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Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists

SIPES 2017 Convention

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President's Column

Douglas H. McGinness II, #1964
Wichita, Kansas

Bob Dylan wrote The Times They Are A-Changin.’ Change.
Human nature seems to fight change, but it happens to us all, and is the nature of the universe. I lost my father and mentor, and long-time, proud SIPES member #500, Douglas H. McGinness, this past December. It has been a tough adjustment for me and my family. On a personal note, I appreciate all of the condolences that I received from SIPES staff, fellow Board of Directors, and SIPES members. Your kind words and support mean a great deal.

The November presidential election brought about significant change and it will be interesting to see how the new congress and president work together to solve difficult issues facing our country. Hopefully the new administration will have a more cooperative attitude toward the oil and gas industry than did the previous one. A strong and vibrant domestic oil and gas business is critically important to not only our national security, but also our economy as a whole. The oil and gas industry, along with other key industries, girds the infrastructure of our nation's economic life. It's been said that the oil and gas industry won't do well unless the economy is doing well, and the economy won't do well unless the oil and gas industry is doing well.

Unfortunately, we’ve witnessed wholesale layoffs in many sectors of the petroleum industry.

(Continued on Page 7)

Geology at the University of Louisiana:
The Value to our Students of Interaction with the Petroleum Industry

by Brian Lock, Professor Emeritus of Geology
School of Geosciences — University of Louisiana at Lafayette

This article is the seventh in a new series submitted by SIPES Members and Chapters.

The AAPG sponsors an annual competition for graduate programs in the geosciences called the Imperial Barrel Award (IBA). The program is based on a masters’ level course taught at Imperial College, London. Multiple data sets from various petroleum provinces (basins) around the world have been collected and made available for the competition. Each participating school fields a team of five graduate students tasked with analyzing and evaluating the basin for hydrocarbon potential. The results of this evaluation are presented to the judges (representing the management) in a style similar to what an exploration company might expect.

“The program is rigorous and contributes to AAPG’s mission of promoting petroleum geoscience training and advancing the careers of geoscience students.”

(Continued on Page 20)
CORRECTION
November 2016 SIPES Quarterly
New Members — Page 17

The November 2016 SIPES Quarterly contained a misspelled last name for a new member. The correction is:
Jon P. Herber
Our apology for this error.

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Executive Director .................. Diane Finstrom
Admin. Assistant .................. Katie Ruvalcaba
Member Services .................. Phyllis Davis

2017 Board Meeting Dates
March 27-28 .................. Corpus Christi, TX

2017 Annual Meeting Dates
June 26-29 .................. Vail, CO

The SIPES Quarterly is published by the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists. Send your comments, letters, address changes and advertising inquiries to the SIPES Headquarters in Dallas, Texas.

The following reports on national energy and environmental information were prepared by SIPES Vice President of National Energy David Shiels and Environmental Committee Chair John Kimberly. The views and opinions expressed are those of the authors. Some of the information presented is in the public domain and is available from a variety of sources; other references were selected by the authors, and are noted in their reports.

NATIONAL ENERGY

The 2017 Outlook Looks Promising

2016 Was Good for Us

Kelly Clarkson has a song that goes like this, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. Stand a little taller... What doesn’t kill you makes a fighter, Footsteps even lighter...” But man, I’m glad we can put 2016 in the rear-view mirror. We have all lived through hard times and we made it through another.

2017 Outlook

Tom Ellacott, senior vice president of corporate analysis research at Wood Mackenzie, said: “Most oil and gas companies will start 2017 on a firmer footing, having halved cash flow break evens to survive the past two years. Further evidence of a cautious, U-shaped recovery in investment should emerge.”

In 2017, according to the firm, strengthening finances will still be a top priority for oil companies. Capital discipline, cost reduction and deleveraging will frame corporate strategies in 2017. Ellacott said that 2016 will prove to be the low point in the investment cycle, with confidence boosted by OPEC’s decision to cut production.

Mr. Ellacott went on to say that U.S.-based companies will respond first to rising prices. Emboldened by a Trump Administration committed to exploiting domestic oil and gas resources, operators in the lower 48 states have three core competitive advantages: access to capital; cost-advantaged portfolios; and flexibility to scale back spending sharply if prices stay low.

