THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF COAST SECTION SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC PALEONTOLOGISTS AND MINERALOGISTS

GCSSEPM NEWS

Volume 54 Number 3 Fall 2007

The President's Column
BEYOND WHETHER

Regular readers will recall that in the Spring President's column I discussed the possibility that our ability to recognize a truly "catastrophic" geological event – one that would leave a significant mark on the geological record – might be limited by our perspective of three score years and ten and overall vulnerability to geologically minor one-offs that, although cosmically immaterial, leave a mark on the soul of humanity. This led me in turn, with a couple of stimuli detailed below, to muse on the ongoing catastrophe of global warming.

I mean, it is a catastrophe…right? You quite literally don't need to open a newspaper these days to read about it, as it's all over the front page. In fact, you don't even need to go to the popular press. The title of this essay is taken from the header of the "Investment Intelligence" bulletin that accompanied my March bank statement, which read in full "Climate Change: Beyond Whether". Now, aside from the fact that I was pleasantly surprised to find out that my bank has a sense of humour seldom in evidence in their financial dealings with me, it also struck me that those four words really sum up the point we seem to have arrived at in the view of the media, the most vocal portions of the scientific community, and at least some world governments. There is no question. The evidence all points to it. Our models are all quite conclusive. Look, it's happening all around you. The polar bears are starving. The…whoa up there my man. Rewind. Let's just think about all of that. After all, we are scientists. We owe it to ourselves and to our communities to look out for the facts, to understand the differences between data and interpretation, and, particularly as earth scientists who study sedimentary systems (in the final analysis, the real barometers of long-term "climate change"), think about and understand the geological context of the present state of the planet.

Clearly, in the space allotted to me here by our eagle-eyed secretary and Keeper-of-The-Newsletter, I am NOT going to provide any answers. Nor should I, as I'm as confused as a budgie by the whole thing. But what I am committed to, and what I hope I can persuade you gentle reader also to commit to, is to take the scientific path, to oppose the BS on both sides of the fence, and to be an advocate for science over witch-hunting and

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GCAGS-GCSSEPM
Annual Convention

Exploring the Third Coast

October 21 – 23, 2007
Corpus Christi, Texas

57th Annual Meeting of the
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Sciences
and the
54th Annual Meeting of the
Gulf Coast Section SEPM

For updated convention information visit
www.gcags2007.com

Announcing 2008 Executive Council

President: Janok P. Bhattacharya	**Treasurer:** Ramón H. Treviño
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Highlights

The GCSSEPM News is published three times a year by the Gulf Coast Section Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Contact Lana Ann Czerniakowski, GCSSEPM Secretary at (713) 775.5764 or ronaldbillstokes@comcast.net, or contact your local business representative.

Visit the GCSSEPM Website at www.gcssepm.org for Section and Foundation News and Information.

The Director's Chair

Kevin's editorial about Marc Edward's paper really inspired me to start writing a column about my feelings on all sorts of things—until a week later I went hunting for the file I had started, on three different computers, and could not find it. (…AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY SENIOR MOMENT COMMENTS….) So I have to start all over again, but I have papers to edit for the conference now, so I have to postpone what I wanted to do, but here is a start.

Kevin's editorial brought a smile to my face because when Marc Edwards started writing about catastrophic shelf collapse, I told him that I agreed totally with his concept (but don't tell anyone that I said that). The reason for this comment was because at the time, any ideas outside of classic sequence stratigraphy were considered out of date. Times, fortunately, have changed. In fact, last year at our luncheon at the GCAGS/SEPM convention, our national president (Robert Dalrymple) gave a talk on pro-delta shales: I had not heard anyone talk on this subject (or acknowledge them) in 30 years. During the 1980's, it was accepted wisdom that micropaleontology was no longer needed; that sea level on a regular basis dropped below the shelf/slope break; and that sea level drops were uniform all over the globe. Today, except for die-hards (the new dinosaurs), these comments are no longer heard. Is it possible that one can now speak out and not be laughed out of the business? (Provided one does not comment on global warming…)

I have been in the business for close to 39 years—largely by luck but I have managed to learn and observe a few things. I think it is now time to pass on a few observations; the first observation is that there is a lot of junk science out there. I don't expect everyone to accept or believe what I will put down on paper; I do hope to get at least some of you to think. At this point, I must mention and thank Dr. John Ferm, officially my advisor at Louisiana State University; he insisted that we think and argue every point and theory in sedimentation in particular, geology in general. Regrettably, it took me another 10 years to really understand what he was trying to do. So next time, we start the world according to Rosen.

