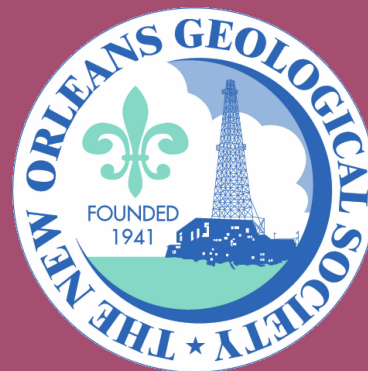


NOGS LOG

April 2008

Volume 48, Number 10



Upcoming Events and Activities

April 5 - Super Science Saturday

11:00-3:00 at Louisiana Children's Museum.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Tom Bergeon - (504)832-3772,
tom.bergeon@centuryx.com

April 7 - NOGS Luncheon

*** At the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***

Free validated parking in hotel garage

David Kring, Visiting Scientist for the Lunar Exploration Initiative, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, will present: "The Chicxulub Impact Event in the Gulf of Mexico and its Environmental Effects at the K-T Boundary."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biographies)

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

ADMISSION:

Check with concierge or
front desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

with reservation \$30.00

without reservation \$35.00

Student Member with reservation Free

April 30 - NOGS Petroleum Geology for Non-Geologists Course

Shell Auditorium, One Shell Square, New Orleans. See announcement on page 12.

May 5 - NOGS Annual Golf Tournament

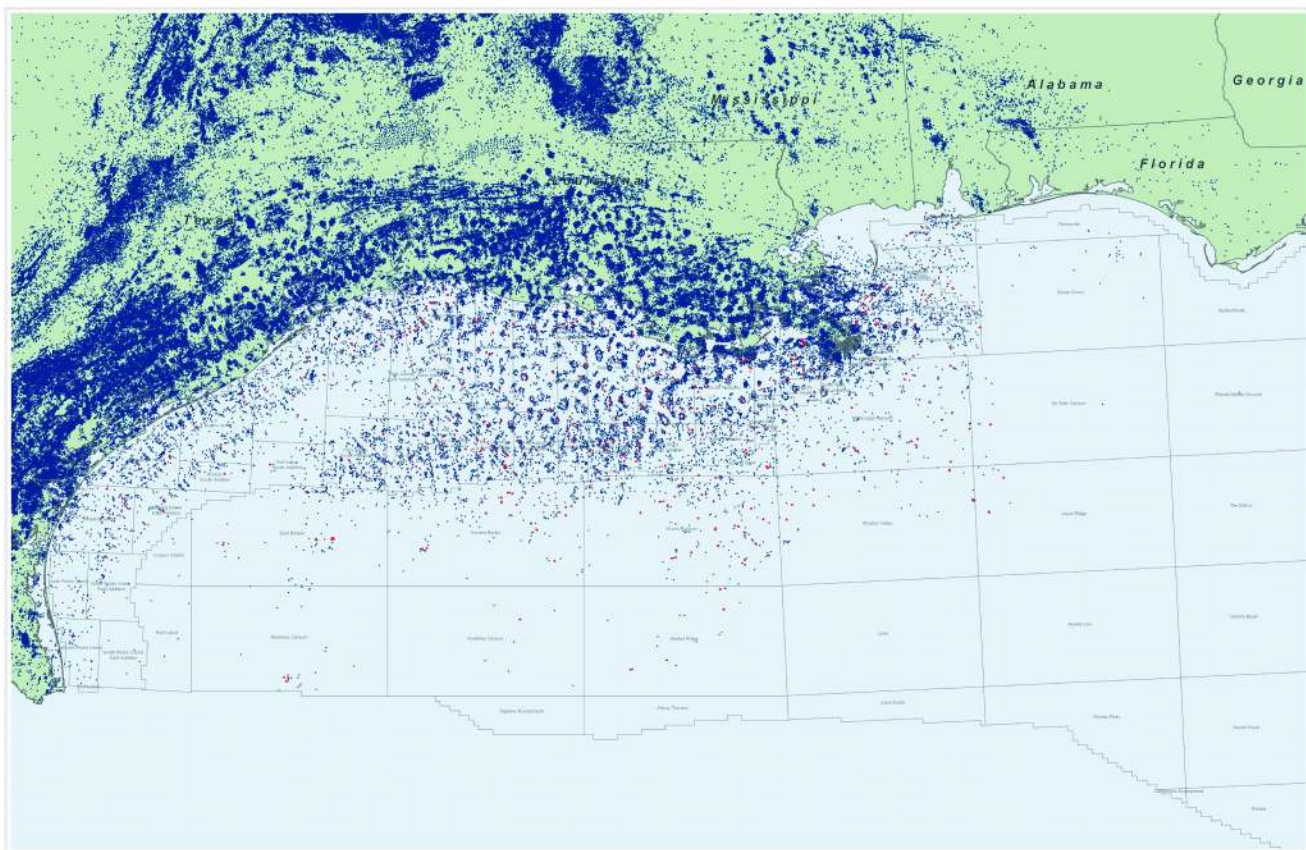
Money Hill Golf & Country Club in Abita Springs. See announcement on page 21.

May 9 - NOGS/SGS Zephyrs Baseball Outing

See announcement on page 15.

May 12 - NOGS Luncheon

Art Johnson, President of the New Orleans Geological Society and President of Hydrate Energy International, will present: "The Impact of China and India on Oil and Strategic Metal Prices."



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E-mail: info@nogs.org □ Website: www.nogs.org

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 March 26, 2008.

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from the President

"Going Electronic"

In May 2006, one week after I became NOGS President-Elect, Chevron announced that it was moving its New Orleans office to a new site in Covington. While I was sorry to see jobs leaving the city, I was pleased that at least the jobs were staying in Louisiana. My real concern was that the move would result in a significant decrease in attendance at our monthly luncheons. Chevron accounts for somewhere around one third of our luncheon attendees some months. NOGS members from Chevron have been active in other ways as well, including officers and committee chairs, and some might well be reluctant to be so involved after the move.

Luncheon economics were also an initial concern. We enjoyed having our meetings at Le Pavillon after Hurricane Katrina forced us out of the Fairmont, but Le Pavillon charged us a stout fee for use of the audio-visual equipment, even when we brought our own projector. That charge was prorated across the attendees and was reflected in the price of the meal. Fewer attendees would mean the cost per person would have to go up. We could foresee at some point the price increases driving away others as well.

A solution presented itself when Le Pavillon was unable to accommodate us for the February meeting due to their bookings for Mardi Gras. In exploring other options we found that the Holiday Inn could take care of us for that February meeting. In addition, they do not charge an audio-visual fee, so that even with lower attendance we could hold our luncheon costs down. The Holiday Inn had some other advantages as well, including free validated parking in the building (space available). The NOGS Board voted for the change in venue and we had our first luncheon there in December. (And yes, we are still working with the hotel to improve the menu and service, and I believe we have had improvements each month).

Another benefit of the Holiday Inn also presented itself as we sought ways to keep our North Shore members engaged and involved. The meeting room at the Holiday Inn is wired for high-speed Internet and we are working with Chevron to initiate an Internet link from the Holiday Inn to Chevron's new North Shore Auditorium. The May meeting will be the first time that we will try this approach, with

attendees there able to see the PowerPoint slides and hear the speaker. We are still working out many details with Chevron - how to handle lunch for those attending remotely, handling Q&A from a distance, etc. In fact, this technology has been widely used for well over a decade, so we should be smart enough to make it work. As Chevron is still settling into their new facility, the net meeting in May will only be available there for Chevron employees. Chevron is hoping to have others attend in later months. I especially want to thank George Rhoads for helping make this happen.