According to Wood Mackenzie’s analysis, U.S. independents could increase investment by over 25% if oil prices average above $50 per barrel. However, spending for the big firms such as Shell, Devon and Chevron will continue to trend down by around 8% as recent capital-intensive projects wind down.

Wood Mackenzie forecasts production from the 60 companies covered in its corporate service to grow by an average of 2%, which is impressive given that development spending was cut by over 40% between 2014 and 2016.

Wood Mackenzie expects the trend of improving exploration success rates and full-cycle returns to continue in 2017, with more majors and national oil companies stepping up new venture activity.

“Mergers and acquisitions will also offer an attractive value proposition for the financially strong, prepared to take a bullish view on long-term prices,” said Ellacott. "Low-cost, low-risk discovered resource opportunities will look attractive (Continued)
again. And the larger players will need these to ensure long-

term portfolio renewal as part of a more balanced growth

strategy."

Bloomberg, however, says that the OPEC production cuts

that I mentioned in my last SIPES Quarterly article, may have

actually created greater volatility in oil prices. Bloomberg

dicts U.S. oil dynamics will remain uncertain this year, though

prices have recovered on better sentiment.

The best news of this year so far is that prices remain steady

with oil at the low $50 range and natural gas in the $3.30 to

$3.40/MCF range. Energy companies need market stability

so they can plan. So, what is Trump going to do?

TRUMP

Republican President-elect Donald Trump has shared a

vision for changing the direction of U.S. energy and environ-

mental policies. Trump wants to roll back many of President

Barack Obama’s regulations. Will Trump make good on his

promises to be friendly and supportive to oil and gas explora-

tion and production? We shall see soon enough. He has said

that he will open up previously forbidden areas for explora-

tion. But, in the lower 48, we just need federal support and a

break from the ever-increasing regulations by EPA.

If you go to Trump’s website, https://www.donaldjtrump.

com/policies/energy you will get to read his energy plan. He

outlines his energy plan with the following:

• Make America energy independent, create millions of

new jobs, and protect clean air and clean water. We will con-

serve our natural habitats, reserves and resources. We will

unleash an energy revolution that will bring vast new wealth

to our country.

• Declare American energy dominance a strategic eco-

nomic and foreign policy goal of the United States.

• Unleash America’s $50 trillion in untapped shale, oil,

and natural gas reserves, plus hundreds of years in clean coal

reserves.

• Become, and stay, totally independent of any need to

import energy from the OPEC cartel or any nations hostile to

our interests.

• Open onshore and offshore leasing on federal lands,

eliminate moratorium on coal leasing, and open shale energy

deposits.

• Encourage the use of natural gas and other American

energy resources that will both reduce emissions but also

reduce the price of energy and increase our economic output.

• Rescind all job-destroying Obama executive actions. Mr.

Trump will reduce and eliminate all barriers to responsible

energy production, creating at least a half million jobs a year,

$30 billion in higher wages, and cheaper energy.

The Trump approach is a welcome change from the previ-

ous eight years of anti-energy by the Obama Administration.

Concluding Thoughts

All markets and industries need a correction to keep them

lean and mean; it’s good for us. It is during these times that

we figure out how to get more out of our wells and spend less

to get it. The 2014-2016 energy depression separated the

wheat from the chaff. Now, it’s time to get drilling again. In

writing this article, I researched many opinions by scholars

and experts and the outlook is a net positive. I remain optimis-

tic for the small independent. Only time will tell with the new

administration in Washington and a volatile and fragile world

market. I’m anxious to get on with the next chapter in oil and

gas exploration and production history. Happy New Year!

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Hottest Year Ever!?!?

Many alarming articles have appeared in

the media over the past week announcing

that 2016 was the hottest year on record. An

example is a January 19 release by Seth

Borenstein for Associated Press stating

“Earth sizzled to a third-straight record hot

year in 2016 with scientists mostly blaming

man-made global warming with help from a

natural El Niño.” The author quotes sourc-
es that say the El Niño effect may be respon-
sible for as little as 12% or as much as 33% of the warming, but

that “most of the record heat was from heat-trapping gases

from the burning of oil, coal and gas.” These articles imply

that the cause is mankind and none question the veracity of

the numbers.