I mentioned that I have some papers to edit for our December conference, to which everyone is invited to attend. Special thanks to Dr. C. O. (Clay) Durham, my unofficial advisor, who taught me what editing was all about, and made sure that I really did graduate.

Dr. Norman C. Rosen
Executive Director
GCSSEPM Foundation

The GCSSEPM Welcomes New Members

Emilio Garciacaro
Statoil; Katy, TX

Eric Hawkins
Minerals Management Service;
New Orleans, LA

Steve Nagel
OXY; Houston, TX

Barbara Radovich
Silver Grass Enterprises;
Sugarland, TX

Morgan Sullivan
Chevron; Houston, TX

Lost Members

We no longer have contact information for the following individuals. If you can provide information please contact Ramon Trevino at (512) 471-3362 or ramon.trevino@beg.utexas.edu

Didier Arboulie
Marian Hanna
Duncan W. McMaster
Paul Owens
Heather M. Rosenstein
Garth E. Syhlonyk

The President's Column *continued from page 1*

pseudo-science.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge the two people who inspired me to address this rather contentious subject. Firstly, Dr. Jonathan Bujak, a palaeobotanist who works on the data from the 2004 IODP ACEX (Arctic Coring Expedition) drill sites on the Lomonosov Ridge in the Central Arctic, and who will present his results as a keynote speech at the 2nd Conference on Arctic Geology, Resources and Environment, associated with the 5th International Conference on Arctic Margins (Bujak, 2007). I was fortunate enough to have a preview of his presentation in Houston, and it was heavy on facts and observations, with interpretations based solidly on those facts. This contrasts strongly with my other inspirational writer, Mr. Al Gore, who wrote the following in an article in the New York Times (Gore, 2007):

"Consider this tale of two planets. Earth and Venus are almost exactly the same size, and have almost exactly the same amount of carbon. The difference is that most of the carbon on earth is in the ground…and most of the carbon on Venus is in the atmosphere. As a result, while the average temperature on earth is a pleasant 59 degrees, the average temperature on Venus is 867 degrees. True, Venus is closer to the Sun than we are, but the fault is not in our star; Venus is three times hotter on average than Mercury, which is right next to the sun. It's the carbon dioxide".

Aside from the ham-fisted Shakespearean misquote lending an air of intellectual preciousness, the misuse of science in this paragraph is decidedly mischievous, and is an object lesson in how facts (the average temperature of a planet, orbital diameter) can be twisted into a sensational story with an unmistakable but unspoken implication (if we keep pouring carbon into our atmo-

Continued on pages 6 and 7

News from the Business Representatives

Editor's Note: As a continuing feature we will begin to include news highlights from the various areas. The business representatives from each district have provided these items.

Alabama Area News

There are currently 3 academic institutions in Alabama that offer geology degrees: the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, Auburn University (Auburn), and the University of South Alabama (Mobile). Auburn and the U of A offer M.S. degrees and U of A offers a Ph.D. in geology. For more information on these programs, see the following web pages: http://www.geo.ua.edu/;http://www.auburn.edu/cosam/departments/geology_geography/index.htm; and http://www.southalabama.edu/geography/.

According to a Tuscaloosa News article, dated May 6, 2007, which is posted on the Geological Survey and State Oil and Gas Board web page (http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20070506/NEWS/705060354&SearchID=73280533786113) oil and gas production is a half-billion dollar business in Alabama. The articles says "The state produced 7.5 million barrels of oil in 2006, down more than 12 million barrels from 1989 levels, according to figures from the Alabama Oil and Gas Board - all the result of maturing wells. Onshore and offshore natural gas production also dropped, though not as dramatically." And, the article adds "Little Cedar Creek Field in Conecuh County, operated by Dallas-based Midroc Operating Co., has seen the most dramatic expansion. In 2003, the field produced 68,000 barrels of oil from a single well; by 2005 the field produced about 1.2 million barrels from more than 30 wells." For more from the Geological Survey of Alabama, see their web page at http://www.gsa.state.al.us/.