As we have been working out this new format, Tulane and UNO have also expressed an interest in being linked in. Our university colleagues have always found it difficult to attend if they have late-morning or early-afternoon classes. Going electronic has the potential to significantly increase the number of members who participate in NOGS. On the down side, I will miss the face-to-face contact and informal networking with those attending at remote locations. We can speculate a bit on where going electronic could lead. We have many NOGS members in Houston - might a site be available at some point where our Houston members could get together for remote NOGS luncheon attendance?

Going electronic isn't limited to our luncheons. Beginning at the February NOGS Board meeting, we initiated "paperless" meetings, with the agenda and various reports projected on the wall from a laptop PC rather than having reams of paper handouts. (Special thanks to Will Conatser for pointing this out to the rest of us). At some point our Board of Directors meetings could even become net meetings, with our directors and officers attending the meeting from home or office if they choose. In that event, no one would have to be concerned about becoming a NOGS officer because of the distance to our Union Street office.

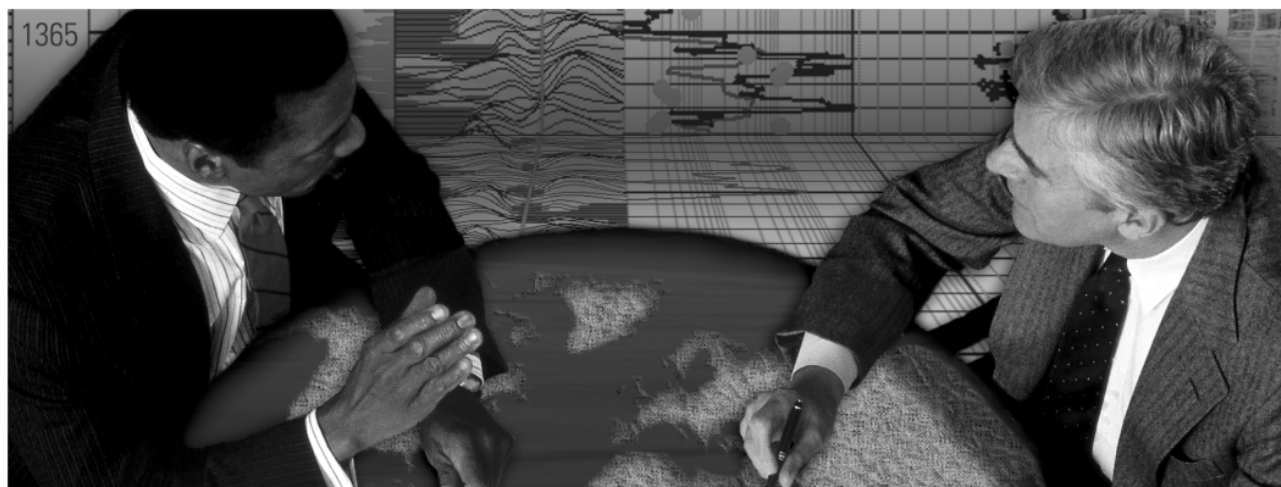
The changes in the world around us give us many challenges, but for every challenge there are an even greater number of possible solutions. The real challenge is in having the wisdom and courage to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves.

Art Johnson

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April 7 Luncheon Presentation
*** at the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***

**The Chicxulub Impact Event in the Gulf of Mexico and its
Environmental Effects at the K-T Boundary**

presented by
David A. Kring, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston

ABSTRACT

A search of globally-distributed impact debris led to our discovery of the Chicxulub Crater in the Yucatan, Mexico. The crater is the largest impact site produced during the Phanerozoic and is directly linked to impact debris deposited in K-T boundary sediments. The cratering event devastated the Gulf of Mexico region. It also distributed a plume of melt and vapor debris through the atmosphere, causing a global environmental catastrophe that is likely the dominant cause of the terminal Cretaceous mass extinction.

BIOGRAPHY

David A. Kring received a B.S. with Honors from Indiana University in Geology and Astrophysics in 1984 and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Earth and Planetary Sciences in 1989. David's current position is Visiting Scientist for the Lunar Exploration Initiative, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, TX. This research institute was founded by President Johnson and the National Academies of Science to help NASA with lunar exploration during Apollo and continues to advise NASA on its exploration efforts.

More details of his past positions are posted at:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/kring/>

A list of his research publications is posted at:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/kring/research.shtm>

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

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next NOGS luncheon will be May 12 at the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome. Art Johnson, President of the New Orleans Geological Society and President of Hydrate Energy International, will present: "The Impact of China and India on Oil and Strategic Metal Prices." Contact the NOGS office to make your reservation.

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies & Gulf Coast Section of SEPM



- CALL FOR PAPERS -

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The Houston Geological Society is proud to host the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting for GSA/SSSA/ASA/CSSA/GSAGC/GCSSEPM. This joint meeting, which will run from October 5th-9th, 2008, will include GCAGS sessions on Monday October 6th and Tuesday October 7th. GCAGS needs your assistance to continue our long tradition of presenting the best in geoscience from the Gulf Coast and then publishing these materials in the "GCAGS Transactions". We want you to be part of this tradition by submitting a contribution to our technical program and the "2008 GCAGS Transactions"

TECHNICAL SESSIONS (Oral & Poster)

Energy Budgets & the Global Markets

Applied Micropaleontology

Shale Gas

Hydrates and Shallow Gas

Integrated Pore Pressure Predictions: Case Studies

Geology of the Gulf Coastal Plain: Insights into Offshore Exploration

Faults: Friend and Foe

Allochthonous Salt: Impact from Exploration to Production

Visualization of Depositional Systems

Predictive Models for Deep-Water Reservoir Distributions: The Subsalt Challenge

Old Fields-New Life: How New Technologies or New Ideas Have Made a Difference

Advances in Seismic Imaging-Impact on Exploration through Production: Case Studies

Depositional Systems: Insights from Outcrops, Shallow Seismic, or Coastal Studies

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Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain Paleontology

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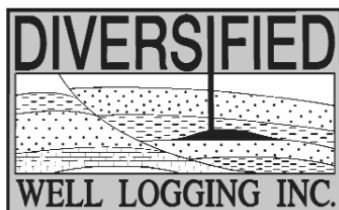
HOW AND WHEN TO SUBMIT:

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be submitted by **April 15th, 2008** to www.acsmeetings.org/2008. First drafts for the "2008 GCAGS Transactions" must be submitted by **May 1st, 2008** with final manuscripts due by **June 24th**. Contact information for the technical session chairs, as well as instructions for authors for "2008 GCAGS Transactions", can be found at the GCAGS website www.gcags2008.com. Due to the compressed time lines for this year's joint meeting, we ask you to contact the individual session chairs listed on our website to notify them of your interest and reserve a spot in the technical program. Abstract and manuscript submissions prior to the April 15th and May 1st respective deadlines, would be much appreciated by the "2008 GCAGS Transactions" editors. For general questions on the technical program please contact Dr. Art Donovan, the 2008 GCAGS Technical Program Chair. He can be contacted via e-mail at: art.donovan@bp.com.



