super Science Saturday returned to the Children's Museum this April as well. Tom Bergeon worked with a new staff at the recently reopened Museum, as well as recruited several dozen volunteers from industry, academia, and government. Children, as well as parents,

--- continued on page 8 ---

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TECHNOMANIA

June 4 Luncheon

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THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 30, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next NOGS Luncheon will be July 9. Ivor Van Heerden, deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, and Author of "The Storm: What Went Wrong During Hurricane Katrina - The Inside Story From One Louisiana Scientist", will present "Hurricane Blues". Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.



May luncheon speaker George Zemlicka (right) is greeted by president Mike Fein (left), and vice-president Bob Murphy (center) at Le Pavillon.

"Geology for Non-Geologists class April 20th, held at Chevron.

The Awards committee judged at several school science fairs, and also at the return of the Region 9 fair. For the first time in NOGS memory, a pure geologic exhibit won the fair sweepstakes, went on to win state, and will represent us all at the International Fair to be held in Albuquerque in mid-May. We can only hope that we can use this success as a springboard to bring geology back into the Louisiana high school classroom, as those in the Great State of Texas have done.

Post-Katrina life in New Orleans has become more expensive due to the housing shortage, which limited the labor pool, and caused existing labor to come at a greater cost. NOGS finances would clearly be in the red if not for the innovative plan executed by Sponsorship chairman Leslie Broussard. Leslie's plan, as well as her knowledge of New Orleans oil and gas players, raised well over \$10,000 in sponsorship for NOGS. This alone is the difference why NOGS finances are in the black this year. As a "thank-you" to our sponsors and full-page advertisers, NOGS' June meeting will be "Technomania", speaker-free, just tables around the meeting room where our sponsors can show prospects, products, and services.

Immediately prior to the storm, NOGS membership stood at 640. We had hoped, based upon returns from Houston, and general membership levels of other organizations, that we would have 400-450 members. However, with the work of Membership Chairman Penne Rappold, NOGS membership now stands at an even 600. I am not sure there is any organization on the south shore, which came back as strong as NOGS, and this was Penne's work. More members mean more events, more events means more to our advertisers and sponsors. More dollars means more we can spend on our mission to promote our science.

Brenda Reilly and her nominations committee did an amazing job in getting competitive elections for 2007-08 officer positions.

NOGS moved forward with plans for the 2010 AAPG convention, by hiring Tom Hudson as General Chairman, and Paul Post as Technical program Chairman. We will add a Vice-Chairman after the approval of Mr. Hudson by the AAPG Executive Committee.

NOGS stepped into community social action by joining with SGS May 19th in our City Park.

Finally, NOGS was asked to support efforts by the University of New Orleans to return Petroleum Geology to a curriculum of prominence in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. NOGS responded by immediately sending \$8,000 from its publications fund to the UNO-EES Katrina student relief fund. Mike Gallagher, taking on the yeoman role as chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee on University Support (NUNO committee), then proceeded to promote the return of the annual UNO mineral auction, put together an evening at UNO on what it is like to be a Petroleum Geologist, and then put together a spring semester course on petroleum geology. NOGS also lent its support to the renaming of the G&G building in memory of the late Dr. Bill Craig, a former NOGS President. This will hopefully lead to more students interested in petroleum geology, a funding for petroleum geology professors, and endowments in order to attract faculty. If we are to have successors finding oil and gas while working in New Orleans, it will be up to NOGS to assist its universities in growing them.

Not all the news was pleasant. There are many things about our website I would like to improve, but neither have the time or intelligence to follow, but we are forming a committee to come up with new ideas. We do not have the critical mass to support a committee for new members of our profession, and the attempt to link to a network of young professionals in the petroleum community failed. NOGS also lost a number of its retired members and former leaders such as NOGS past-President and AAPG-DPA past-President Bob Sabate'. NOGS also continues to lose its oil finders, those who have been confirmed New Orleanians, to cities on "higher" ground. Nevertheless, in spite of the damage to our industry, our city, our homes, and to our families, NOGS is led and maintained by a group of professionals that find the time to advance our profession, serve our community, and seek the future as long as the ground under us occasionally stays dry.

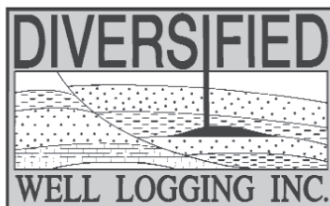
Thank you all very much for your participation, for your support, and for your (mostly) kind words. Please welcome your new President Art Johnson, and his fine incoming Board with that same support you gave to me. See you at the meetings!

Mike Fein



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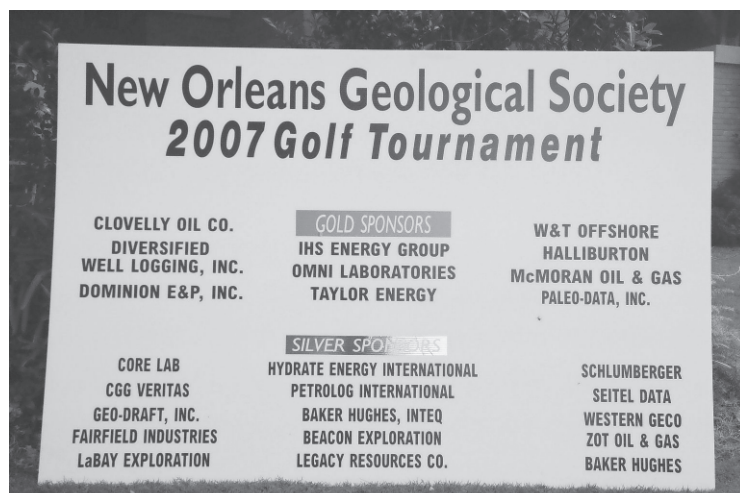


NOGS 2007 Golf Outing









More photos next month ...

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Armies of Geologists

By: Byron W. King

Mike Fein's note:

We can continue to hand-wring and lament what has happened to geoscience education in our nation, or we can begin to do something about it in our own backyard. I figure if there are to be replacements for us at our jobs *in New Orleans*, we have to do the things required to grow those persons ourselves. Toward that goal, Mike Gallagher has done yeoman work chairing the N-UNO committee, aka the Ad-hoc Committee on University Support. This effort is just the beginning of restoring Petroleum Geology as a foundation of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at UNO. Other than supporting the steady activity in the fine geology department at Tulane, this is our best shot.