Since 1997, the state of Alabama has had geologic licensure in the public practice of geology. Licensure is administered by the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists (ABLPG). The Board web page (http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov/licensingact.htm) gives information on how to attain licensure in Alabama, the continuing education requirements, and a licensee directory - among other things.

The Alabama Geological Society (AGS; http://homepage.mac.com/jpashin/AGS.htm) is a member of the GCAGS. AGS conducts at least one annual field trip in the autumn each year. AGS sponsors one student chapter of the AAPG in the state of Alabama - at Auburn University. There are two local chapters of the AGS in Alabama, which meet at USA in Mobile and at AU in Auburn in order to offer continuing education and networking activities for local members.

University of Oklahoma News

OU makes a name for itself and sets a precedent for excellence in the future. It has been an exciting and eventful year for the University of Oklahoma's School of Geology and Geophysics—newly named the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics (CPSGG). Thanks to a generous donation by a longtime supporter, the School now plans to update labs and other facilities, create a visiting faculty position to keep up to date with ground-breaking innovations in the oil and gas industry, and provide support and research opportunities for recruiting graduate students of the highest caliber.

For the seventh straight year, CPSGG hosted the AAPG/SEG Spring Break Student Expo—the largest to date—which brought in 204 students from around the country and 34 company recruiters. Students and recruiters were able to attend short courses such as Petroleum Geology of Deep Water Settings, Potential for the Big Bucks...An Independent Geologist's Perspective, Schlumberger's Technology Overview, An Introduction to Seismic Interpretation, and a field trip to Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains. These courses give students from schools not traditionally rooted in the oil and gas industry a chance of exposure to the concepts needed for a successful career in the oil and gas industry. Additionally, it gives these students a chance to get face time with recruiters from all aspects of the business—from the majors to the independents—in a relaxed setting. The theme for the Expo this year was "Find Your Perfect Fit," and judging from the number of formal and informal interviews, students and companies did just that!

Each year the Expo holds separate poster contests for Geology and Geophysics students. OU made an outstanding showing this year, with three students placing in the contest, which included 40 posters. First and third place were taken by **Prerna Singh** and **Gabriel Borges**, respectively, in the Geology group, while **Eva-Maria Rumpfhuber** took second place in the Geophysics group. This year's Expo also hosted the first annual SEG Challenge Bowl. A duo from OU composed of **Dileep Tiwary** and **Prerna Singh** won this event, qualifying them for the national competition to be held at the annual SEG meeting in the fall.

This year was also the first annual AAPG Imperial Barrel Award contest, and a team of five Master's-level graduate students representing diverse geological and engineering backgrounds from OU competed in the international competition held at the annual convention in Long Beach, California. Each team was given an industry-released dataset from either the North Sea or offshore Western Australia, comprising 3D and 2D seismic volumes, well logs, biostratigraphic data, core data, geochemical data, and pressure data that they had to interpret and then make recommendations for future prospects. The competition was set up to mimic a mock farm-in opportunity, so the judging panel consisted of high-level company executives. Teams were given 25 minutes to present their findings to the judges and select industry individuals. Team OU, unofficially and affectionately called Team Barrelitos, reflecting its Venezuelan majority, was composed of **Gabriel Borges** (geophysics), **Nichole Buckner** (petrophysics), **Gustavo Diaz** (sequence stratigraphy), **Veronica Liceras** (petroleum engineering), and **Norelis Rodriguez** (geochemistry), with an advising team made up of **Dr. Roger Slatt**, **Dean Larry Grillot**, **Dr. Roger Young**, and **Jan Dodson** (Barrelitos and Dr. Roger Slatt seen in photo below). This year's team started a tradition of excellence for future OU competitors by placing third, the only American university to place, and bringing home the Stoneley Medal, as well as $5,000 in scholarship money. Team OU also had the honor of presenting its award-winning presentation to the CPSGG Alumni Advisory Board at its semiannual meeting. The Barrel award wasn't the only one brought home by OU from California this year, however. The AAPG student chapter at OU won an award for Best Domestic Student Chapter, thanks to strong leadership by President **Kate Moore**, VP **Norelis Rodriguez**, Secretary **William Duran**, and Treasurer **Jim Miller**. A shift in the industry has brought an exciting new addition to CPSGG in recent years. Focus on unconventional reservoirs such as gas shales has led to the formation of an Unconventional Shale Gas Research Program currently composed of eight students (**Gabriel Borges**, **Alicia Branch**, **Nichole Buckner**, **Angel Gonzalez**, **Roderick Perez**, **Romina Portas**, **Prerna Singh**, and **Julieta Vallejo**), who are working on projects in the Barnett, Caney, and Woodford Shales in cooperation with industry leaders such as Devon Energy, Schlumberger, and BP.