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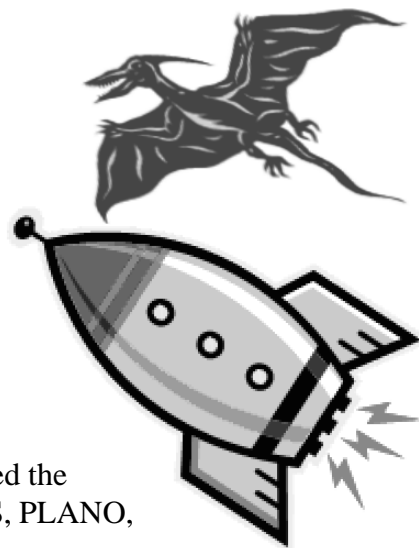
Blast From NOGS Past

10 Years Ago (April 1998): Will Conatser's President's Column opened with: "the Great NOGS Luncheon Debate has been resolved. Now and forever NOGS monthly luncheon meetings will be held at the City Energy Club." This announcement followed months of debate and finally a vote with the Fairmont Hotel and Intercontinental Hotel also under consideration.

20 Years Ago (April 1988): The New Orleans Fairgrounds had just honored the petroleum industry with "Petroleum Day at the Races". Members of NOGS, PLANO, SIPES, SGS and SPE all took part in the festivities. Eric C. Broadbridge's Entertainment News column noted that the filly "I'm Searching" won the fourth race also entitled "Petroleum Day at the Races". "All good members and friends who were quick to pick up the omen planted by the name of the eventual winner had their faith rewarded."

35 Years Ago (April 1973): The New Orleans Gem and Mineral Society was to hold its annual Gem and Mineral Exhibit soon at Jackson Barracks. "Admission charge is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children."

- *Tim Piwowar*



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PETROLEUM GEOLOGY FOR NON-GEOLOGISTS

The New Orleans Geological Society is presenting a one day course entitled "Petroleum Geology for Non-Geologists," **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 30, 2008** in the Shell Auditorium, One Shell Square, 701 Poydras St., New Orleans. The course will consist of a brief introduction to Basic Geology, followed by a review of how oil and gas are formed, how they are concentrated into reservoirs, the geological and geophysical methods used in exploration, and an overview of drilling and completion practices.

This course should be of significant benefit and interest to anyone who in one way or another works with geologists and geological data, such as land personnel, administrative staff, draftsmen, and computer programmers and processors.

Instructors will be Duncan Goldthwaite, Consulting Geologist; Robert Branson, Consulting Geologist; Bruce Robertson, Consulting Geologist; and Devi Subramaniam, Drilling Engineer, Chevron.

Cost will be \$35.00 per participant. Course notes and mid-morning refreshments will be provided.

Those interested can register by sending a check for \$35.00, payable to NOGS, to:

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Super Science Saturday

April 5th

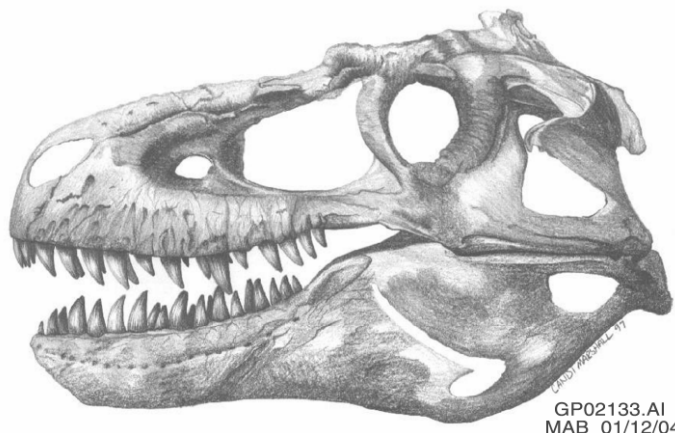
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Louisiana Children's Museum

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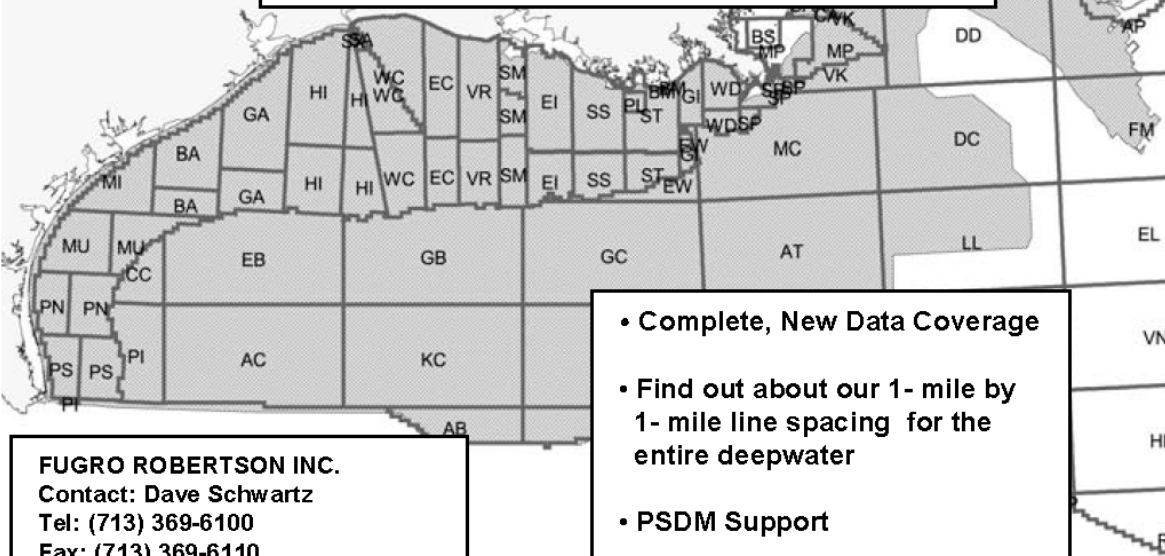
Super Science Saturday is fast approaching and we need volunteers to man the various stations. We will have hands on displays of fossils, an oil finder game, and other interesting activities.

Please pass this along to other earth scientists in your organization who may not be NOGS members. We are looking for people to do 2 hour shifts 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. The stations are attention grabbing and easy to learn.

Robertson



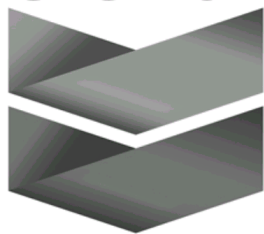
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NOGS 2008-2009 CANDIDATES

For PRESIDENT ELECT

KLEKAMP/REITER



Tom Klekamp received a BS (1967) from Xavier University and an MS (1971) from the University of Cincinnati. He began his career in 1972 as a geologist with Shell Oil Company and in 1977 served as district geologist for Energy Reserves Group. In 1981 he co-founded El-Can Exploration Inc., and since then has served as director

for El-Can. He is also the president of Amber Resources, L.L.C. Tom is a former board member of the Pryor-Mottl Geology Scholarship Fund and in 2006 he founded the Klekamp Student Travel Fund, both for the University of Cincinnati Department of Geology.

Tom is an active NOGS member and has served as a member of the AAPG House of Delegates (2004-07), Memorial Foundation (current), treasurer (2002 - term unfulfilled), and editorial committee for 2005 GCAGS Transactions. He was also the SIPES New Orleans Chapter treasurer (two terms) and is currently editor of the New Orleans Chapter Newsletter for SPE. He is a member of AAPG-DPA, SEPM, and GSA, and is a Geological Society of London fellow.



David E. Reiter received an MS (1980) in Geology from the University of New Mexico. He began his career as an onshore exploration geologist with Shell Oil Co. in New Orleans. In 1984 he joined ODECO Oil & Gas (now Murphy E&P Co.) as an exploration geologist working primarily in the central offshore Louisiana shelf area.

He later moved into development geology with responsibility for several GOM shelf and deepwater fields. In 2005, Mr. Reiter joined Dominion Exploration and Production Company as Senior Staff Geologist in their GOM Shelf Exploration Group. He is currently employed with Energy Partners, Ltd, as a Deepwater Exploration Geologist.