Below is an article that originally appeared a few weeks ago in the e-zine "Whiskey and Gunpowder". This is how a growing nation solves its resource problem. We have to start somewhere, or another nation will.

About the author: Byron King is a cum laude graduate of Harvard University who worked West Texas for Gulf in the 70's and into the 80's. He served his nation in the Navy, where, when not flying missions, he was also a field historian. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law in 1982 and as a practicing attorney, he now "looks at current events, economics, and politics through the lens of history. He brings to the table a unique perspective that incorporates many millions of years of the Earth's geologic history, and blends its significance into the more recent, man-made kind of tale." He is a regular contributor and "Peak Oil Correspondent" to the e-zine "Whiskey and Gunpowder" (<http://www.whiskeyandgunpowder.com>), which "covers the spectrum of the many factors that affect economics including, but not limited to politics, technology, nature, and history." Its authors and essayists cover topics such as personal liberties, big-picture economics with historic and geologic intertwining, banking, real estate, macroeconomic trends and institutional analysis, and the similarities between the markets and a variety of historical events. (Quoted items are directly from the website.) He is also the editor of "Outstanding Investments" (available via www.agorafinancial.com).

Armies of Geologists

By: Byron W. King

I HAVE DISCUSSED in previous articles that I attended the recent annual convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), held in Long Beach, Calif. It was a gathering of about 5,200 geologists from around the world, and many others who work in related fields dealing with the world's oil and gas industries. In addition to the formal members of the AAPG, the convention hosted many hundreds more individuals from related industries (such as the oil service companies, geophysical companies, and the like), as well as from government and academia.

One of the things that struck me about the assembled throng was just how collectively well educated the whole group was. I say that in all humility, because a very large number of the AAPG membership holds more and higher levels of academic degrees than I. That is, there are many members of AAPG with one or more master's degrees in scientific and technical fields. The numbers of Ph.D. holders, combined with the broad spectrum of research fields in evidence, was entirely impressive if things like that impress you. So the point is that the Long Beach Convention Center was just dripping with academic wax and ribbons.

Mr. Wang, Marine Geologist

I had the pleasure of spending some time with a delightful man named Mr. Wang, from an institution called the "University of Geoscience" in Wuhan, China. Mr. Wang is a marine geologist, and teaches the subject at the university level. He is very smart, as I rapidly discerned after we sat down next to each other on a bus, and during a field trip to look at the rocks of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Mr. Wang and I discussed numerous subjects of a geological nature, subjects of which he has an excellent grasp, in both English and Chinese. Here is some of what we discussed.

I asked Mr. Wang how many students attend the University of Geoscience in Wuhan.

"About 20,000," he replied.

"You have 20,000 students majoring in geology?" I asked, stunned at the number.

“Oh, no,” he replied with a smile. “Many of our students study in other fields of science, such as physics, chemistry, biology. And we even have a few students who study art and theater.”

No doubt, I thought, the “few” artists and theater majors in a Chinese university are probably the ones who are actually good at it. “So how many people do you have studying geology?” I asked.

“Hmmm.... About 10,000,” he replied.

“10,000? In what fields of geology do the students pursue their studies?” I asked.

Mr. Wang replied, “We teach basic scientific background such as math, chemistry, and physics. Then we teach geological concepts like stratigraphy and mineralogy and structural geology. Then we take the students into specific fields such as oil and gas geology, petroleum engineering, mineralogy, mining geology and engineering, civil engineering, geological engineering, marine geology, geochemistry, geophysics, and whatever other fields branch out from those subjects.”

“Do your students have jobs when they finish their studies?” I asked.

“Oh, yes,” replied Mr. Wang. “Our students graduate, and many go to get advanced degrees in China, as well as in Australia, Europe, and the U.S. We also send many students into the oil and gas industry, the mining industry, engineering fields, and the like. We have graduates working at geological projects on every continent of the Earth, in the mining industry and in the oil extraction industry, building roads and dams across China, and as far away as Arabia, Africa, and South America, and even performing research in Antarctica.”

“So,” I asked Mr. Wang, “since you have 10,000 students, is your school the main school for the study of geology in China?”

“Oh, no,” he replied. “Ours is one of three geoscience universities in China. The other two universities are comparable to ours. And many other universities have their own college of geology. Beijing University, for example, is a very great school that is attended by many of the best students in China. It has a college of geology with about 4,000 students.”

“So,” I asked, “can you give me some idea of how many students are studying geology in China today?”

Mr. Wang thought for a moment. “If you add it all up,” he said, “there are about 40,000 or 50,000 students studying geology in China today at the university level. Maybe more, but I do not want to give you a number that is too high. Many of these students might not become geologists, because they will go into civil engineering or some related field. The Premier of China, Wei Jiabao, is a geologist, by the way, and worked as a geological surveyor in his youth. And many other students, such as those studying chemistry or physics in the university, might eventually become geochemists or geophysicists. But we are currently training about 50,000 or so geologists in China, across the nation.”

Are You Impressed Yet?

Are you impressed yet, dear readers? 50,000 students are studying geology in China today. That number is well over 25 times the number of college students who are studying geology in the U.S., which includes foreign students enrolled at U.S. institutions, and that is after something of a surge in enrollments in geoscience departments in the past two or three years. Back in 2004, according to statistics published by the U.S. National Science Foundation, there were fewer than 500 degrees granted in geology and petroleum engineering by all U.S. universities combined, and about half of those degrees were awarded to foreign nationals. The Chinese have 100 times that number in the pipeline.

It may help to make a military comparison. Consider that the U.S. is training geologists by the squad, or maybe by the platoon, at the university level. The Chinese are cranking out geologists by the division.

Why Is This Important?