With all that is going on at the University of Oklahoma, the future looks bright for each and every one of its geology and geophysics students.

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Saying Goodbye

Professor Roger Leroy Kaesler of Lawrence, KS passed away after a long bout with illness; he was 69 years old. He is survived by his wife, Jerelyn Boudreaux Kaesler; three daughters–Jane Kaesler Stotts, of Topeka, Kansas, Andrea Kaesler, of Topeka, Kansas, and Susanne Broussard Grossoehme, of Baldwin City, Kansas; one son–Stephen Kaesler, of Wichita, Kansas; five grandchildren–Conner, Gabriella, Drake, Cade, and Emma; and a brother Walter Jr., of Golden, Colorado. Roger was born on June 22, 1937, and was raised in Ponca City, Oklahoma. He moved with his family to Wichita, Kansas, his senior year in high school. He attended the Colorado School of Mines and was in the ROTC program; he received a bachelor's in geological engineering in 1959. Roger received a master's and doctorate in paleontology from the Department of Geology, University of Kansas (KU), in 1965.

Roger joined the geology department at KU as a faculty member in 1965 and retired in 2006 as a professor after more than 40 years of service; he frequently taught the classes 'Paleontology' and 'Prehistoric Life'. He was also director of the KU Geology Field Camp in Canon City, Colorado. Roger joined the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center at KU in 1982 and retired as a senior curator. In his role as professor and curator Roger educated, mentored, and inspired generations of undergraduate and graduate students at KU; several went on to hold faculty positions at various institutions of higher learning while others went on to work in various capacities including the oil industry. Roger also served as an important mentor, friend, and colleague to many faculty members, not only at KU but throughout the United States and the world.

Roger became the director of the Paleontological Institute in 1986; associated with his work as director he edited the Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology. The Treatise is an internationally recognized publication series that serves as a taxonomic encyclopedia of paleontology. While Editor of the Treatise 13 volumes were produced: among the highest publication rates the Treatise ever attained.

Roger published hundreds of scientific papers including pioneering work on the multivariate statistical analysis of fossils. In addition to the many volumes of the Treatise he edited, Roger co-edited two other books. His research focused on the study of climate change, evolution, and paleoecology; he specialized in the study of fossil and modern ostracods, an important group of crustaceans distantly related to lobsters and crabs.

In recognition of his highly successful career Roger received many awards including being appointed a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of the Paleontological Society (U.S.A.), and of the Geological Society of America. He also was awarded the Geological Society of America's Distinguished Service Award, the Haworth Distinguished Alumni Award from the Geology Department of the University of Kansas, and the Distinguished Alumni Award and van Diest Medal from the Colorado School of Mines. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Roger held numerous important positions in various scholarly organizations including the Paleontological Society and the International Palaeontological Association.

Because of his scientific and professional accomplishments and his warm and humorous personality Roger will be missed by innumerable colleagues and friends.

Bruce S. Lieberman
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GCSSEPM FOUNDATION

ED PICOU Fellowship Grant For Graduate Studies in Earth Science

Programs and Rules for 2007

Founded in 1981, the GCSSEPM Foundation is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization whose primary objective is to promote the science of stratigraphy in the Gulf Coast region through research in sedimentary petrology, reservoir quality, paleontology, and any other related geological and geophysical fields, especially as it relates to petroleum geology.

Among the activities which the Foundation may engage in are:

- Conduct research directly or through promotion, assistance, encouragement, or support of studies and research in the field of stratigraphy and in the science related thereto;
- Dissemination of information relating to stratigraphy and related fields through lectures, seminars, research conferences, symposia, publications, educational courses, teaching aids, and by other means and material;
- To carry on programs of continuing education in stratigraphy and related studies;
- To assist in career guidance to persons interested in stratigraphy and related studies;
- To assist public and private schools and colleges and universities and technical schools in teaching and education in the field of stratigraphy and related fields.