David has been an active member of NOGS for the past 24 years, and has served as NOGS Best Paper Committee Chairman for the past 15 years. He has served as a trustee of the NOGS Memorial Foundation Board and is currently a member of the NOGS Nominating Committee. He served as Co-Chairman of the 1996 SPWLA International Symposium, Poster Session Chairman of the 1997 GCAGS Convention, Golf Tournament Chairman for the 2000 AAPG Convention, and Judging Chairman for the ill-fated 2005 GCAGS convention in New Orleans. He was past V.P.-Public Relations and Treasurer of the SPWLA New Orleans Chapter and is currently serving as its President-Elect. David is also an active member of SEG.

For SECRETARY

RAPPOLD/WISEMAN



Penne Rappold was born and raised in New Orleans. After graduating from Riverdale High School she went on to receive a BS degree in geology from the University of New Orleans. She has spent the last 30 years working both Exploration and Production projects in the offshore Gulf of Mexico for Shell E&P. After

retiring from Shell in 1999, Penne began geologic consulting work and is currently assessing redevelopment opportunities in several deepwater fields for Shell. Professional memberships include AAPG and NOGS with participation on the Continuing Education Committee and currently Membership Committee Chairman. In addition to her professional career, Penne is a wife, mother, grandmother and active volunteer with the Hancock County Food Pantry and several recovery organizations.



Frances Wiseman is a New Orleans native and has worked for the Minerals Management Service and USGS for 33 years. She is currently a staff geologist with the Production & Development Program Office - Reservoir Analysis Unit, working on deepwater conservation issues in the Gulf of Mexico. Her earlier work

focused on reserves estimates and production issues such as the downhole commingling of reservoirs. Fran is the chairperson of the GOM Recycling Committee and vice president of the Gulf Coast Recreation Association.

Fran graduated from Cabrini High School in New Orleans. She received a BS degree in geology from the University of New Orleans, and studied geology and petroleum engineering at LSU and Tulane. She has been a member of NOGS for 33 years and is also a member of AAPG and SPWLA.

NOGS 2008-2009 CANDIDATES

For VICE PRESIDENT

DAWERS/MELILLO



Nancye Dawers is an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences at Tulane University. She obtained a BS from University of Kentucky, a MS from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a PhD from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. From

1996 to 1999 she worked as a Research Associate at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Her research interests include fault growth and interaction, neotectonics, and 3D seismic interpretation. Much of her work focuses on normal faults in the Basin & Range, the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. At Tulane Nancye teaches courses in physical geology, structural geology, subsurface geology and tectonics.

As an active member of AAPG, Nancye has organized special sessions for the 2001 and 2004 annual meetings, has published in the Bulletin, and is currently an alternate delegate in AAPG's House of Delegates. She is also a member of GSA and AGU. Nancye has been a member of NOGS since moving to New Orleans in 2000, and served as NOGS Secretary in 2004-2005.



Al Melillo is a Staff Geologist for Chevron, currently assigned to the deepwater development group. He joined Chevron in 1986 as a biostratigrapher for the GOM, and in 1994 switched over to development geology and worked various GOM shelf fields until moving to the deepwater development group in 2003. Al received a BS (1974) in Geology from Montclair State College and stayed another year to obtain teaching certification. He was a 7th and 8th grade science teacher for 4 years before returning to graduate school. He earned an MS (1982) and PhD (1985) from Rutgers University. While at Rutgers, Al was an Adjunct Professor for 1 ½ years, and served as a Shipboard Foraminiferal Biostratigrapher for Leg 101 of the Ocean Drilling Program.

Al has been active in AAPG, SEPM and NOGS for a number of years. In 1993 he was the SEPM Technical Program Chairman for the AAPG-SEPM Annual Convention held in New Orleans. From 1992-1996 he was on the SEPM K-12 Earth Science Education Committee, serving as Chairman for 2 years. He was a member of the AAPG K-12 Earth Science Education Committee from 1999-2001. He organized the Earth Science Teacher Program which was offered to over 100 area teachers at the 1998 SEG Convention and presented a similar program at the AAPG convention in 2000. Al helped create the Bill Craig Scholarship Fund and served on the NOGS Memorial Foundation Board from 2003 to 2004. He has trained volunteer workers for the NOGS Super Science Saturday since it's inception.

For TREASURER

PIWOWAR/SWANEY



Tim Piwowar is a Senior Geologist with Shell Exploration and Production Co. currently assigned to the Mars field development team as a production geologist. He was born and raised in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, received a BS (1994) in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and an MS

(1997) in Geological Sciences from Cornell University. He joined Shell's shelf exploration team in New Orleans in 1997. He has also worked as a development and production geologist on several deepwater subsea projects as well as production geologist for the Auger field. He has extensive experience building static reservoir models for various deepwater assets. Tim has been an active member of NOGS for the past 11 years. He served as Advertising Committee Chair from 2003 to 2007 and is currently Editor for the NOGS Log. He is also an active member of AAPG.



Jim Swaney is employed by the Minerals Management Service with 40 years experience in Gulf Coast exploration, development, and unitization. He began his career at Texaco in New Orleans followed by positions with several independent companies including Louisiana Land & Exploration, Tomlinson Interests, Inc., and

Valero Producing Company, generating exploration and development prospects and reviewing submittals. He joined Minerals Management Service in 1992 where he is currently a unitization geologist.

Jim received his BS from University of Pittsburgh and did graduate work at University of New Orleans. He is currently an AAPG-DPA Certified Petroleum Geologist and a member of NOGS. In the past, Jim has served on the NOGS Employment Committee and on AAPG Committee on Environmental Geology.

NOGS 2007-2008 CANDIDATES

For **DIRECTOR**

REILLY/WAINWRIGHT



Brenda Reilly joined Energy Partners Limited in 2006. Her current responsibilities are exploitation and field management for EPL's fields in the South Timbalier area. Prior to EPL she worked for Murphy Oil Corp. (formerly Odeco) for 21 years. At Murphy she worked as a Development Geologist for their working

interest properties in the offshore Gulf of Mexico until 1998 when she was transferred to the Exploration Department. She received a BS (1982) in Geology from the University of New Orleans.

Brenda is an active NOGS member and is currently serving on the Best Paper Award Committee. She served as Chairman of the Memorial Foundation 2005-2006, Chairman of Office Operations 2005-2006, President 2004-2005, AAPG Delegate 2002-2004, Vice-President 2001-2002 and Treasurer 1996-1997. Brenda was Entertainment Chairman for the 2000 AAPG Convention held in New Orleans. She was a member of the NOGS Entertainment Committee 1994-1996, including Chairmanship from 1994-1995. In addition, she was Chairman of the 1996 SPWLA 37th Annual International Symposium held in New Orleans. She is also a member of AAPG, SGS and SPWLA. Brenda is an AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist and Texas Board Certified Petroleum Geologist.



Scott Wainwright is President of Bret Exploration Company, Inc. and currently working in partnership as a geologist with Mustang Energy, L.C., involved with exploration in south Louisiana and across the Gulf Coast. A native of Mobile, Alabama, Scott grew up in Metairie and graduated with a BS (1979) in Geology from Louisiana State University. He attended graduate school in the evenings at the University of New Orleans for several years while beginning his career with Liberty Oil and Gas Corp. in New Orleans. He has spent the last 28 years working in exploration and development, primarily onshore south Louisiana, as a consultant and employee of small-to-midsize independents.