This is an important development. There is a revolution occurring in the scientific approach to understanding the Earth. The fields that make up geology, and related Earth and space sciences, are currently undergoing major advances that promote understanding of our planet as a number of interrelated systems. Many new realms of scientific investigation are emerging through the study of the connections and interactions between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, cryosphere, solid Earth, and near space. Furthermore, geoscientists are playing critical roles in recognizing the extent and magnitude of human impact on the entire Earth system. And this understanding is gaining new context via the growth in knowledge of processes on other planets. So, the more people who are

--- continued on the following pages ---

out there and who understand at least the basics of geology (let alone the really hard stuff) the better for that nation.

Dave O'Reilly, chairman of Chevron, signs his name to many advertisements that state that the "easy" oil and gas has been found. If you are a frequent reader of *Whiskey & Gunpowder*, you know what we agree entirely with Mr. O'Reilly, and we carry the Peak Oil argument even further. Just as people say that the "easy" oil and gas has been found, so has almost all of the other "easy" mineral, energy, and water resources of the Earth been located and tapped. The future of modern civilization depends on how well any given group of people, from any given nation or organization, can understand how best to extract or harness the resources of the Earth that are not "easy" to access. So going forward, there had better be some geology majors coming out of the academic sweatshops, and the more the better.

100-to-1 Ratio

By way of comparison with the number of geology graduates, in recent years, U.S. law schools have awarded an average of about 40,000 law degrees annually to aspiring lawyers. So, for each geologist that U.S. academia cranks out, the law school industry mills something between 50-100 lawyers. At the extreme end of the ratio, there are 100 new lawyers graduating from U.S. universities for every new geologist coming out into the work force.

Why is it that China is training armies of geologists while the U.S. is training armies of lawyers? And is there something ominous about that fact? Let's examine a few aspects of this situation. What is going on?

What Is Going On?

The U.S. and China are about the same size in terms of land area so it is not that China needs more geologists to cover more ground. By the criteria of raw acreage, Russia and Canada should be graduating divisions of geologists. But Russia and Canada, the largest and second largest nations in the world by land area, are not doing this. The Chinese are leading the world in the training of large numbers of geoscientists.

In terms of population, China has 1.3 billion people and the U.S. has something over 300 million. So China has slightly over four times the population of the U.S. On a per capita basis, it might make sense for China to train more geologists. But still, there is a difference between China

having four times the population and 50 times the geologists in training.

The U.S. is, of course, a developed nation with an advanced (some say "too advanced"), postindustrial (some say "too postindustrial") economy. And "the world," says Thomas Friedman, the famous columnist from *The New York Times*, "is flat." Another way of framing the concept is to note that things that are on the uphill side will start to roll downhill in this "flat" world of ours. I am sure that you get the idea, dear readers.

The U.S., for example, has essentially built out its interstate highway system, much of which is now clogged with automobiles and trucks speeding (well, crawling at times and in places) hither and yon, while China is just building the beginnings of its own system of national highways, and filling up the roadways with its own domestic version of motorized carriages. If China were to burn as much gasoline on a per capita basis as does the U.S., China alone would require the entire world's daily oil output and then some. But that is just extrapolating the present into the future, and things are going to change dramatically long before something like that could occur, if it were even possible.

And the U.S. has built up many great cities, while China is still building out its own collection of urban metropolises. Shanghai, for example, has seen the construction of over 300 new skyscrapers during the past 20 years. (A Chinese fellow once told me that it was too bad China did not use that steel to construct 300 offshore oil production platforms.) Overall, China is constructing buildings and roads and infrastructure the equivalent of a "new Houston," about every month. And last year, in 2006, China added more electrical-generating capacity than exists in the entire state of California, where they have been building generating capacity for 100 years. So China is growing, and growing fast.

What Does China Need?

But still, what does this tell us about why China trains so many geologists and the U.S. trains so many lawyers? One might be forgiven for thinking that in a nominally communist state such as China, which is modernizing and evolving politically, the need would be for more lawyers to enforce basic human rights that have not been in place or effect for many decades. (Actually, China is training a relatively small cadre of lawyers too.) And one might think that in an advanced postindustrial state, such as the U.S.,

which has exhausted a significant fraction of its national energy and mineral resources over the past two centuries, the need would be for more geologists to locate and assist in securing new energy and mineral supplies. Yes, indeed. One might think that. But such is not the case.

One important way to differentiate the U.S. and China is to note the obvious point that the U.S. is a “rich” nation, certainly as measured in its own currency, the dollar. The U.S. can buy what it wants on the markets of the “flat” world, and use its uniquely situated dollar, the so-called “reserve currency” of the world economy, to pay for it. And China is, as its leaders like to remind the world, a “poor” nation that wants to get rich. “To get rich is glorious,” said former Premier Deng Xiaoping.

So can we say that rich nations need more lawyers? After all, much of what lawyers do is argue and fight over money. And where does this leave the poor people of the world? “The poor shall always be with you,” said Jesus in a famous comment. And yet another comment I have heard is that “What the poor people of this world need is not more lawyers.” This is according to an old acquaintance of mine who is a federal judge. “They need more money,” he added.

So far, so good. And do poor nations need more geologists? After all, much of the work that geologists do is locate and define resources within the crust of the Earth, so that they can come back with other people and exploit those resources. Whether it is oil and gas, gold and silver, iron ore, sand or gravel, or falling water, this is what makes for an advancing, if not an advanced, civilization.

What was it that made for great civilizations in the past? In ancient Egypt, great civilizations arose out of the ability of a small group of people to understand and harness the powers of the Nile River. And in ancient Rome, it was the water-bearing aqueducts and the ores from the mines that permitted a great civilization and culture to flourish. In other words, these were civilizations that relied on people whom we would today call geologists and civil engineers. For a while, at any rate, it worked for the Egyptians and the Romans. Then the water aqueducts wore out and the minerals ran out and there was no replacing these things within a foreclosed time scale.

The Clash of Civilizations?

In his book *A Study of History*, Arnold Toynbee identified 21 major civilizations over recorded time. As Harvard

professor Samuel Huntington pointed out in his famous essay, published in 1993, *The Clash of Civilizations*, “only six (of those 21 civilizations) exist in the contemporary world.”

“Civilization identity will be increasingly important in the future,” wrote Huntington, “and the world will be shaped in large measure by the interactions among...major civilizations.” Huntington went on to state that “The most important conflicts of the future will occur along the cultural fault lines separating these civilizations from one another.”