Therefore, we are hoping to support students whose thesis or dissertation is related to our primary objective. We are primarily concerned about quality of work; however, given two works judged of equal merit, preference will be given to the Gulf Coast Basin. Maximum grant will be for $2500.

Interested students should submit:

1. A short description of their proposed work, not to exceed 4 pages (in type no smaller than 11 point and with standard margins), in digital format (Word, Word Pro, etc.).
2. A list of expenses and other support should be included in digital format.
3. The student s advisor should write an appropriate document of support in written format.
4. We also require a short biography of the student as well as a digital picture. All of the above should be submitted to:

   Dr. Norman C. Rosen
   Executive Director
   GCSSEPM Foundation
   2719 S. Southern Oaks Drive
   Houston, TX 77068

Submission of a proposal to the GCSSEPM indicates acceptance of the following conditions.

1. The GCSSEPM Foundation will be acknowledged in the work.
2. This money is being granted for the defraying of the cost of thesis/dissertation work associated with a degree program only. In the event that this work is not done, the money must be returned to us.
3. We request a note at six (6) month intervals letting us know about the progress of the research. The first such note will be due (i.e., posted) by December of the year in which the award is granted
4. You will submit two notes (expanded abstracts) for publication in our GCSSEPM News Letter. The first will refer to the goals of your study; the proposal for the grant in general will be used. The second will be a summary of results of the work after completion.
5. If the topic is appropriate for submittal to the GCAGS-GCSSEPM, we request that you present your work at a GCAGS-GCSSEPM convention.
6. We request a 2-3 panel poster display at a GCSSEPM Research Conference after completion of your work and after you have received your degree. You would not be required to be there (although we will be pleased if you do come); the display is to help us show case the grant program in order to attract more corporate donations for the program.

Failure to comply with these terms may result in our refusal to consider future proposals from students of your professor and university. (Please make your advisor aware of this.)

DEADLINES

All proposals should be submitted between September 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007. We will not accept proposals which arrive after January 1, 2008. We hope to notify award winners during the month of February (2008).

sphere, we will end up just like Venus). This is bad journalism in its lack of objectivity, and even worse science…the comparison of the average temperature of a planet with no appreciable atmosphere and a surface temperature varying from minus 297 to plus 800 and that of one with an atmosphere comprising 96% carbon dioxide and strong atmospheric circulation assuring that the average is indeed average is quite meaningless. As, indeed, is the wonderful factoid that the "average temperature" of planet earth is 59 degrees.

Jonathan Bujak's presentation, in contrast, presents a series of facts on current atmospheric carbon dioxide content, current planetary glaciation, oceanic circulation and continental disposition, and compares this with the geological record, noting the feedback loops and general controls. He then discusses the occurrence of the fossil Azolla in the arctic cores, and draws an inference between that and the changing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the early Eocene. The point I wish to draw is that the facts can be presented objectively, and inferences drawn, without reference to drama or specious comparisons. The salient fact presented that I wanted to reiterate is that of the atmospheric content of carbon dioxide over the past 55 million years. We are all used to seeing the "hockey stick" of atmospheric carbon dioxide content over the past thousand years (Figure 1):

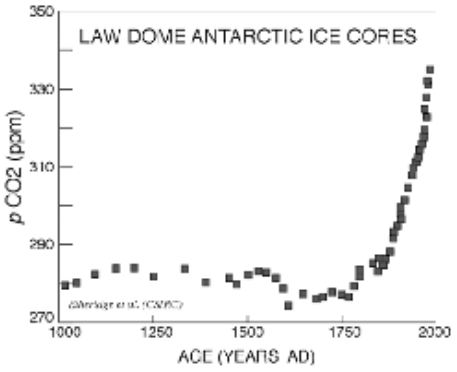

Figure 1: The Carbon Dioxide Hockey Stick

This graph, with the startling increase in carbon dioxide since the beginning of the industrial revolution has been used as conclusive proof that anthropogenic carbon dioxide driving the trend, and so is solely responsible for global warming. Models based on this curve predict that it can only get "worse". But what is the geological, rather than socio-historical, context of these data?

