

GCSSEPM NEWS



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Summer 2012

The President's Column

SUMMER IS HERE, even in Berlin, with 90°F sunny days inspiring me to take the bike to one of the many lakes. Summer is also a time for students to get their first practical experience in their potential fields of interest ranging from environmental, to research, to oil company jobs. Summer jobs are an important asset to companies and research centers that provide a first look at potential future candidates as well as realization to the students of what the "real" work in any geosciences discipline will look like.

Unfortunately, the continuous ups and downs of the oil industry has turned many students off becoming interested in oil and gas studies but the recent hiring boom, mostly created by the many new unconventional plays in North America and Canada, has changed that a bit. According to an AGI report by Gonzales and Kean (2011) geosciences job projections from 2008 to 2018 will increase by 35 percent adjusted for attrition! Unfortunately, this demand will not be fulfilled with the current graduation rates dropping by 9 percent (Gonzales and Kean,

2011). Summer jobs are an important part of the student's curriculum and I encourage all members to hire a student because it is not only enlightening for the student but also for the senior member.

I fondly remember my first summer job working as a mud-logger at a north-German gas rig that produced sour-gas. In the 1980s, the oil rigs were still governed by old mining laws that prohibited women from working nights and entering the mine/oil rig without the guys praying to our saint of geology and mining, St. Barbara, first to protect them from any potential bad luck a woman would bring! Well, times have changed and now we have 40% young women graduating in geosciences, although the percentage of faculty positions has increased only by an average of 2%. In 2010, women held 16% of tenured and 20% of non-tenure track geoscience faculty positions (Gonzales and Kean, 2011). This disparity is even more apparent at most geological meetings (e.g., AAPG meeting) where, despite this relatively high graduation rate, women

geoscientists in the workforce have been comprising only 30%. This number had been holding steady since 2003 (Gonzales and Kean, 2011). So, I challenge all my male and female colleagues to hire a (female) summer job hire and mentor and encourage your students and daughters to pursue a career in (geo-) science!

Conferences are not only a great venue to recruit new geosciences candidates but also to send young professionals to establish their network and learn about the latest research and developments in the oil and gas industry. One upcoming conference not to be missed is the GCAGS/GCSSEPM annual conference October 21-23, 2012 in Austin where topics ranging from deep water, salt tectonics, structure, to shales, as well as environment and economic issues will provide an interesting program. This meeting is being organized almost entirely by volunteers such as our GCSSEPM officers. We will honor two of the tireless volunteers, Ramon Trevino of the Bureau of Economic Geology and Ron Waszczak of ConocoPhillips for their dedicated service to the society. I encourage each one of you to get online and vote in the upcoming GCSSEPM elections and to consider volunteering for the office of president, treasurer, vice-president, or secretary next year.

Part of the sections business is to promote a workshop each year that is free to students.

Highlights

The GCSSEPM News is published three times a year. Please send any comments or suggestions to Charlotte Jolley, GCSSEPM Secretary at charlotte.jolley@shell.com, or contact your local business representative. Visit the GCSSEPM Website at www.gcssepm.org for Section and Foundation news and information.

- 1**
- ◆ President's Column
- ◆ Dues Reminder
- 2**
- ◆ The Director's Chair
- ◆ New Members
- 3**
- ◆ Election Announcement
- 4**
- ◆ Membership Application/Renewal Form
- Inserts**
- ◆ 2012 Research Conference
- ◆ 2013 Research Conference: Call for Papers

This year, John Holbrook, our past GCSSEPM president and professor at TCU, will hold a workshop on fluvial stratigraphy. Our president-elect, Mike Blum, will offer a short course on Gulf of Mexico Depositional Systems probably early next year. The section is currently working on a permanent date when the short course is going to be held each year. Please stay tuned for the exact date! Have a great summer with many interns, attending conferences and workshops. See you at GCAGS/GCSSEPM in Austin.

