Strike a Bonanza IN TAHOE!

SIPES 43rd Annual Meeting

June 21-24, 2006 - South Lake Tahoe, Nevada

Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists

Meeting Co-Hosts: SIPES National Organization & SIPES Dallas Chapter
Integration.

Since introducing KINGDOM in 1984, SMT has continued to improve and expand the core line of software to satisfy the ever-growing requirements of the upstream E&P industry. Today, SMT offers a fully integrated geoscience interpretation system, which meets the interpreter’s needs in advanced geological and geophysical interpretation workflows. The entire suite of KINGDOM geoscience tools runs off one single executable and all modules access the same project database.

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2006 SIPES CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

**WEDNESDAY**  
June 21

- 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
  Registration

- 8:00-9:45 a.m.  
  SIPES Foundation BOD Meeting & Continental Breakfast

- 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
  SIPES BOD Meeting

- 10:00 a.m.-12 noon  
  Chapter Chairmen’s Meeting

- 10:00 a.m.-12 noon  
  SIPES Presidents’ Council Meeting

- 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.  
  Lunch for Board of Directors, Chapter Chairmen, & Past Presidents

- 1:30-5:00 p.m.  
  Hospitality Suite Open

- 2:30-5:00 p.m.  
  SIPES Foundation Seminar — “BIG BONANZAS (and a few Borrascas)”

- 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
  Icebreaker

**THURSDAY**  
June 22

- 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
  Registration

- 8:30-11:45 a.m.  
  Technical Sessions

- 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
  Hospitality Suite Open

- 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m.  
  All Convention Luncheon, Speaker & Annual Business Meeting

- 1:30-4:30 p.m.  
  Technical Sessions

- 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
  Mini-Icebreaker

- 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
  Cornerstone Group Reception (By invitation only)

**FRIDAY**  
June 23

- 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon  
  Registration

- 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
  Technical Sessions

- 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
  Hospitality Suite Open

- 1:30-4:00 p.m.  
  Technical Sessions

- 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
  SIPES Awards Banquet

---

Cover print by Currier & Ives, courtesy of the Library of Congress
Dear Friends,

The SIPES Dallas Chapter and the National Board of Directors welcome you to the 2006 SIPES Convention and 43rd Annual Meeting at Harrah’s Hotel on Lake Tahoe in Stateline, Nevada. The Reno/Sparks/Carson City/Virginia City/Lake Tahoe metropolitan area offers many historical, recreational, entertainment, gaming and cultural attractions.

The Comstock Lode at Virginia City yielded an estimated 7 million ounces of gold and 200 million ounces of silver (or around $6 billion in the current market). This lode was known as the ‘Big Bonanza’ and is the source of our metaphorical theme ‘Strike a Bonanza in Tahoe.’ Don't miss the opportunity to hear Ron and Susan James discuss this fascinating era during the SIPES Foundation seminar on Wednesday.

The Lake Tahoe region was home to a small Indian tribe known as Wasau or Washoe who were unrelated to any other Indian tribe and were famous as basket makers. Reno is the seat of Washoe County. John C. Fremont explored the area in 1843 and 1844 with the assistance of his scout Kit Carson (the origin of the State Capital’s name). The obtuse angle in the California/Nevada state line boundary is where the 39th degree of north latitude meets the 120th degree of west longitude and is in the middle of the lake due to mapping errors.

During the 2006 SIPES Convention, accomplished individuals will speak on a variety of topics and impart a body of knowledge difficult to secure in other forums. A significant part of the technical program will focus on Nevada and the Great Basin, wherein the Covenant Field was recently discovered. Other giants await discovery. I hope you go away from this SIPES Convention with your next ‘Big Idea.’

Luck is important in Nevada. A big part of luck is the combination of being in the right place, at the right time, and with the right people. These factors will converge at the SIPES Convention in Tahoe. With the planets lined up, I wish you luck with the drill bit and in the casino!

James H. Henderson
Convention Chairman

SIPES 43rd Annual Meeting and 2006 Convention
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CONVENTION SCHEDULE
All meetings will be held in the Special Events Center of Harrah’s Hotel on the 2nd Floor

**Wednesday, June 21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
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<td>SIPES Foundation Seminar</td>
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<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Icebreaker</td>
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**Thursday, June 22**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Cornerstone Group Reception (By invitation)</td>
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Friday, June 23

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon Registration
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite Open
8:30-11:30 a.m. Technical Sessions
1:30-4:00 p.m. Technical Sessions
6:30-9:00 p.m. SIPES Awards Banquet
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Page 12
Entrance to Meeting Events
Entrance to all meeting events will be by convention name badge. You can purchase extra tickets for various convention activities. Tickets will be required for all spouse tours, awards banquet, and post-convention trip.