Contrary to these alarming reports, the Wall Street Journal

on January 20, 2017, presented an opinion on this subject

etitled “Keeping Cool about Hot Temperatures.” The arti-

cle starts by saying “By now you’ve seen the headline: 2016

was the hottest year on record. The news has been paired with

predictions of civilization’s imminent demise.” It goes on to

report that “2016 edged out 2015 by a mere 0.04 degrees

Celsius. That’s a fraction of the margin of error.” The article

questions whether anyone really knows if last year was truly a

record, but it does not question whether the data used to rep-

resent the past average temperatures are accurate.

As for the veracity of the numbers presented by National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an inter-

esting article appeared in Real Climate Science in December

2016 entitled “100% of U.S. Warming is Due to NOAA Data

Tampering.” This paper contains a lot of useful information;

the most important graph to me was the Average USHCN

Temperature from 1890 to 2014. It shows that the tempera-

ture back in the early 1930s was higher than the current tem-

peratures, and also shows the historical adjustments that have

been made in the Measured readings to arrive at the Reported

readings.

(Continued)
This article by Tony Heller counters that there has been very little hot weather in 2016 in the United States. The average number of days in a year over 95° F since 1900 has been 4.9, and the hot period at the beginning of the 1930s had a record 9.8 days over 95° F. By comparison, 2016 had 4.4 days.

Heller describes that the NOAA data is marked with an “E” when a station’s data is fabricated. Up until 1970 only 10% of their database was marked with an “E,” but by 2016 the fabricated readings had increased to 42%.

In answer to Heller’s claims of fraud by NOAA, he says that NOAA typically replies with two defenses:
1. They use gridded data; and
2. They “have to” adjust the data because of Time of Observation Bias (TOBS) and station moves.

Heller debunks both arguments. He claims that gridding only lowers the temperature slightly and illustrates with a graph the indiscernible difference between gridded and un-gridded data. He agrees that TOBS is a real problem, but is very small. It has to do with the time of resetting the thermometers, particularly in the 1930s. By testing results of stations that did not reset their instruments in the afternoon against all stations during the same time frame, he found the two patterns to be almost identical. Therefore the data from reset thermometers did not materially malign the overall data.

Heller concludes by saying “NOAA has always known that the U.S. is not warming.” He cites a quip from The New York Times dated January 28, 1989.

To read the entire Heller article, go to http://realclimatescience.com/2016/12/100-of-us-warming-is-due-to-noaa-data-tampering/.
SIPES Investors List

Are you a SIPES Member who is interested in investing in projects developed by other Members? If so, visit the new Discovery Room during the 2017 Convention, AND, put your name on the SIPES Investors List. This list is for SIPES Members Only.

The SIPES Investors List enrollment form asks for the following information:
- Your Name & Contact Information
- Geographic Areas of Interest
- Reserve Size Range
- Range of Interest (%) and Range of Interest ($)
- Your Remarks

Find the enrollment form on the SIPES website - www.sipes.org under the “Members” tab, or email your information to the SIPES Office at sipes@sipes.org. To see the list with entries, you must be logged into the website as a member. For assistance, email the SIPES Office.

WANTED: UPSTREAM OPPORTUNITIES

Privately owned company seeking to expand activity in the Permian Basin (with focus on the Central Basin Platform).

- Leasehold Acreage
- Lease Banking
- Farm-Out
- WI (Op. or Non-Op.)
- Production
- O.R.R.I.