In much of the rest of his essay, Huntington went on to explain his thesis of “why civilizations will clash.” One of Huntington’s key points was that “Western civilization is both Western and modern. Non-Western civilizations have attempted to become modern without becoming Western...Non-Western civilizations will continue to attempt to acquire the wealth, technology, skills, machines, and weapons that are part of being modern. They will also attempt to reconcile this modernity with their traditional culture and values.”

You can agree with Huntington’s thesis, or you can disagree. But China’s massive educational effort to train geologists and related scientific personnel for the future indicates a national desire to adopt the best scientific knowledge of the West. Yet China also intends, in its own unique way, to be among the civilizations that remain on any list of survivors compiled by any Arnold Toynbee of the future.

We live in a world in which the “easy” oil is gone, where Peak Oil looms, where the need for basic industrial resources and commodities is the key to the future existence of Western (and other) civilizations. And we live in a world in which the Chinese are training the scientific and technical cadre that will go out into the world and, one way or the other, find what their country needs and bring it home. There are armies, and then there are armies of geologists.

Until we meet again...
Byron W. King



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NOGS Membership News & Information

This is your page. We would like to fill it with your news. In addition to professional news from our members; e.g., promotions, transfers, moves, new employer, etc., we also welcome your success stories. Please e-mail items to log@nogs.org.

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Please Note: Due to increased expense, luncheon dues will be increased to:

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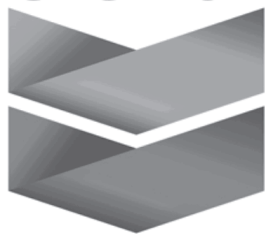
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NOGS Science Fair Winners

NOGS invited this year's Region 9 Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair First place winners and their teachers to the May 7th luncheon at Le Pavillon.

In the Senior Division, Jordan Badeaux of John Curtis Christian School won 1st place with his project titled "How Does "Spiking" Calcite Solutions with Lanthanides During Simulated Microgravity Environments Alter Crystal Zoning, Solute Diffusion, and Crystal Morphology?". In the Junior Division, Charles Mentz of Christian Brothers won 1st place with his project titled "Soils: Composition, Compaction and Strength".

At the luncheon, NOGS President Mike Fein congratulated the students and their teachers for an outstanding achievement at this year's fair, and also recognized and thanked their teachers: Brother Lawrence Konersman of Christian Brothers, and Cathy Boucvalt of John Curtis Christian School, for their career efforts in fostering a passion for scientific endeavors in the young men and women of the Greater New Orleans area.

Senior Division 1st place winner Jordan Badeaux (center), with teacher Cathy Boucvalt (left), and NOGS President Mike Fein (right).



Junior Division 1st place winner Charles Mentz (center), with teacher Brother Lawrence Konersman (left), and NOGS President Mike Fein (right).

South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

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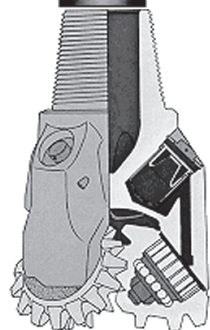
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- **Marathon Oil Corporation** on 4-April announced a deep-water discovery well at GC Block 244. The Droshky #1 (previously Troika Deep) is located in ~2,900 feet of water. Drilled to a TD of 21,190 feet, the well encountered high quality, oil-bearing reservoirs, which based upon log information, are estimated to total about 250 feet of net oil pay. "The preliminary results suggest that the Droshky #1 is a commercial discovery with development likely through the Troika Unit infrastructure which is located approximately two miles from the Droshky well," said Philip G. Behrman, Marathon senior vice president of Worldwide Exploration. Operations have commenced to drill up to two sidetrack wells. These will be followed by engineering development studies. Marathon holds a 100 percent interest in the Droshky #1 well and a 50 percent interest in the Troika Unit.
- **McMoRan** on 17-April updated its first quarter 2007 activities. In March 2007, a successful production test at the Laphroaig discovery, onshore in St. Mary Parish, LA was conducted. The well FARO ~41 MMCFG/D on a 31/64" choke with a FTP of 13,177 psi. Adjacent infrastructure will allow production in the third quarter. As previously reported, the Laphroaig discovery was deepened to a TVD of 19,060 feet in February 2007. Wireline logs indicated 56 net feet of hydrocarbon-bearing sand over a 75 foot gross interval.

The Hurricane Deep well at SMI Block 217, spudded 10/26/06 was drilled to a TVD of 20,712 feet in March 2007. While logs indicated a total of 900 gross feet of upper Gyro sand was penetrated, only the top section of this unit has a potential 40 feet of net hydrocarbons in a 53 foot gross interval. This exceptional sand thickness is encouraging as it suggests prospects in the Mound Point / JB Mountain / Hurricane / Blueberry Hill area could have substantial potential Gyro sand accumulation. Hurricane Deep was T&A in March 2007 pending receipt of special tubulars. These are expected at mid-year, with first production from the Gyro sand anticipated in the third quarter. Two zones in the shallower Rob-L and Operc sections of the well are behind pipe. The prospect is in 12 feet of water on OCS 310, one mile northeast of the Hurricane discovery well, which is currently producing.

The Cas exploratory well at ST Block 70 was spudded on 30-January, and is currently being drilling below 13,400 feet towards a PTVD of 25,000 feet. The prospect is in ~65 feet of water.

March and April were busy for McMoRan with the Cottonwood Point exploratory prospect (VR Block 31) well spudded on 1-March. The well was being drilled below 8,900 feet on 17-April, with a PTD of 21,000 feet. The exploration well at Flatrock (SMI Block 212) was spudded on 27-March, and as of 17-April, it was being drilled below 1,700 feet towards a PTD of 16,500 feet. The Mound Point South exploratory prospect at Louisiana State Lease 340 was spudded on 12-April, and again as of 17-April it was being drilled below 900 feet. Its PTD is 20,000 feet. The Point Chevreuil #2 development well, approximately one mile west of the discovery, was spudded 12-April on Louisiana State Lease 18350 in St. Mary Parish, LA to develop the proved reserves discovered in the Point Chevreuil #1 well. The well was being drilled below 4,500 feet as of 17-April, with a PTD of 14,500 feet.