If it is plotted "geologically", with time vertical, and then pushed back by use of other ice cores to half a million years or so (Figure 2), we see a series of cycles developed, reflecting glacial and interglacial periods:

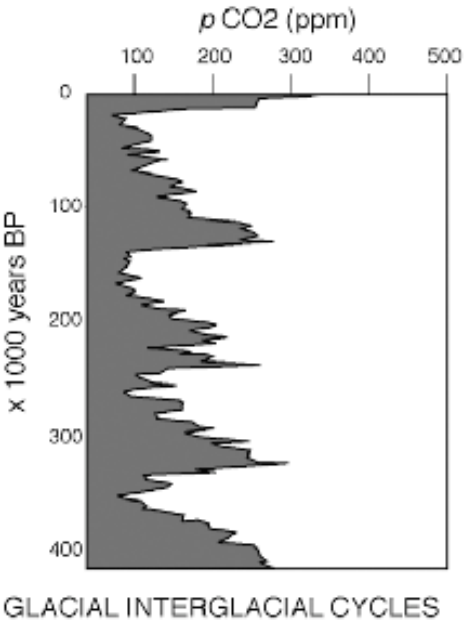

Figure 2: Glacial/Interglacial correlation with Carbon Dioxide in the Atmosphere

In this context, the entirety of "settled" human history has occurred through a rapidly-increasing carbon dioxide concentration, so to what degree is the current spike entirely "down to us"?

In the same article as quoted above, Mr. Gore makes the (again, entirely factual, as seen in the graph) point that over the past million years, the atmosphere has never had a greater concentration than 300ppm "until the beginning of the coal boom". Factual, yes, but contextual, very definitely not. Given the cyclic behaviour shown in this diagram, it really is not clear (to me at least) whether we are still on the way up, or about to go down.

Pushing the trend further back by use of other geochemical proxies for carbon dioxide content, we see the following:

Mid-Oligocene to mid-Miocene values were stable in the region of 600ppm (Figure 3).

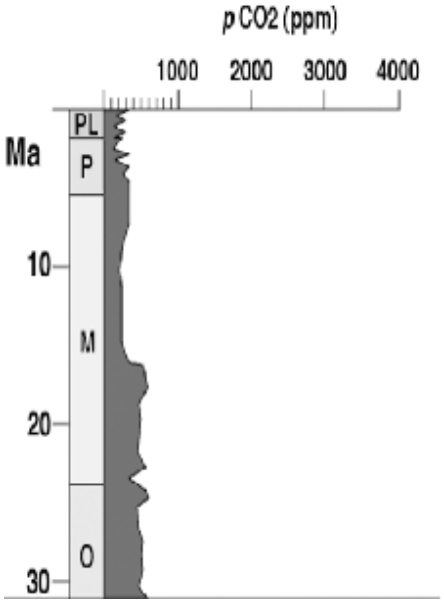

Figure 3: Mid Oligocene to Present Day Carbon Dioxide levels.

In the early Oligocene, the values fell from around 1200ppm to 600ppm (Figure 4), coincident with the onset and development of full Antarctic glaciation

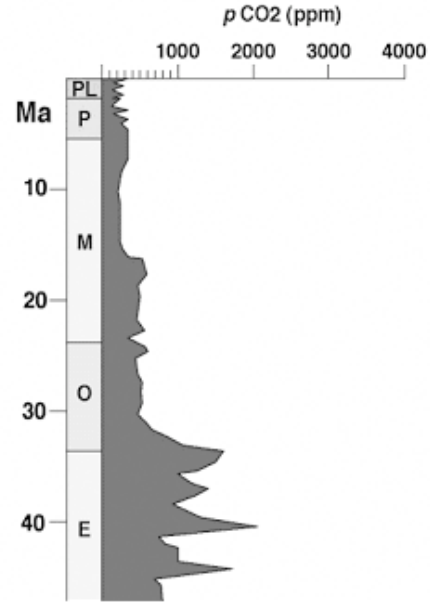

Figure 4: Mid-Eocene to Present Day Carbon Dioxide Levels.