Call Keith E. Logan at (432) 559-0648
Exploration Manager / Reservoir Engineer
Many thanks to the members listed below for their continuing support of our society

2016-2017 Cornerstone Group Members will be printed in the May 2017 Quarterly

Promoter – $2500
Thomas A. Smith — Austin, TX
Paul M. Strunk — Corpus Christi, TX
Oil Finder – $1200
William C. Burkett — Midland, TX
Stewart Chuber — Schenulpburg, NY
Ralph J. Daigle — The Woodlands, TX
William R. Finley — Lafayette, LA
Michael A. Pollok — Purcell, OK
Stephen D. Reynolds — Denver, CO
Driller – $750
Kenneth J. Huffman — Mandeville, LA
Walter S. Light, Jr. — Houston, TX
Charles A. Lundberg III — Dallas, TX
Marc D. Maddox — Midland, TX
D. Craig Smith — Midland, TX
Prospector – $500
Michael N. Austin — Westminster, CO
James B. Bennett — Houston, TX
Louis C. Bortz — Denver, CO
Paul W. Britt — Houston, TX
Lanny O. Butner — Wichita, KS
P. A. Nye — Corpus Christi, TX
H. Jack Naumann, Jr. — Midland, TX
Brian K. Miller — Midland, TX
Gregg A. McDonald — Oklahoma City, OK
J. Phil Martin, Jr. — Spring, TX
Constance N. Knight — Golden, CO
Gary C. Huber — Centennial, CO
James H. Henderson — Dallas, TX
Patricia H. Ackman — Corpus Christi, TX
George S. Johnson — Amarillo, TX
Constance N. Knight — Golden, CO
J. Phil Martin, Jr. — Spring, TX
Gregg A. McDonald — Oklahoma City, OK
Douglas H. McGINNIS — Wichita, KS
Brian M. Miller — Midland, TX
H. Jack Naumann, Jr. — Midland, TX
Patrick A. Nye — Corpus Christi, TX
J. David Overtot — Midland, TX
Hugh C. Pendery — Dallas, TX
Barry J. Rava — Houston, TX
Julius M. Ridgway — Ridgeland, MS
A. Scott Ritchie — Wichita, KS
James D. Robertson — Fort Worth, TX
C. Randall Schott — Houston, TX
Eugene R. Sidwell — Amarillo, TX
Michael R. Vasicek — Midland, TX
Roughneck – $250
Thornton E. Anderson — Wichita, KS
Fred H. Behaken — Midland, TX
Bruce M. Brady III — Midland, TX
Garnet W. Brock — Midland, TX
H. Kent Brock — Houston, TX
James R. Cleveland — Dallas, TX
Wendell R. Creech — Midland, TX
Marshall C. Crouch III — Denver, CO
Lawrence H. Davis — Oklahoma City, OK
Marlan W. Downey — Dallas, TX
Duncan D. Dubroff — Houston, TX
Roger A. Freddline — Midland, TX
Donald C. Gifford — Dallas, TX
Harold W. Hanke — Oklahoma City, OK
Edward W. Heath — Durango, CO
Albert R. Hensley — Rockwall, TX
Thomas C. Klekamp — Mandeville, LA
John D. Kullman — Midland, TX
Robert C. Leibrock — Fort Worth, TX
Peter MacKenzie — Worthington, OH
Roger L. Martin — Wichita, KS
Ronald E. Neal — Bellaire, TX
R. Leo Newport — Dallas, TX
F. X. O’Keefe — Denver, CO
Arthur J. Pantsie, Jr. — Arvada, CO
Larry J. Rairden — Bellaire, TX
John M. Rakowski — Florissant, CO
David L. Read — Highlands Ranch, CO
Deborah K. Sacrey — Houston, TX
Daniel L. Smith — Houston, TX
Joe H. Smith — Plano, TX
Stephen M. Smith — Houston, TX
William M. Smith — Houston, TX
Stephen A. Sonnenberg — Golden, CO
John R. Stephens — Dallas, TX
C. Al Taylor, Jr. — Reston, VA
James Travillo — Houston, TX
Scott A. Wainwright — Metairie, LA
William G. Watson — Midland, TX
Travis C. Wilson — Norman, OK
James M. Zlotkiewicz — Metairie, LA
Scout – $50
Edward J. Ackman — Denver, CO
Orville R. Berg — Shreveport, LA
E. Bernard Brauer — Corpus Christi, TX
Martin M. Cassidy — Cypress, TX
David W. Childers — Houston, TX
Robert A. Cooksey — Richardson, TX
Rebecca L. Dugan — Wichita Falls, TX
Douglas R. Estler — Dallas, TX
Leonard S. Fowler — Richardson, TX
William J. Furlong — New Orleans, LA
Thomas E. Gentry — Midland, TX
Clement E. George — Midland, TX
Paul A. Hardwick — Houston, TX
Michael S. Johnson — Denver, CO
Bill Layton — San Antonio, TX
Patrick H. McKinney — Houston, TX
Laurence S. Melzer, Jr. — Midland, TX
Eddie W. Rhea — Dallas, TX
Richard Wilkerson — Houston, TX
Gerrit Wind — Houston, TX
Rosilee Winn — Santa Fe, NM
Investor – $100
Robert W. Anderson — Houston, TX
Hines Austin — Lafayette, LA
William C. Bahlburg — Plano, TX
Norman K. Barker* — Midland, TX
Alvin Bialla, Jr. — Lafayette, LA
Arthur E. Berman — Sugar Land, TX
Dawn S. Bissell — Corpus Christi, TX
Richard C. Blackwell — Midland, TX
Foy W. Boyd, Jr. — Midland, TX
Wilbur C. Bradley — Wichita, KS
Glenn P. Burke — Houston, TX
Rex D. Coppedge — Fairview, TX
Jacob D. Eisell — Boulder, CO
J. Frank Fuller — Dallas, TX
William M. Kazmann — Richardson, TX
John E. Kimberly — Midland, TX
Wayne Lebsack — Lyons, KS
Louis J. Mazzuollo — Morrison, CO
Michael F. McKinzie — Lafayette, LA
Eric L. Michaelson — Midland, TX
Wayne D. Miller — Midland, TX
Dwight A. Munchrath — Lafayette, LA
James F. O’Connell — Amarillo, TX
Elwin M. Peacock* — Houston, TX
Edward B. Picou, Jr. — New Orleans, LA
Charles D. Schmidt — Valley Center, KS
C. G. Tyner — Houston, TX
Mitchell F. Veh, Jr. — Bellaire, TX
H. Vaughan Watkins, Jr. — Madison, MS
Ralph O. Wilson II — Evansville, IN
George D. Zimmerman — Midland, TX
In Memoriam:
P.J. O’Keefe — Denver, CO
* Deceased
industry, including a high number of geoscientists and engineers, as well as losing hordes of vendor and service company providers during the past two years. The recent uptick in oil and natural gas prices has enabled some of us independents to dust off our prospect maps and prepare to drill wells. However, there are now fewer vendors to choose from, and therefore, less competition to keep capital costs down.