Scott has been an active member of AAPG and NOGS for 28 years. For NOGS, he served as an AAPG Delegate, Vice-President and Program Chairman, NOGS President (taking over four months after Hurricane Katrina), Secretary for the NOGS Memorial Foundation, and President of the Foundation. Scott is presently on the Board of Trustees for the NOGS Memorial Foundation. He has also been an active member of SIPES for over 20 years serving as the New Orleans Chapter Secretary and Chairman, and on the National SIPES Board of Directors. While on the SIPES Board of Directors, he served as Secretary, Vice President, and President. Scott also served on the Board of Directors for the SIPES Foundation and as Foundation President. Scott will be the recipient of the SIPES Outstanding Service Award this May at the SIPES Annual Convention in New Orleans.

For **EDITOR-ELECT**

FALCON/PETRO



Clare Falcon is a Senior Geologist working for Schlumberger in New Orleans since 2006. She obtained her BSc with Honours, in Geology from Liverpool University, UK, and followed with her PhD in Geology from Leeds University, UK on mass flow sedimentation at rift basin margins. She then worked as Geological Editor for the Cambridge Arctic Shelf Program (CASP) based in Cambridge UK, principally working on the Geological

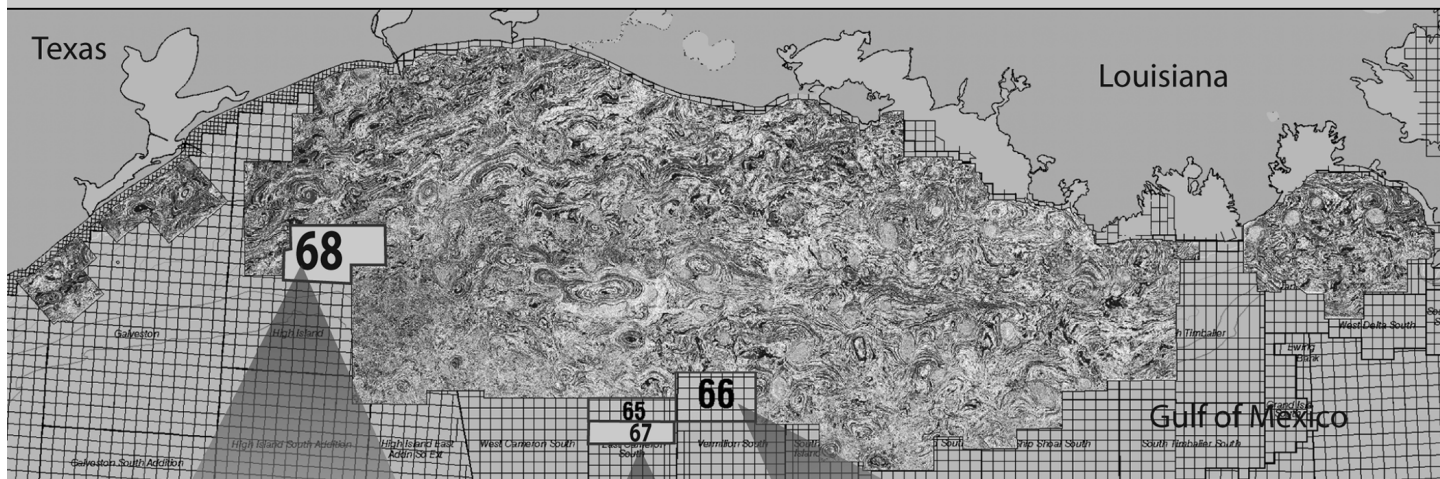
Society of London publication 'Geological Society Memoir No.17 - The Geology of Svalbard'. She subsequently returned to research with an industry-funded post-doctoral position at University College London, UK.

Clare joined Amoco UK in 1996 as Sedimentologist for their Exploration and Production Technology Group, based in London UK. She then transferred overseas to work as a Development Geologist with Amoco's Offshore Business Unit (OBU) based in New Orleans. A family move took her to Jackson, MS in 1999 where she began working as Coastal Geologist for the Mississippi Dept of Environmental Quality, studying rivers, the Mississippi Sound and Mississippi's barrier island chain.

Elizabeth Petro currently works for the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in the reserves section. Her present area of assignment is the High Island shelf. She received a BS (2002) in Geology and Environmental Science from LaSalle University and an MS (2005) in Geology from the University of New Orleans. She began her career with Chevron's deepwater development group.

Elizabeth has been a member of NOGS since 2003. She previously served as president of UNO's student AAPG chapter (2004-2005) and president of LaSalle's environmental science organization (2001-2002).

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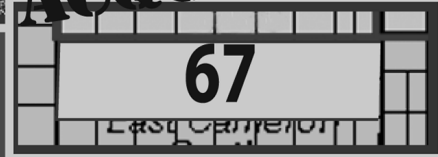


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South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

DRILL BITS

- **Shell** announced on February 1 a new oil discovery at their Vicksburg prospect (DC 353 and 397, and MC 393) in the Eastern GoM. The discovery well was drilled in ~7,500' of water to a TD of ~25,400' and encountered a hydrocarbon column of approximately 300'. Transocean's semi-submersible Deepwater Nautilus, on contract to Shell, drilled the well. Shell (57.5% WI and operator) and its partners Nexen (25%) and Plains Exploration & Production Company (17.5%) are currently analyzing and evaluating the well data to determine future plans for the prospect.

Ms. Annell Bay, Vice President of Exploration for Shell in the Americas, stated "The results from Vicksburg are encouraging," and "We are excited about the Eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM) and our ability to become a key player in this emerging area. Shell has a significant lease holding in the EGOM from which we continue to mature opportunities for drilling. We were also an active bidder in the EGOM during Lease Sale 205 where we were apparent high bidder on 36 blocks."

- Fears that U.S. deep-water GoM drilling near the international border with Mexico could drain reservoirs on the Mexican side of the border are an issue Mexico is considering with respect to its energy laws.

The Shell operated Perdido Hub, forecast to come on-line in 2010, will derive production from Perdido Fold Belt fields immediately north of the border.

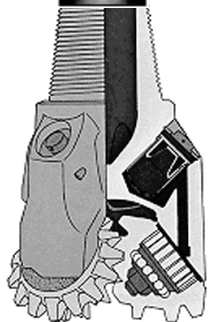
Should potential drainage issues arise, for Mexico to be competitive, Pemex would have to start from ground zero, and be unable under current Mexican laws to joint venture with private partners. It could take Pemex as long as a decade to start drilling on its side of the border. Consequently, if a competitive drainage issue evolved, reservoirs straddling the border could be drained by wells on the U.S. side.

Senators from Mexico's three main political parties have been in talks over what kind of cure to propose for Pemex, where years of under-investment have left output and reserves declining. All parties broadly agree on giving Pemex more operational and budgetary autonomy. However, Leftists oppose the government's idea of allowing Pemex to form strategic joint ventures with foreign companies with the technological expertise to speed up Mexico's entry into what may be the crucial deep-water sector where large resources are anticipated.

An oil sector reform would not necessarily need to touch the Mexican constitution, which bans direct private investment in oil and natural gas. However, tweaking the constitution could be a way to clarify what Pemex is allowed to do.

"We will not be proposing, nor will we accept, any change that implies a transfer of ownership of crude oil to anyone else. It belongs to Mexicans and it will continue to belong to Mexicans," Energy Minister Georgina Kessel said. She added, "We are looking for Pemex to have the flexibility to be able to join up with any of the world's oil companies to be able to get into exploration and production in areas that are very difficult."

Senators aim to have a draft law ready to submit for debate before the current congressional session ends on April 30.



Despite concern that debate will be lengthy, Kessel said she hoped a law could be passed this session.

Many fear that if the debate is put off until Congress reopens in September, lawmakers will be distracted by the approach of mid-term congressional elections in 2009.