As previously reported by McMoRan, the Blueberry Hill well at Louisiana State Lease 340 encountered four potentially productive hydrocarbon bearing sands below 22,200 feet in February 2005. Testing commenced in the fourth quarter of 2006 following the receipt of special tubulars and casing for this high pressure well. Although perforated, production has yet to be established because of blockage above the perfs. Additional operations to clear the blockage and complete testing of the well will be undertaken. Information obtained from the testing of the Blueberry Hill well and the results of the Hurricane Deep well will be incorporated in future plans for the JB Mountain Deep well at SMI Block 224, as all three areas demonstrate similar geologic settings, and all are targeting deep Miocene sands of equivalent age.

- **Petsec Energy** spudded the Bowie Lumber Associates No. 001 well at the Skywagon Prospect on 19-April, the first well in their 60,000 acre Moonshine Project in St James Parish. The well has a PTVD of 12,000 feet.

Petsec (50% WI and operator, 36-37.5% NRI) anticipates participation in 6-9 wells on Moonshine during 2007. Each will be in the 12,000 foot range with target reserve sizes ranging from 5 to 15 BCFG. If successful, production could occur in 4-5 months after completion given the infrastructure in the area.

Prior to Petsec's acquisition of its interests in the Moonshine Project, less than half of the block had been surveyed with 2D seismic, and no 3D seismic had been acquired. Petsec Energy completed a 3D survey over the area in 2005 and during 2006 mapped a number of gas and oil prospects which will be tested over the next 2 to 3 years.

Petsec Energy Ltd. is an independent oil and gas exploration and production company headquartered in Sydney, NSW, Australia, with offices in Lafayette.

Paul Post

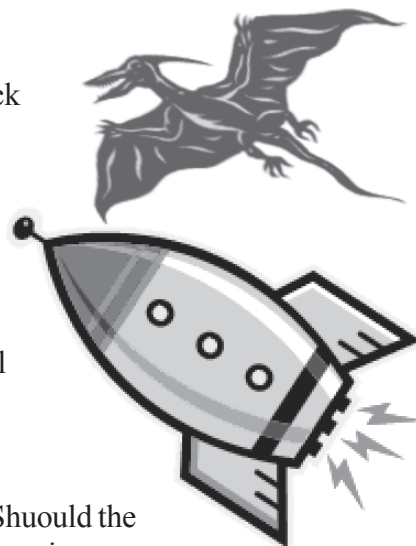
BLAST FROM NOGS PAST

15 Years Ago (June 1992): A letter from the State of Louisiana to President Jack Langford explained the recent decision to remove general fund support for the Louisiana Geological Survey.

30 Years Ago (June 1977): The upcoming June NOGS meeting talk was entitled "What is Remote Sensing?" by B. R. Congdon of the USGS' Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Program. His abstract included the following: "Remote sensing has many and varied applications. Mr. Congdon will present an introduction to the program and will discuss the remotely sensed materials which are available to the public."

45 years Ago (June 1962): A special article by B. E. Van Arsdale, Jr. entitled "Should the Name of Our Science Be Changed?" expressed concern over the growing tendency in literature to qualify the word geology by "adding to it the words 'and related sciences,' changing it to 'geological sciences,' and by direct substitution of either the term 'geoscience' or the the term 'earth science.'" He goes on the state that "our science has not heretofore achieved the public acclaim it should rightfully have. The space program's lunar probes will soon call the attention of the world to geology. Our standing as geologists is not going to be improved if the public, as it becomes aware of the importance of our science, does not associate our science with the word geology."

- Tim Piwowar



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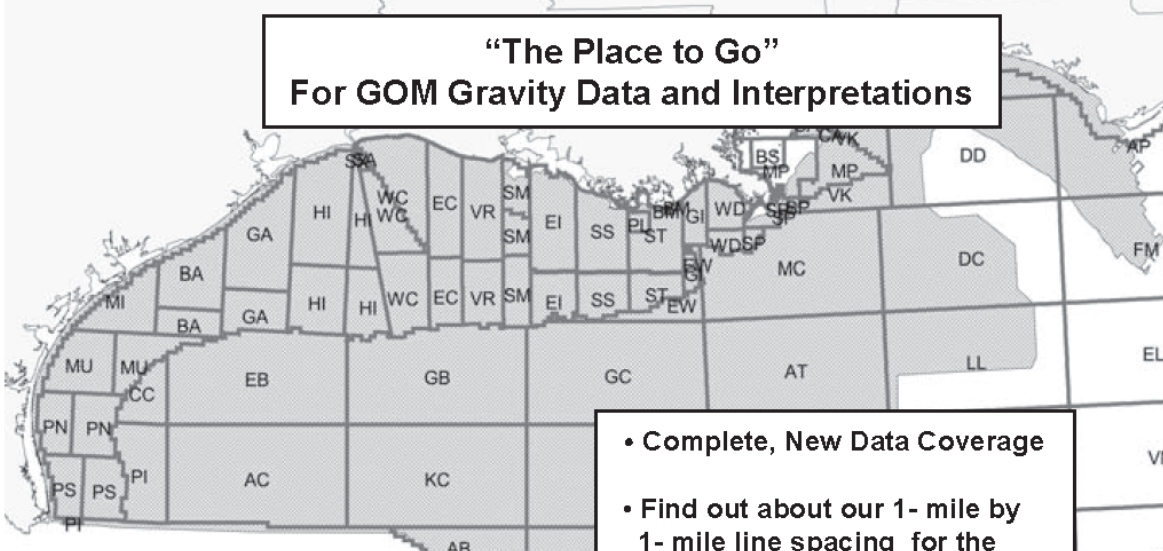
While Mother Nature is a powerful force to reckon with as evidenced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, responding to extraordinary challenges is a way of life at Shell. And Charlie Williams, Chief Scientist and Engineer, is definitely up to the task. Under his lead, a record-setting 1000-ton rig lift and 2700 feet deep pipeline repairs for one of Shell's key oil production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico were safely completed ahead of schedule bringing much-needed supply back into production. Learn more about how Shell uses technology to secure energy by visiting shell.com/us/sepc