Ursula Hammes
President

Reference: Gonzales and Kean, 2011, AGI report, ISBN 978-0-922152-86-5.

GCSSEPM Dues Reminder

Members, *please* remember that yearly dues were due by April 1st. The number in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label indicates the last year of paid dues. Please check your status and use the membership form on the back of this newsletter or renew your membership online at www.gcssepm.org.

The Director's Chair

This has been an exciting year so far but for all the wrong reasons. One of my brother's-in-law died of pancreatic cancer, my wife had to have another shoulder operation, and two of our trustees have not been feeling well either. But the moving finger having writ moves on, and we must also.

Firstly, our conference has a new home for 2012: The Omni Westside at I10 and Eldridge, in the heart of the energy corridor. This should make our Sugar Land members very happy. The Omni is a beautiful hotel with indoor fish ponds. We left the north side for two reasons: location and space availability; we certainly had no problem with their excellent service.

Regarding 2012, we have over 50 abstracts in hand, including many from new exploration areas. We will have poster sessions as in the past. A registration form is included with this newsletter. We already have an online link for hotel reservations and we hope to have online registration going by the end of May. The form states that you can fax in but don't: the fax line and office will be closed for several months. However, we will be getting regular mail delivery.

Secondly, the Ed Picou Fellowship program is running late because of the above problems but we have finally reached a decision. The overall quality was much better than last year and although we were in general agreement as to the better written proposals, there were no unanimous decisions as last year. Because of reduced availability of funds, we decided that no one proposal would get the maximum and that we would spread the wealth to the

top projects. As a result, the following 14 proposals totaling \$16,500 will be funded.

Emily Wooton: University of California Riverside: Devonian extinction.

Zachary Kita: University of Nebraska: Niobrara Chalk nannofossil study.

Thomas Heron: Colorado School of Mines: Halokinesis, Gulf of Mexico and South Australia.

Sara Henry: University of California Riverside: Devonian receptaculitid bioherms.

Jared Bowen: Ohio University: Dunkard Group; Paleosols and ichnofossils.

David Weinstein: University of Miami: Deep-reef sedimentology.

Andrew Macumber: Carlton University: Paleoclimatic reconstruction, southern Northwest Territories.

Daniel Livsey: University of California Santa Barbara: South Texas Holocene climat reconstruction.

Lidya Tarhan: University of California Riverside: Metazoan-microbialite interactions: Exuma Cays, Bahamas.

Clement Bataille: Perdue University: Fluvial stratigraphy and eustatic sea-level changes: Tornillo Group.

Hiranya Sahoo: University of new Orleans: Cretaceous Blackhawk Formation, western interior seaway.

Kelsey McNamara: University of New Mexico: Landform distribution on modern coastal distributive fluvial systems.

Migdalys Salazar: The University of Texas: Shelf to sink sediment dynamics, Taranaki Basin.

Jessica Hudock, The University of Texas: Production behavior of washover fans.

Two proposals are from The University of Texas. However, four of the proposals are from California schools, three from one campus. The rest are scattered about the United States (and Canada). Many of the topics seem to be related to climatic change, a very popular subject these days.

Although we are not a climatic organization, these studies require a knowledge of paleontology and sedimentology. It may seem that the Gulf Coast encompasses a very broad area, but we said that all studies would be judged on their merit. I think that the above list indicates we have done this.

Thirdly, did you catch the comment about reduced availability of funds? A program such as fellowships, conferences, publications, and grants requires income. Income for us does not come from section dues nor do conference charges cover the complete costs; and while our publications are popular, they do not generate the income of "The Hunger Games." We are dependent upon contributions to make up the difference. If you feel that our work is of value, we ask for your support financially by direct contact or by suggesting that your company support our work directly.

Have a good summer.