While this debate continues, in late February, Pemex declined an invitation to join Petrobras as a minority partner in a deep-water exploration on the U.S. side of the GoM.

- **McMoRan Exploration Co.** on February 21 updated its exploration and development activities in the GoM, including the latest developments at the Flatrock field and the Blackbeard ultra-deep well.

Production at the Flatrock No. 1 discovery well at SMI Block 212 has been ramped up, and is currently producing at a rate of ~48.7 MMCFG/D and 750 BC/D, with a FTP of 9,700 psi. The well was initially placed on production from the 17,200' Operc interval on January 28.

The Flatrock No. 2 delineation well, located ~1 mile northwest of the Flatrock discovery well, was spudded on October 7, 2007. As of February 21, the well had been drilled to 17,684' with LWD tools indicating an additional resistive zone totaling 30' of net pay below 17,100' in the Operc section. In total, the well has encountered eight sands including four zones indicated by wireline logs to contain 190 net feet of hydrocarbon bearing sands over a combined 318' gross interval above 15,500' in the Rob-L section, and four zones indicated by LWD tools totaling 70 net feet of resistivity below 15,500' in the Rob-L and Operc sections. Completion operations have commenced with initial production expected to be established in the thickest Rob-L zone by mid-year 2008.

The Flatrock No. 3 delineation well, located ~3,000' south of the Flatrock discovery well, was spudded on November 5, 2007. The well had been drilled to 17,100' as of February 21, with LWD tools indicating two additional zones, a Rob-L sand and an Operc sand, totaling 40 net feet of resistivity. As of the report date, the well was being drilled in the top of the Operc sand. As anticipated, this Operc sand is consistent with and structurally higher than the sand currently producing in the Flatrock No. 1 discovery well. The two zones announced on February 21 are deeper than the Rob-L interval announced earlier in February 2008, which contained 70 net feet of hydrocarbon bearing sands over a combined 280' gross interval above 15,500' as indicated by wireline logs. The well will be deepened to a proposed total depth of 18,800' to evaluate additional targets in the Operc section.

McMoRan also announced on February 21 that the Hurricane Deep discovery at SMI Block 217 was producing at a gross rate of ~19 MMCFE/D. Initial production was established in the Gyro section of the well on January 24.

In the same announcement, McMoRan stated that it had contracted the Rowan Gorilla IV rig to re-enter and deepen the Blackbeard-1 ultra-deep exploratory well located at ST Block 168 in 70' of water. The well had previously been drilled to a TD of 30,067' in August 2006. However, it was temporarily abandoned prior to reaching the primary targets. Drilling should by now be underway. McMoRan acquired its interest in the prospect via the Newfield transaction in August 2007, holding a 26.8% WI in the prospect, which is part of the Treasure Island ultra-deep play.

- Paul Post

THE GEOLOGICAL FACTS OF LIFE ABOUT FLOOD PROTECTION

It was a privilege and an honor to have had the support of the New Orleans Geological Society and the Louisiana Geological Survey as they joined with the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West to present to the public and all newly appointed Flood Authority Commissioners the views of earth science experts on flood protection in the Gulf Coast. Here is a look back at how this conference was conceived and inaugurated along with a summary of each scientist's lecture.

The idea for this conference was conceived in a conversation between Dr. Sherwood Gagliano, Ed Picou and the author after Dr. Gagliano completed a lecture to the Baton Rouge Geological Society in early 2007. Mr. Picou noted Dr. Gagliano's topic should have a much wider forum and Merritt said: "We could put that together". The original suggestion was for the New Orleans Geological Society and the Baton Rouge Geological Society to co-sponsor a technical symposium. The hope was that a quickly organized conference, presented to the newly appointed Flood Authority Commissioners before Hurricane Season was far advanced, would provide a timely briefing on geological issues. The BRGS President at the time suggested a longer planning time might be needed in order to address the topic fully and thus pursued a conference focused on coastal subsidence to be held in January 2008. "The Geological Facts of Life About Flood Protection", co-chaired by Ed Picou on behalf of NOGS, State Geologist Dr. Chacko John on behalf of the LGS and the author on behalf of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West, was held in July 2007.

Public recognition and thanks everyone who worked so vigorously to achieve success is imperative. To the BRGS for addressing long term issues about subsidence in a thoughtful way, thanks. To NOGS Past President Mike Fein and his officers who rushed to support this idea and to President Art Johnson and the current officers and NOGS members who provided robust support, including seed money for the conference, thank you. To the State Geologist Dr. Chacko John and Ed Picou, thanks for your hard work and sponsorship as co-chairs. To the public and Commissioners for attending, thanks. To the television and print media for attending and reporting upon the conference, thanks. A special thank you to all the presenters and the moderator:

The host of the one day technical meeting and moderator of the panel discussion attended by all the presenters was Ms. Julie Baxter. Ms. Baxter is an attorney with Moore, Walters, Thompson, Thomas, Papillion &

Cullens in Baton Rouge, LA, and spent 13 years as a broadcast news anchor and reporter. She won the 2001 Regional Edward R. Murrow award for Investigative Reporting in Television and has been recognized for her award-winning reporting by the Associated Press and the National Association of Press Women.

The first speaker, was Dr. Sherwood M. Gagliano, the Chief Executive Officer of Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI), but previously served for 12 years on the faculty of Coastal Studies Institute and the Departments of Geography and Marine Sciences at LSU. His lecture, entitled: "Effects of Fault Movement on Flood Protection Levees and Land Submergence in South Louisiana", discussed floodwall breaches that occurred during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 where deep-seated geological faults were interpreted to underlie the New Orleans area. In Dr. Gagliano's view, fault movement has been occurring on some deep-seated faults (part of the regional tectonic framework of the Gulf Coast Salt Dome Basin) for more than 100 million years. Fault movement affects all surface features including ridges, barrier islands, wetlands, flood protection levees, highways, and coastal communities. The movement data coupled with a process-response model developed from the research provide the basis for risk analysis. In his extended remarks provided for the media and the public, Dr. Gagliano noted: "He has applied a geoforensic approach to investigating the relationships between tectonic processes and landform change. The results of this research have direct application to coastal restoration and flood protection in South Louisiana."

Dr. Stephen A. Nelson is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University. Dr. He presented a lecture entitled: "The Geology of the Katrina Disaster in New Orleans". According to Dr. Nelson, a combination of historical and geological factors combined with inadequate design of levees and floodwalls resulted in a series of levee overtoppings and levee failures in the New Orleans area during the passage of Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. Early in the morning levees along the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and Intracoastal Waterway were overtopped by the storm surge flooding eastern New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish. Later the storm surge entered New Orleans' Inner Harbor Navigational Canal overtopped levees and floodwalls resulting in the catastrophic failure of the floodwalls and the destruction of the Lower 9th Ward. Three rainwater drainage canals originally constructed in the mid-1800s then became subject

to storm surge entering from Lake Pontchartrain. The excess pressure of the surge combined with the weak geological material underlying the levees and floodwalls resulted in two levee breaches on the London Avenue Canal and one on the 17th St. Canal by mid-morning on August 29. These failures did not result from overtopping the floodwall system, but, apparently, from weaknesses in the design of the system that failed to adequately account for the underlying geologic conditions.

Dr. John Lopez is President of Delta Science, LLC, Director of the Coastal Sustainability Program for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Orleans. Dr. Lopez was invited to present his knowledge of the geological conditions in the Lake Pontchartrain vicinity and geological influences on levee failures.