Icebreaker
Wednesday, June 21
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Meet with friends and colleagues while enjoying outstanding hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the 2006 Convention Icebreaker. Each registrant will receive two complimentary drink tickets. A cash bar will also be available.

Hospitality Room
Wednesday, June 21, 1:30-5:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 22, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday, June 23, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Welcome to Lake Tahoe! Here you will find snacks and beverages, along with general information for activities. A special gift is available for registered spouses.

All-Convention Luncheon & Annual Business Meeting
Thursday, June 22
12:00-1:15 p.m.

Brent McDaniel of Atmos Energy will be our featured speaker. His talk will cover current gas markets and marketing from the independent producer standpoint, pipeline tap fees, transfer fees, treating fees, and advice on choosing a gas marketing consultant. He will also discuss what an independent should do to ensure fair treatment, to get a competitive price, and what to consider when putting together a gas drilling prospect or selling gas/gas liquids.

Mini-Icebreaker
Thursday, June 22
4:30-5:30 p.m.

Enjoy afternoon refreshments at a cash bar following Thursday's technical sessions. Make plans for evening activities and view samples from the Sixteen to One Gold Mine.
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BIG BONANZAS (AND A FEW BORRASCAS):
Lake Tahoe to the Mining Frontier
George Whittell, Jr., Thunderbird Lodge and Julia Bulette
by Ron and Susan James

Mining has affected Lake Tahoe since the 1860s, and Lake Tahoe has been critical to regional mining. With the founding of Virginia City in 1859, the fabled mines of the Comstock Lode developed a voracious appetite for lumber. The Sierra Nevada Range supplied supports for the mines, fuel for its engines, and lumber for aboveground construction. The effect on the Tahoe Basin has been devastating and lingering.

Ironically, mining also played a role in saving the Basin. George Whittell, one of the richest men in the nation, was the sole heir to two Gold Rush era fortunes. During the 1930s he purchased the Nevada side of the Lake for development. Fortunately, he lacked motivation, and the eastern side of the Lake remains largely undeveloped to this day. His mansion together with its stories of showgirls and wild parties remain a Tahoe fixture to this day.

The other side of this gold and silver coin is Virginia City, one of the nation’s largest Historic Landmarks. It incubated the wealth of George Randolph Hearst and the imagination of Mark Twain. Inventions first tested on the Comstock became the industry standard for fifty years, and its miners were internationally recognized as some of the best in their field. Stories continue to echo about last chance mines, Big Bonanzas, and the fast men and women who made a place great.

This presentation will describe the entwined story of Lake Tahoe and Virginia City. The epic western tale has inspired fascinating stories ranging from murdered prostitutes, poor Irish miners who made it big, and a spoiled rich heir whose youthful indiscretions, service during World War I, and Tahoe sojourn became the stuff of legend.

Ron James is the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, having administered his agency since 1983. He is the author of five books including The Roar and the Silence: A History of Virginia City and the Comstock Lode and Comstock Women: The Making of a Mining Community (co-edited with C. Elizabeth Raymond). Ron and his wife, Susan, co-authored Castle in the Sky: George Whittell Jr. and the Thunderbird Lodge. Ron serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is a historian and folklorist, with degrees in both fields from the University of Nevada, Reno. He was the nation’s I.T.T. Fellow to Ireland in 1981-1982, where he studied folklore at the national archives. Ron’s publications have appeared in Europe and North America, and he has given hundreds of presentations throughout the nation.

Susan James, the co-author of Castle in the Sky: George Whittell Jr. and the Thunderbird Lodge, is a historian who lectured for fifteen years at the University of Nevada, Reno where she received her degrees. She currently serves as the Scholar in Residence for the Fourth Ward School Museum in Virginia City and has curated several exhibits on the history of the Comstock Mining District. Susan’s many articles include the definitive work on Julia Bulette, a Virginia City prostitute who gained fame after her brutal murder in 1867. Susan and Ron perform with the Sierra Highlanders Pipe Band, which in 2005 became the first representative from Nevada to compete in the World Pipe Band Championship held annually in Glasgow, Scotland.

Photos courtesy of the Library of Congress and the Thunderbird Lodge website

2:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Cost: Members: $50
Spouses: $25
Non-Members: $100

Wednesday, June 21
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  - Integrate rigorously among multiple surfaces:
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    - Net/gross ratio
    - Porosity
    - Saturation
- Integrate geologic and seismic data
  - Integrated depth conversion
  - Interval velocity model
**Thursday, June 22**

8:30-11:45 a.m.