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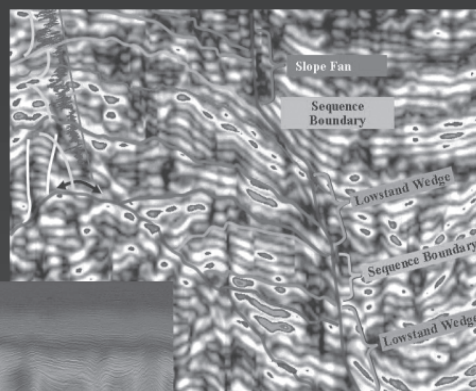
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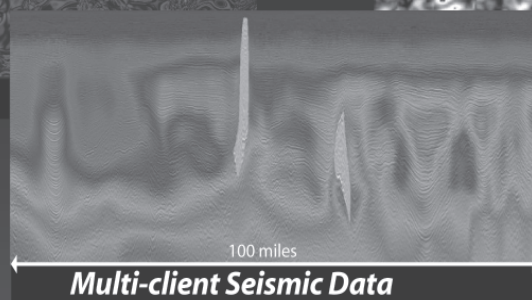
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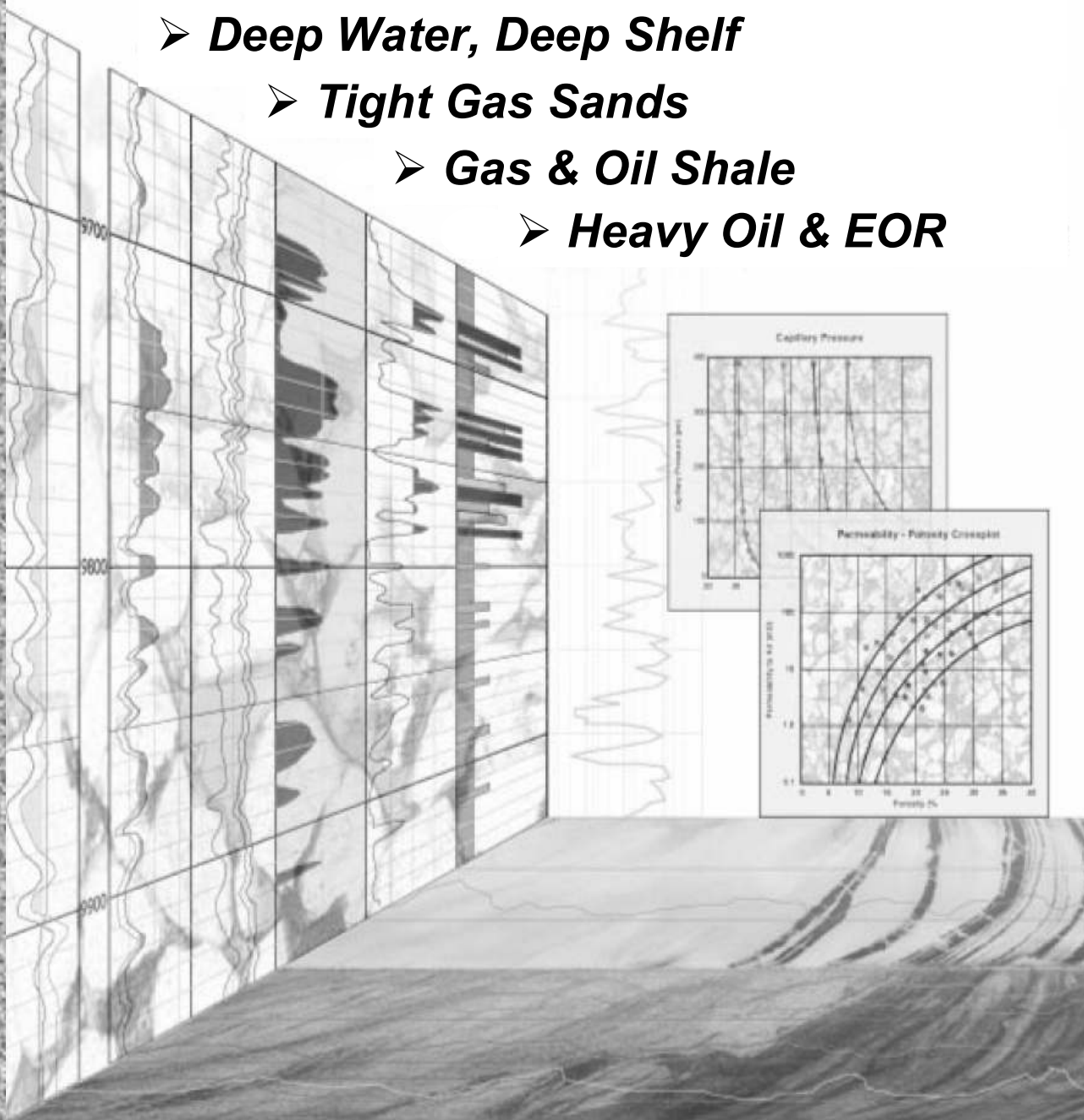
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- ✎ **DNR and Mineral Board members seek more business for Louisiana from Oklahoma-based Energy Companies** (DNR News Release April 25, 2007): Louisiana Mineral Board Secretary Marjorie McKeithen, Commissioner of Conservation James Welsh, and Mineral Board member Carol LeBlanc recently visited several energy companies in Oklahoma on April 18-19, 2007, as part of a series of meetings with energy industry officials from the top oil and gas producing states.

McKeithen presented recognition awards to five companies that all have investments and properties in Louisiana. The companies included Samson Contour Energy E & P LLC, EnerQuest Oil and Gas, Chesapeake Energy Inc., Petrohawk Energy Corp., and Palace Exploration Company. "We recognize that these companies have a choice about where to spend their investment dollars, and we want to make sure that they know that Louisiana appreciates their business, and that we want more of it. One way for us to gain an edge on other oil and gas states is through good customer service," McKeithen said. The company's representatives were also provided information packets from the Mineral Board and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which emphasize improvements that Louisiana has made to make doing business here better.

"I want to commend you for focusing on getting input from the operators, it makes for open lines of communications and our company appreciates your efforts in reaching out," said Petrohawk Energy's Senior Vice President Weldon Holcombe. Petrohawk Energy operates in the Gulf Coast region and has existing natural gas properties in north Louisiana.