Dr. Ivor van Heerden is Deputy Director of the LSU Hurricane Center, Director of the Center for the Study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes, and a faculty member of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at LSU. His lecture was entitled: “Design Failures in the GNO Levee System and Future Solutions; Lessons from the Dutch Experience; the Need for Pier Supported Flood Control Structures and a Pathway Forwards.” Dr. van Heerden documented events leading up to the hurricane Katrina catastrophe and how pertinent science was ignored. He spoke of the history of hurricane protection in the area as well as the nature and mechanisms of levee failures during Katrina. He considered the question “How safe is it?” followed by aspects of a plan that would ensure the continued habitation of southeast Louisiana. Considerable interest by the media and public accompanied Dr. van Heerden’s recommendations developed as part of the “Team Louisiana” forensic investigations, on how to proceed. His recommendations include lessons from the Dutch and potential congressional actions. He hopes persons attending the conference will be better informed as to the hurricane surge realities of Louisiana, but at the same time recognize that through coastal restoration and engineered protection, coastal Louisiana can continue to thrive and become a leader in new coastal technologies, which will be in demand as global warming speeds sea level rise into the future.

The final lecture was by Dr. Roy Dokka, Fruehan Endowed Professor of Engineering at LSU, Executive Director of Center for GeoInformatics, and Director of Louisiana Spatial Reference Center. He had just concluded field work collecting elevation data on levees in the vicinity

and lectured on the topic: “What Levee Board Commissioners need to know about Louisiana’s Dynamic Landscape and Geology.” Dr. Dokka’s previously publicized testimony to Congress is summarized as follows: A major factor behind the destruction of the gulf coast by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was on-going subsidence. Subsidence is generally caused by unrelenting natural processes, but has been augmented locally due to poorly managed groundwater withdrawal and/or drainage projects. Coastal Louisiana has subsided between ~2 and 4 feet since 1950. Subsidence is not restricted to the coast as previous thought, but extends inland for hundreds of miles, especially along the Mississippi River valley. As the land has sunk, so have the levee defenses, evacuation roads, and wetlands. Besides making coastal communities more vulnerable to storm surge, subsidence has ruined the official system of vertical control benchmarks we use to determine elevation in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and portions of Arkansas, and Alabama. Subsidence has profound repercussions on planning new hurricane defenses, predicting storm surges accurately, preparing accurate FEMA flood insurance maps, or building escape route roads to proper heights.

The geological symposium was a tremendous success. In the author’s view, the geological community found its voice and addressed the public and news media on the earth science realities affecting flood protection issues. Another great accomplishment of this symposium was, Not only were all of these accomplished scientists given a microphone in a public forum, but it was also the first time all of them had been assembled together. Their presence therefore provided the final highlight: all the presenting scientists participating in a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Baxter.

Preparations are already underway to prepare for a second symposium in July 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Merritt

Mike is a NOGS member and President GEM Consulting LTD. He was the first geologist appointed by Governor Blanco to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank Board of Commissioners.

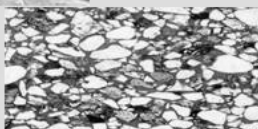
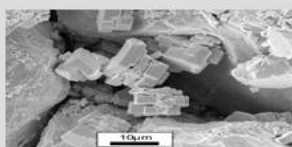
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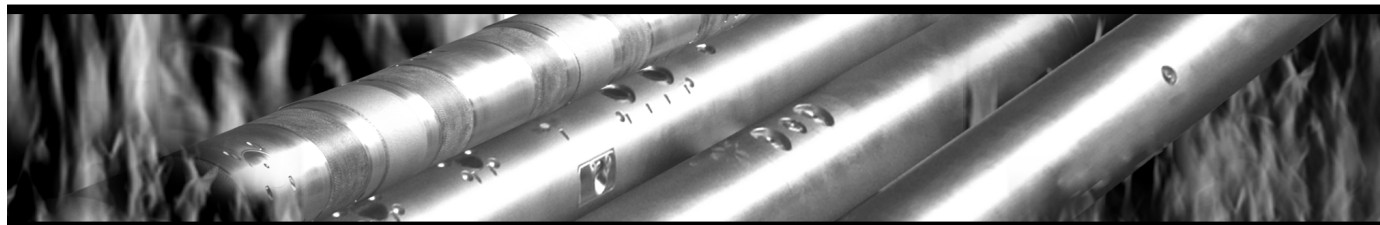
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New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

Firstly, I would like to thank Arleen Falchook for her input to the NOGS LOG. She had graciously accepted the position at last year's Installation Luncheon and has been more than willing to take on this responsibility. We appreciate your time and interest in doing such a great job.

Secondly, many thanks to Beverly Kastler in organizing the Past President's Luncheon at Andrea's. The food as well as the company were great. Just one of the many "perks" in being President! Beverly never ceases to amaze all of us who know and love her, between all of her travels, civic organization duties and being a wonderful Grandmother she still find time to be so organized... Maybe Beverly would consider being a "Guest Speaker" for one of our luncheons and share with us her "organizational skills"....

Lastly, mark your calendar for April 5th - the Spring Social at the beautiful home of Ann and Louis Gilbert. June Perret has selected a delicious menu and several of the ladies have offered to bring deserts. We are very grateful to June as well as Elizabeth Furlong and Earleen Rodan for co-chairing this event. Hoping Mother Nature cooperates this year! If you are not a NOGA Member, please feel free to contact any of the board members (the phone numbers are listed on the contact list of the NOGS LOG) to get information on joining us. We would love to meet you!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Susie Baker
President

- The Anthropocene:** In 2000 Nobel Prize winner, Paul Crutzen suggested that we had left the Holocene Epoch and entered the Anthropocene Epoch because of the global impact of human population growth and industrialization during the past two centuries. In a paper published in the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) Newsletter and republished in 2002 in *Nature*, he stated, "it seems more than appropriate to emphasize the central role of mankind in geology and ecology by proposing to use the term 'anthropocene' for the current geological epoch." The February 2008 cover story in *GSA Today*, by Jan Zalasiewicz and 20 co-authors from the Stratigraphy Commission of the Geological Society of London, suggests that this neologism for human-induced global environmental change be considered for formalization as a new geological epoch. They propose that during the past two centuries Earth has undergone changes sufficient to leave a global stratigraphic signature, distinct from that of the Holocene, and that human activity is the primary driver of most of these changes. The interrelated anthropogenic global alterations encompass physical sedimentation, carbon cycle perturbation, climate and sea-level trends, atmospheric and oceanic chemistry, and biodiversity (Figure 1). A similar theme was presented by Bruce Wilkinson in his 2005 *Geology* paper entitled "Humans as geologic agents: A deep-time perspective" and a recent article in the journal *Soil Science* by Daniel Richter states that humans have transformed more than 50% of the Earth's soils to suit its needs, and that "humanity is currently the Earth's primary geologic agent."