Welcome & Introduction  
James Henderson, #1005

DRI: 50 Years of Environmental Research  
Stephen Wells

Assessing Undiscovered Oil and Gas Resources of the Eastern Great Basin in Parts of Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Arizona  
Lawrence Anna

Update on the Yucca Mountain Project  
William Boyle

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Planning for a Sustainable Nevada  
Zane Marshall

Petroleum and Geothermal Exploration Activity in Nevada  
William Ehni

Down-dip Woodbine, Polk County, Texas  
Fred Byther

Three Centuries of California Gold  
Mike Miller

**Friday, June 23**

8:30-11:30 a.m.

The Oil & Gas 'Sweet Spot' . . . How Long Can it Last? - David Pursell

Summary of Research Projects at the Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy  
Lisa Shevenell


With All that Coal, Where's the Gas in the Illinois Basin? - David Morse

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Great Basin Elephant Hunt  
Alan Chamberlain

Statistical Plays: Blackjack Strategies for the Barnett Shale - Jimmy Thomas, #2710

Speakers and schedule are subject to change

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Thursday, June 22

**THUNDERBIRD LODGE TOUR**
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
Cost: $85.00 per person

Come and explore the Thunderbird Lodge Historic Site. Enjoy an hour walk throughout the Whittell estate, including the Lighthouse Room, the Old Lodge, the maids’ quarters and original kitchen, as well as a trip through the 600’ underground tunnel leading to the infamous Card House and Boat House. In the Boat House you may find the fabulous yacht, *Thunderbird*, built for George Whittell in 1939. The yacht is a 55’ long, a John Hacker design with mahogany hull and dual aircraft engines, and is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece built in a bygone era. The tour then follows the Dragon’s Tail path, past the waterfall and fountain to the Cook and Butler’s House, now a Museum Store.

Tour price includes round trip transportation, 2 1/2 hour tour with guide and box lunch. Note: Tour is limited to 30 people. Extensive walking is required. Some pathways are uneven.

---

Friday, June 23

**LAKE TAHOE CRUISE**
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Cost: $55.00 per person

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Conclude the 2006 SIPES Convention on Friday evening with a reception, seated dinner, and awards ceremony. Winning tickets will be drawn in the SIPES Foundation’s 2006 No Hassle Raffle. Attendees and guests will also honor two members for their dedication and service to the Society.

Stewart Chuber, #221, of Schulenburg, Texas, will receive SIPES Honorary Membership, the Society’s highest award. During the forty-three year history of SIPES, it has been presented on only eighteen previous occasions.

Emerson Keith Drouillard, #220, of Denver, Colorado, will receive the SIPES Outstanding Service Award to recognize his many contributions to SIPES.

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Lawrence Anna - "Assessing Undiscovered Oil and Gas Resources of the Eastern Great Basin in Parts of Nevada, Utah, Idaho, and Arizona"

Larry Anna’s experience includes twenty years with the U.S. Geological Survey, plus eleven years as a petroleum exploration geologist. His most recent work includes oil and gas resource assessments, and discrete fracture geometry and flow modeling for water and petroleum projects.

He holds a B.A. degree in geology from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and an M.S. degree in geology from South Dakota School of Mines. His co-authors on this paper are Laura N. R. Roberts and Christopher J. Potter, who are also with the USGS in Lakewood, Colorado.

William Boyle - "Update on the Yucca Mountain Project"

Bill Boyle is Director of the Postclosure and License Acquisition Division in the Yucca Mountain Project’s Office of License Application and Strategy, Office of Repository Development in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Division is responsible for the preparation of the license application, development of the Total System Performance Assessment, and development of the underlying technical bases.

Before joining the U.S. Department of Energy, Bill was a geotechnical engineer for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the Division of High-Level Waste Management where he reviewed YMSCO activities for design of the Exploratory Studies Facility, and the potential repository, including participating in quality assurance audits. From 1985-1992 he participated in site characterization and design activities for proposed repositories at Yucca Mountain, Nevada; Hanford, Washington; and Deaf Smith County, Texas. He also has worked on characterization for and analysis of underground excavations in Canada, Finland, Japan, as well as in the state of California. He also participated in characterization and analysis of large rock sculptures at Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota, and Stone Mountain Georgia.

Bill Boyle holds three degrees from the University of California, Berkeley: a bachelors degree in geology, and masters and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering.