Dr. Norman C. Rosen,
Executive Director
GCSSEPM Foundation

The GCSSEPM Welcomes New Members



Katrina Coterill. BHP Billiton; Houston, TX

Earl Cumming. Shell Offshore Inc; Mandeville, LA

Robert Hulse. Arp, TX

Penny Patterson Pressler. Exxon Production Res Co; Houston, TX

Earl Rodman. Odessa, TX

Lowell Waite. Mobil New E&P Ventures Inc; Irving, TX

Julia Wellner. Rice University; Houston, TX

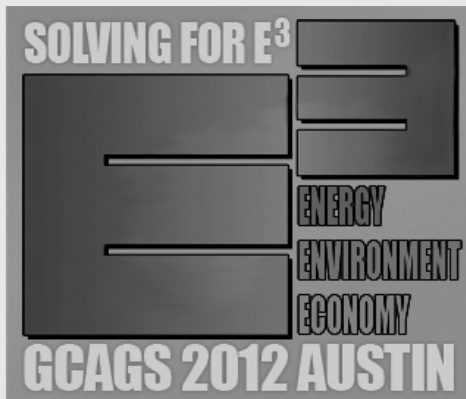
William Wescott. El Paso Energy; Houston, TX

Election of 2013 Section Officers

The GCSSEPM Executive Council are currently in the process of identifying candidates for the office of President Elect.

Nominations will shortly be posted on our website - www.gcssepm.org.

Please look out for an email announcement and take the time to read the biographical sketches, and **vote online** for the candidate of your choice. Election results will be announced in the Fall newsletter, as well as posted on our website.



GCAGS2012

**Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies
and the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM**
62nd Annual Convention · October 21-24 · Austin, Texas
Hosted by the Austin Geological Society

Proposed Technical Sessions Include:

ENERGY

- Salt – To the Depths and Beyond
- Mega-Deepwater Systems – Rethinking the Possible
- What Lies Beneath – Structure, Stratigraphy, and Energy Resources beneath the Tertiary Blanket of the GOM
- Shales in the Gulf Coast Region
- Designing Deepwater Exploration in a Post-Blowout World

ENVIRONMENT

- Water Issues of the Gulf Region – Use, Availability, and “Unconventional” needs
- Alternative Energies
- Geology and the Environment
- Clean Coal and CO₂ Sequestration Issues in the Gulf Coast

ECONOMY

- Economics of Unconventionals
- Offshore Carbon Repositories
- Hazards – Earthquakes, Tsunamis, and Storms
- Bringing Up the Next Generation of Earth Scientists
- Integration of Coastal Issues and the Energy Future

Please visit www.gcags2012.com for final program and registration.

Gulf Coast Section – Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND ADDRESS CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

Check appropriate box(es): APPLICATION RENEWAL ADDRESS OR E-MAIL CHANGE

Membership dues for the year 2012 are now due. If the date shown on the name line of your mailing label is not **12** or later, please remit dues with this form as soon as possible in order to remain a member of the GCSSEPM and continue to receive this Newsletter. **You can also renew online at *www.gcssepm.org*.**

Today's Date: _____

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): _____

Company or University: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State/Country, Zip: _____

Business Telephone: (____) _____ Daytime Telephone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Are you a member or associate member of National SEPM? Yes No

Please Check:

- RECOMMENDED**
- 5 Year Membership or Renewal \$40.00** (check or credit card)
 - 3 Year Membership or Renewal \$25.00** (check or credit card)
 - 1 Year Membership or Renewal \$10.00** (by check only)
 - Lifetime Membership \$300.00** (check or credit card)

Method of Payment*: Check enclosed Discover Visa MasterCard American Express

* *Credit Card Payment can be accepted for 3 year, 5 year or Lifetime Memberships only*

Credit Card Account Number Card Expiration Date

Printed Name on Card Authorized Signature for Card

**Mail this form with payment to: GCSSEPM Treasurer, 2719 S. Southern Oaks, Houston, Texas 77068
or Fax to (281) 586-0833 (*Fax available for Credit Card Payment Only*)**



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