For more on the Anthropocene see:

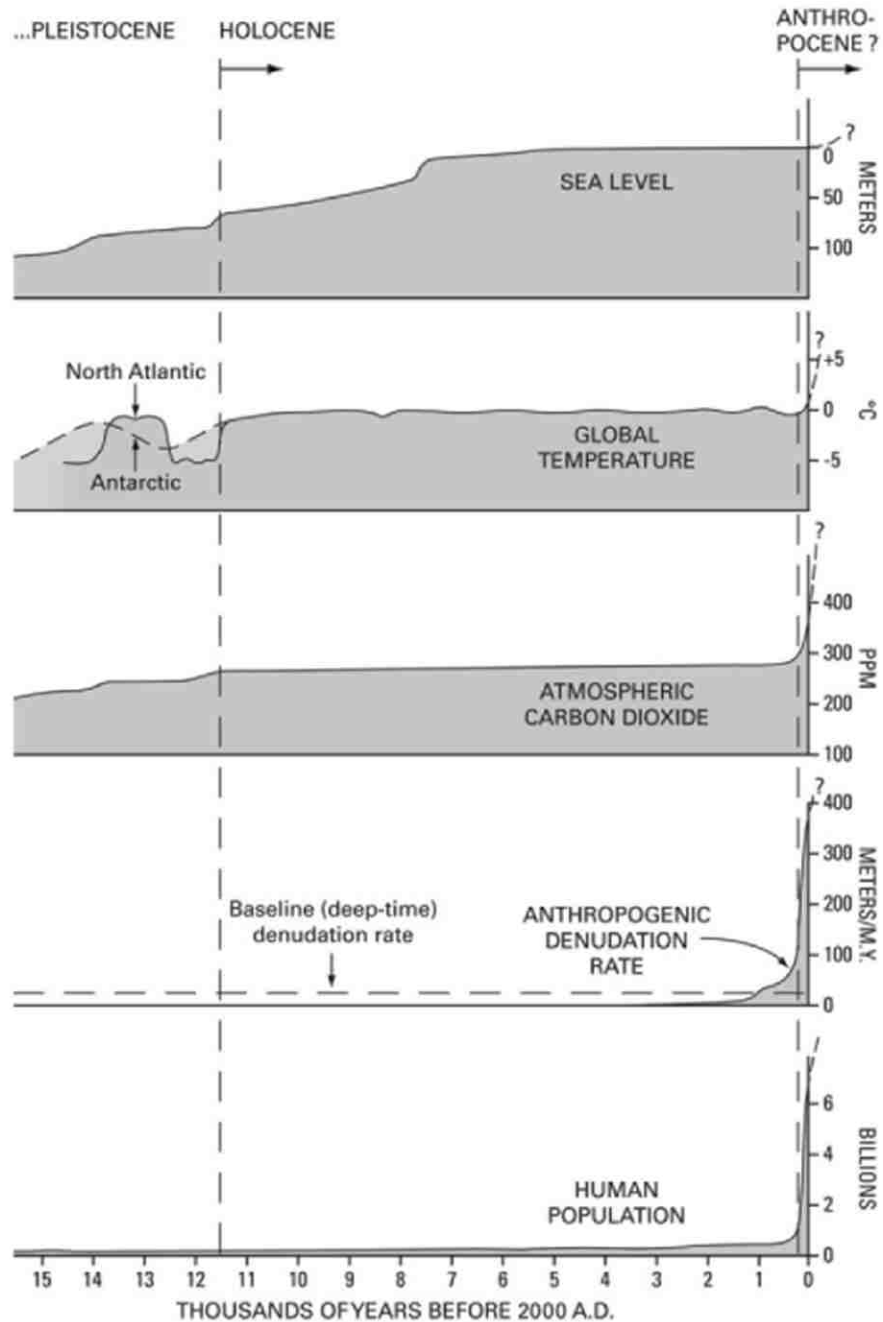
Beradelli, P., 2008, Human-Driven Planet: Time to Make it Official?: *ScienceNOW Daily News*, <http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2008/124/1>

Crutzen, P. J. and Stoermer, E. F., 2000, The "Anthropocene": *International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) Newsletter*, no. 41. <http://www.mpch-mainz.mpg.de/~air/anthropocene/>

Zalasiewicz, J., et al., 2008, Are We Now Living in the Anthropocene?: *GSA Today*, v. 18, no. 2, p. 4-8, <http://www.gsa-journals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1130%2FSGSAT01802A.1>

- Mike Miner

Figure 1. Comparison of some major stratigraphically significant trends over the past 15,000 yr. Trends typical of the bulk of immediately pre-Holocene and Holocene time are compared with those of the past two centuries. Data compiled from sources including Hooke (1994), Monnin et al. (2001), Wilkinson (2005), and Behre (2007). From Zalasiewicz et al. (2008).



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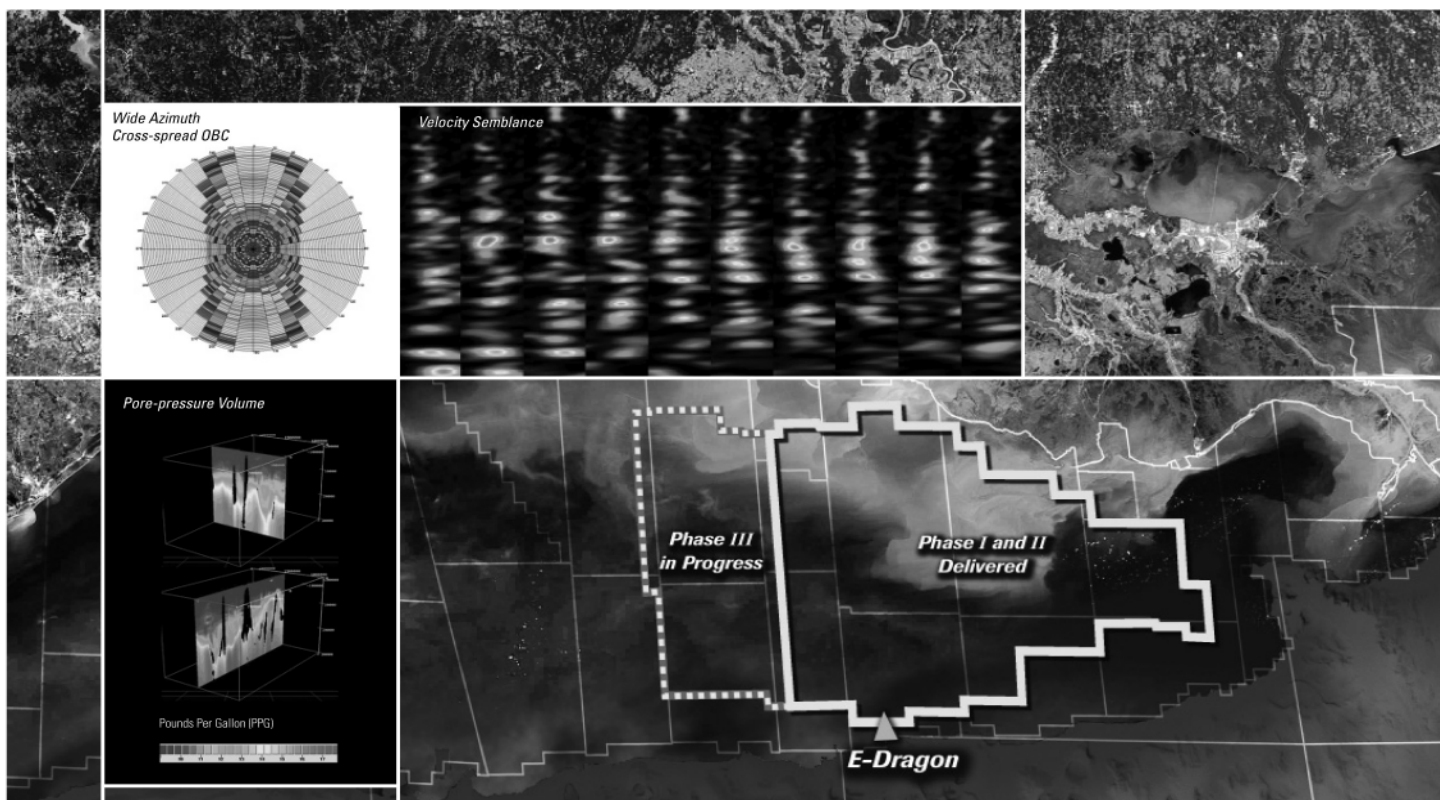
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