Fred Byther - "Down-dip Woodbine, Polk County, Texas"

Fred Byther received a B.S. degree in geology from the University of Texas, Arlington in 1977. He began his career working for Jack Sistrunk, Jr., #1178, as an East Texas exploration geologist before taking a job with Sunmark, Sun Oil’s exploration company in 1980. He worked in the Deep Anadarko Basin until being transferred to Denver as a manager and regional planner in 1985. After having worked in various projects, primarily involving U.S. onshore exploration, he retired from Oryx Energy Company in 1998.

Fred co-founded Oracle Resources with Brian Pershern and George Ainsworth in 1999. Over the past seven years Oracle has generated an inventory of projects ranging from the introduction of new plays, including the Deep Woodbine and Mid-Continent Shale Gas, to infill and extensional field development, and a large number of Tertiary Upper Gulf Texas Coast prospects supported with 3-D seismic. Fred has made numerous presentations to industry groups over the past few years in an effort to underscore the significant remaining opportunities in the U.S.

(Continued)
Alan Chamberlain - "Great Basin Elephant Hunt"

Alan Chamberlain received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Brigham Young University, and his doctorate from Colorado School of Mines. His dissertation, ‘Structural Geology and Devonian Stratigraphy of the Timpahute Range, Nevada,’ provides a new exploration model that could lead to significant discoveries in this frontier region.

After working for Exxon, Gulf, Marathon, and Placid, he formed and became president of Cedar Strat Corporation in 1984. The company was organized at the request of several major oil companies to fill a need for exploration data in the Great Basin. He conceived the idea of using a scintillation counter to create a surface gamma-ray log of measured sections while working for Gulf, after having worked for Exxon Minerals USA in uranium exploration. At Placid, he had the opportunity to visit many of Shell Oil Company’s staked measured sections by helicopter. Using the Shell measured sections, he learned the Paleozoic stratigraphy of the Great Basin. As he re-measured many of the sections, Alan applied his new technique of surface gamma-ray logs.

He earned AAPG’s Best Poster of the Session Award at the group’s 1983 Convention when he presented his work on surface gamma-ray logs in the Wyoming Thrust Belt, and in the Great Basin. His work attracted the attention of national and international oil companies that have applied his surface gamma-ray log technique worldwide. He has received AAPG’s Levorsen Award twice in 1987 and 2003, for his presentations on the Mississippian Antler Basin, and for his new tectonic model of the eastern Great Basin.

William Ehni - "Petroleum and Geothermal Exploration Activity in Nevada"

Bill Ehni has been professionally employed as a geologist since receiving his bachelor’s degree in geology from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California in 1975. In 1985 he founded Ehni Enterprises Inc. in Carson City, Nevada. Ehni Enterprises Inc. consults for the energy industry in Nevada, and publishes a monthly newsletter, The Nevada Oil Reporter, which chronicles exploration activity in the petroleum and geothermal industries. Bill is also the founding president of the AAPG-affiliated Nevada Petroleum Society. He has been actively involved in petroleum and geothermal exploration in Nevada since 1985.

Zane Marshall - "Planning for a Sustainable Nevada"

Zane Marshall is a senior biologist in the Environmental Resources Division of the Ground water Resources Department of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. He has been employed by SNWA for more than ten years, and has primarily worked on Endangered Species Act compliance initiatives. He has also coordinated research on threatened and endangered species such as the razorback sucker, Yuma clapper rail, southwestern willow flycatcher and woundfin minnow, and has participated on several threatened and endangered species recovery teams in the region. He has a B.A. degree in environmental studies and biology and is conducting graduate work in the areas of conservation biology, phylogeography, and statistics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He serves on the board of directors for the Great Basin Bird Observatory, and is a National Park Service volunteer member of the Devils Hole Dive Team.

(Continued)
John Miller, Jr. - "New Albany Shale Gas Play in the Illinois Basin"

In 1994 John Miller joined Jet Exploration, Inc. of Traverse City, Michigan as a vice president, with responsibility for getting the company into the shale gas play in Michigan and Indiana. He was the driving force behind the establishment of both Aurora Energy and Jet Exploration, and their efforts in southern Indiana. He currently oversees Aurora Energy’s shale gas development programs in Michigan and Indiana. Aurora plans to drill more than 200 shale gas wells in this area in 2006.

John became employed by Aurora Energy in 1997; at that time he contributed his interest in Jet/La Vanway Exploration to the company in exchange for the company's stock. Since that time he has been responsible for overseeing exploration and development activities. He was also named Aurora’s Vice President of Exploration and Production in 1997. Aurora Energy recently merged with Cadence Resources, and is publicly traded on the OTC bulletin board. The name is soon to be changed to Aurora Oil and Gas Corporation, and application has been made to trade the stock on the American Exchange. John Miller holds a B.S. degree in business administration from Oral Roberts University.