The agency's other marketing outreach efforts have included companies based in Houston, Dallas and in Denver.

Source: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/pubinfo/newsr/2007/0425min-oklahoma.ssi>

- ✎ **Treasures of the Earth: Animals, Fossils, Rocks, Minerals & Artifacts**, By John Carr and Gary Stringer is featured in the April 2007 issue of Louisiana Road Trips, Louisiana Scenic Byways. If taking a road trip this summer, you might want to put this stop on your list. The Museum of Natural History is on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The Zoology and Earth Sciences Divisions offer an excellent collection of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles collected on class field trips over a 45 year period, as well as fossils, minerals, rocks, and archeological material. The museum is open Fridays from 9am-2pm or other times by appointment. Research collection tours and group tours may be scheduled in advance by calling (318) 342-1868. Admission is free.

Read the article in its entirety at: <http://la-road-trips.com/Apr07/1.pdf>

- ✎ **2006 NOGS Highlights** have been recently updated by Ed Picou on the NOGS website at www.nogs.org.

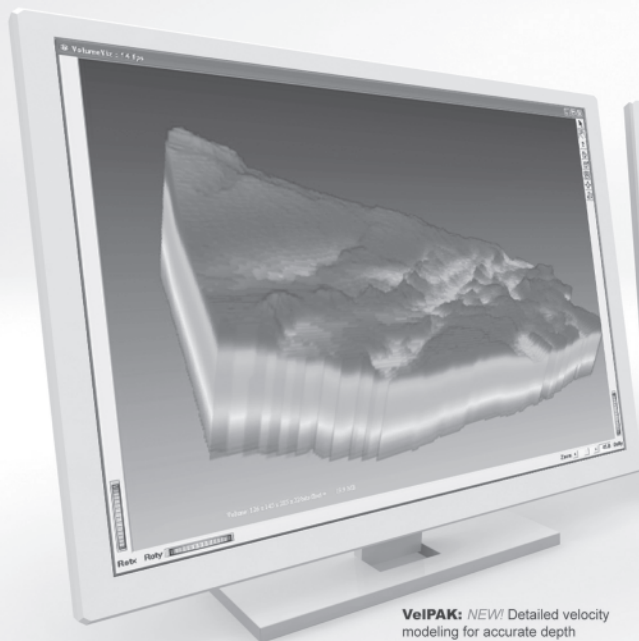
Robert Rooney

SMT Users Group Meetings to be Held on UNO Campus

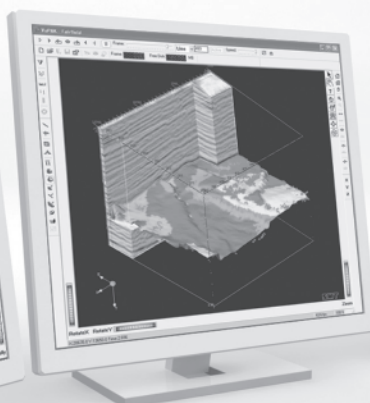
SMT will have the Gulf Coast Users Group (GCUG) meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. They will occur every other month (2 months) and the first one will be on July 11th, 2007. The time will be from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM and will be held at the University of New Orleans (UNO), Geology Department. Please contact Mitch Luehr at (713) 464-6188, or email him at mluehr@seismicmicro.com if you wish to attend.