Even these numbers were low compared to the stable levels that preceded them in the Palaeocene and early Eocene, when they fell precipitously from the 3600ppm which appears to have been the Cretaceous "greenhouse norm" to as low as 600ppm prior to the period of instability in the middle Eocene to early Oligocene (Figure 5):

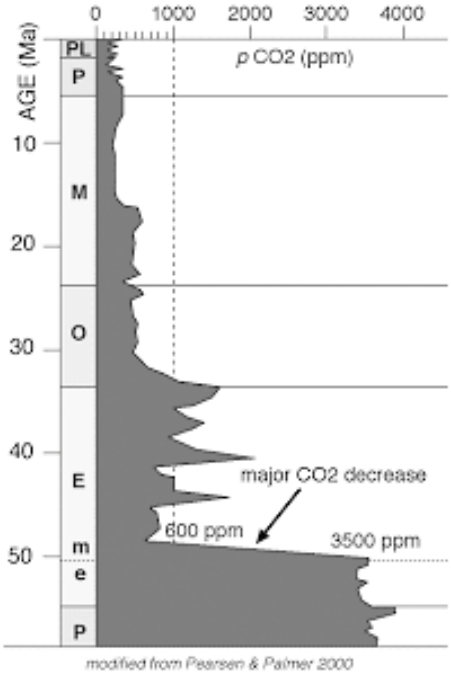

Figure 5: Late Palaeocene to Present Day Carbon Dioxide Levels.

The thrust of Dr Bujak's research conclusions is an interpretation of the coincidence of an organic-rich early/middle Eocene facies in the Lomonosov cores dominated by only one fossil-type (the flora Azolla) with the marked and very rapid reduction in atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is an elegant theory, but rather than steal his thunder, I urge you to look up the data/papers for yourselves (for example Brinkhuis *et al.* 2006).

The salient take-away for me from these data is that current levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide are not geologically unusual, and that there are many controlling factors in addition to the release of "greenhouse" gases by human activity. Taking the long view, maybe it is hubristic to think that we alone are responsible for the changes we see around us, and maybe even more so to think that we can control or reverse them? Were I in a position to provide political advice in this context, I would be strongly urging that rather than (or in addition to) trying to do that, I would be putting in place long-range plans to deal with the consequences. But that, of course, would require planning beyond the effective life of any given politician today, and would require acknowledgement that they may be powerless in the face of change of such magnitude, so maybe I'll stick to editorialising with my own constituency!

As a final note, I should clarify that I personally am not among those who reject outright the idea that the planet is warming, and that elements of that change may be anthropogenic. My position is probably best described as "agnostic" (technical word for "sitting on the fence"!). This stance, as I said at the beginning, behoves me to understand the context in which the change is taking place, to look on both sides of the fence as it were, and to speak out with facts in the face of some of the wild-eyed speculation and predictions of imminent doom that some would propagate. And I would urge all of you who value science over story-telling, and interpretation over posturing, to do the same.

Brinkhuis, H,, *et al.*: Episodic Fresh Surface Waters in the Eocene Arctic Ocean. Nature, 441, pp. 606 – 609.

Bujak, J., 2007: The Azolla Story: Implications for Eocene super-greenhouse to ice-house change and the deposition of potentially Arctic-wide petroleum source rocks. Keynote address, 2nd Conference on Arctic Geology, Resources and Environment, Tromsø.

Gore. A., 2007: Moving Beyond Kyoto. New York Times, Sunday July 1st, Op-Ed.

This will be my last contribution to the newsletter as President of the section, as my term expires at the end of the year. It has been an honour to carry the torch for a year, and I am deeply indebted to my colleagues on the Executive Committee and the Trustees of the Foundation for bearing with my cavalier attitude to Roberts Rules and what at times was a rather dilatory response to my scheduled duties. They have carried me through, and I will be handing over the reins of power to Janok Bhattacharya and his soon-to-be-elected committee safe in the knowledge that we are as strong and purposeful as ever.

My remaining duties are to provide some introductory remarks and support for the section at our two remaining annual conference events. The first of these is the GCAGS-GCSSEPM Annual Convention "Exploring the Third Coast" in Corpus Christi (October 21st to 23rd). One of the highlights there will be the GCSSEPM luncheon talk by our National President Dr Mary Kraus, who will speak on the topic of "Using multiple paleosol proxies to interpret paleoclimate change: The Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum in Wyoming", which will provide an interesting and informative view on precisely the topic of the to the essay above! Then, on December 2nd to 5th in Houston, we have the 2007 Bob F Perkins Research Conference "The Paleogene of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Basins: Processes, Events and Petroleum Systems". Given the current wave of exploration activity in both basins, this will be a very timely and appropriate meeting, and I urge you to book early to avoid disappointment!

Kevin Schofield
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OU s Imperial Barrel Award Team accepting the third place Stoneley Medal Award.

Gulf Coast Section – Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists

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