Michael Miller - "Three Centuries of California Gold"

As president, director and CEO of the Original Sixteen to One Mine, Inc., America’s oldest operating gold mine, Mike Miller is responsible for the daily operations of the company. In 1975 he became the sole proprietor of the Morning Glory Gold Mines. Prior to that he was self-employed in Santa Barbara County, California. Dissident Sixteen to One Mine shareholders elected him a director in 1977; he became president in 1979, but lost the office four months later in a company coup d'etat. He regained the office in April 1983, and has held it since that time. Mike has also served as a trustee and president of the Sierra County Board of Education, and as a member of the Sierra County Planning Commission, where he was chairman in 1992 and 1993.

Mike is licensed as a California Class A general engineering contractor, and is a member of the AIME. In 1965 he received a B.A. degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in Combined Social Sciences-Economics.

David Morse - "With All that Coal, Where's the Gas in the Illinois Basin?"

David Morse graduated from the College of Wooster in Ohio, majoring in geology and chemistry. He obtained his master's and Ph.D. degrees from The John Hopkins University in Baltimore, then worked thirteen years for Chevron, starting at their LaHabra, California Oil Field Research Lab. He has been a research geologist and director of the Midwest PTTC program at the Illinois State Geological Survey in Champaign for the last twelve years. His research interests include Illinois Basin source rocks, oil, gas and gas storage reservoirs, and most recently coalbed methane and geological sequestration of CO2. He is a sedimentologist by training, and assists small independents who work plays in the Illinois Basin.

David Pursell - "The Oil & Gas ‘Sweet Spot’ . . . How Long Can it Last?"

Dave Pursell is responsible for macro energy analysis at Pickering Energy Partners in Houston, Texas. His past experience includes being director of upstream research at Simmons & Company International, and manager of petrophysics at S.A. Holditch & Associates, now a division of Schlumberger. He also performed field engineering at ARCO Alaska. Currently, he serves as chairman of the IPAA Supply Committee. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University.

(Continued)
Lisa Shevenell - "Summary of Research Projects at the Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy"

Lisa Shevenell has over twenty years of experience in geothermal exploration and research. Currently she is the director of the Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her areas of expertise include groundwater hydrology, geothermal systems, isotope hydrology, and aqueous geochemistry. She earned her bachelor’s degree in geology at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and a Ph.D. at the University of Nevada, Reno in hydrogeology. She has held research positions at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Desert Research Institute, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. She has also served as principal investigator on thirty funded research projects totaling over $6 million.

Jimmy Thomas, #2710 - "Statistical Plays: Blackjack Strategies for the Barnett Shale"

Jimmy Thomas is president of Castaneda Consulting LLC located in Weatherford, Texs. In the early stages of the western extension of the Barnett Shale, Castaneda secured large acreage blocks, which are now being developed by ConocoPhillips and Chief Oil & Gas. Presently he is working with Crown Equipment Company and other independent operators on the optimization of drilling and completion techniques in vertical wells in the western extension area of the Barnett Shale. He has an M.S. degree in geology and an MBA from Texas Christian University. He is a member of AAPG, SPE, and a past chairman of the SIPES Chapter in Fort Worth, Texas.

Stephen Wells - "DRI: 50 Years of Environmental Research"

Stephen Wells is president of the Desert Research Institute (DRI) of the Nevada System of Higher Education. He oversees one of the world’s largest multidisciplinary environmental research organizations with approximately 460 scientists, technologists, and other support staff. He leads three core divisions and three interdisciplinary science centers that serve the State of Nevada, and every continent in the world. He is also a graduate faculty member in the Hydrogeologic Sciences Program and Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Prior to joining DRI in 1995, he was professor of Geomorphology and chair of the graduate program in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. His academic career began at the University of New Mexico in 1976; he served as chair of the UNM Department of Geology from 1989-1991. He has held visiting appointments with the U.S. Air Force Office of Research; USGS; Los Alamos National Laboratory; and The University of Liverpool. He also has established consulting relationships with numerous federal agencies and private companies including the U.S. Department of Justice, Sandia National Laboratories, and environmental and geotechnical firms in the western United States.

He has a B.S. degree in geology from Indiana University, as well as an M.S. and Ph.D. in geology from the University of Cincinnati. He has published many peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and edited six volumes. These works focus on the geomorphology and Quaternary geology of arid and semi-arid regions, geomorphic and hydrologic responses to Quaternary climate change, and tectonic and volcanic activity. He is the recipient of three national awards for research excellence from the GSA.
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