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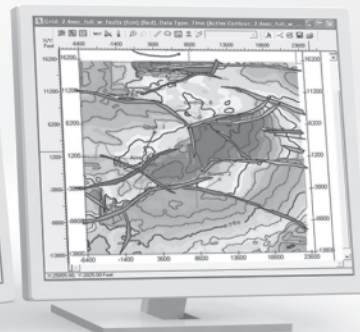
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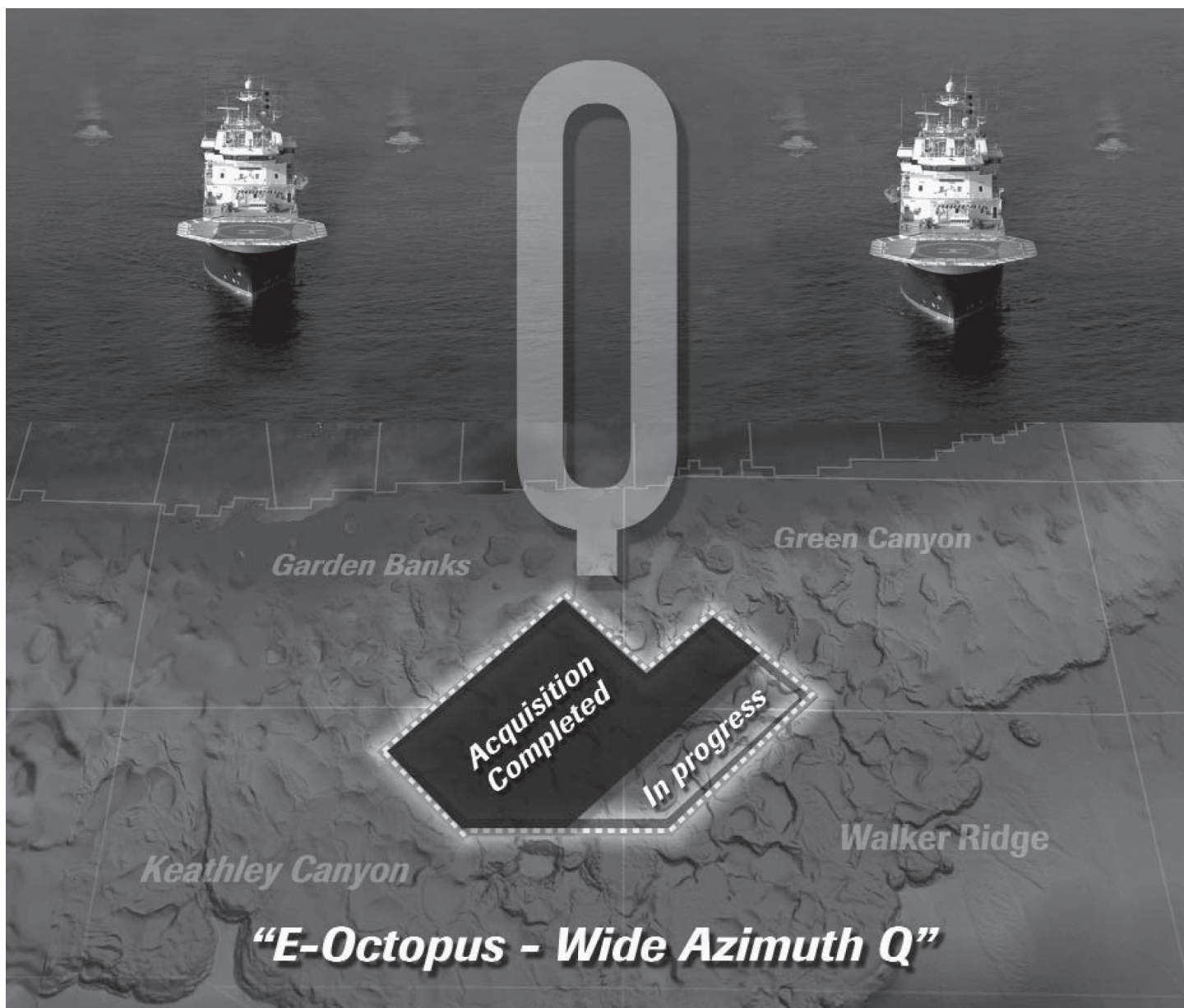
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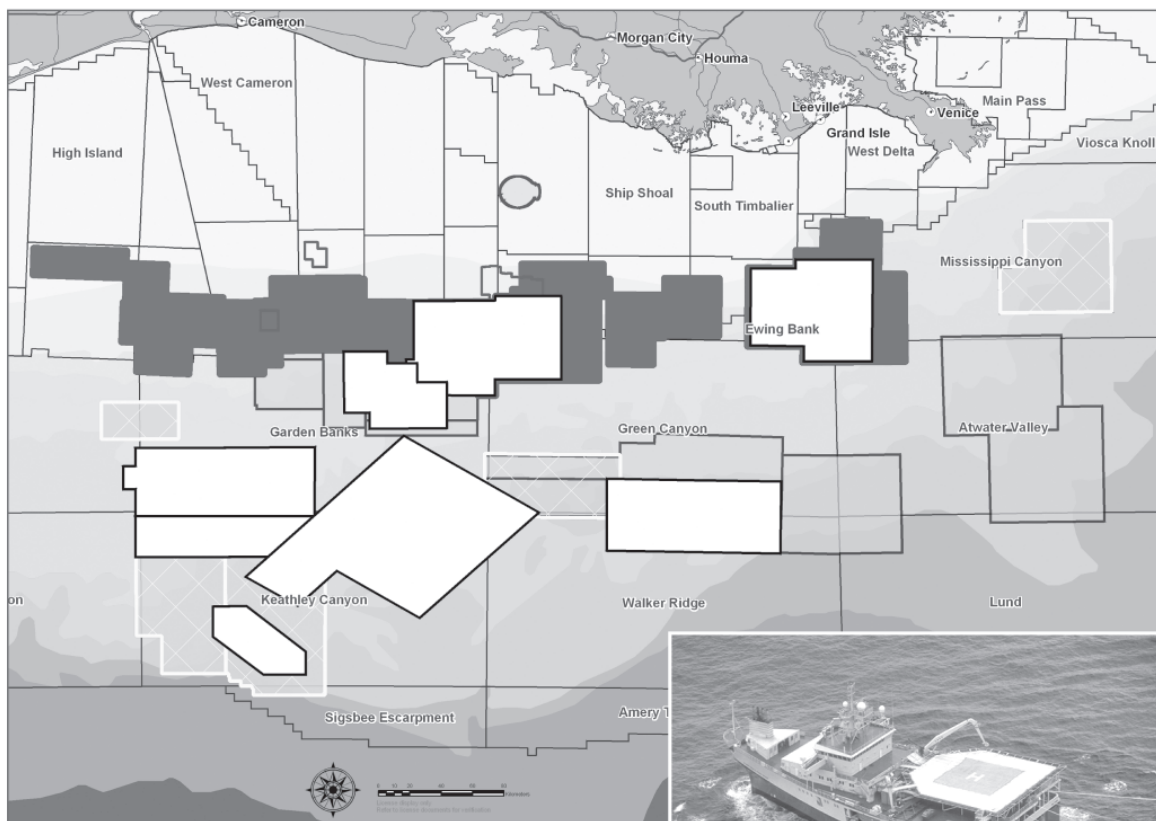
May's website trivia question was, "What was the deepest well drilled in Louisiana?" A search of several sources indicates the deepest well drilled in Louisiana was the Martin Exploration Echart #1, St. Landry Parish, drilled to a 25,703' in 1981. Other deep wells include: Placid Oil Company SL 5407 #1, St. Bernard Parish, drilled to 25,600' in 1970, and SOHIO Petroleum L.W. Magoun #1, Concordia Parish, drilled to 25,015' in 1986.



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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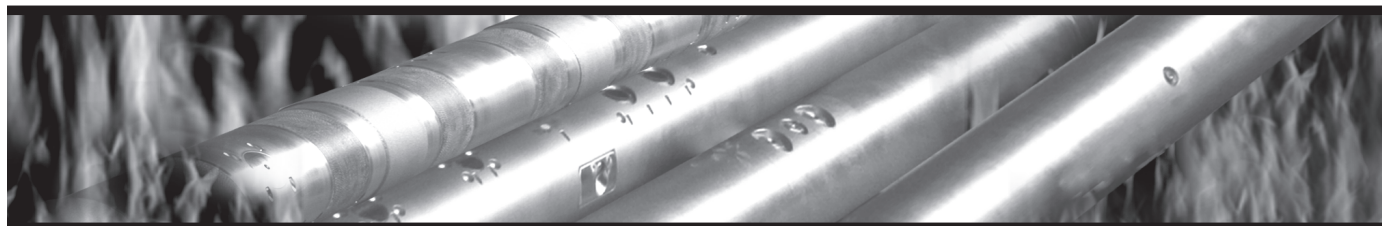
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