Veterans of our business anticipate ‘busts and booms’ and have survived through many volatile cycles. We all pine for the ‘good old days,’ but by adapting through adjustment and commitment, we can find ways to survive and wait for more profitable times.

SIPES is not immune from change, and because of the drastic downturn in our industry, we are facing a significant budget crisis. We have lost many members because of tough economic times, resulting in fewer dues collected. Further, Cornerstone Group participation is down, proceeds from the NAPE expos are down, and we incurred a sizable loss from our San Diego Convention due to low attendance and dwindling sponsorship dollars. SIPES is now forced to make changes to ensure the viability of our organization.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is working with Diane Finstrom on ways to reduce operational costs. Unless our financial situation improves, one regrettable change could involve switching the *SIPES Quarterly* from print format to digital only format. This move would save SIPES approximately $12,000 per year. We realize that for most of our members, including me, having our printed *Quarterly* is a big bonus, and if we make this change it will only be after much careful thought and deliberation by the Board of Directors. In addition, we are exploring ways to make the printing and handling of the *Quarterly* more economical.

The SIPES Board of Directors is carefully analyzing all of our expenditures and we will make additional cuts as we deem prudent in order to survive the tough challenge ahead of us, to keep our organization as strong and viable as possible. This endeavor will require commitment and sacrifice from all of us, and we welcome your thoughts and ideas on cutting costs and increasing revenues.

One of the ways that members can help SIPES is to join the Cornerstone Group. It was established in 1993 to help strengthen SIPES’ financial position. Along with our national dues, payments to the Cornerstone Group are the primary source of revenue for SIPES. We need more member involvement in the Cornerstone Group, so please consider joining this group with your upcoming 2017 National Dues payment.

The SIPES 54th Annual Meeting and 2017 Convention will be held June 26-29, in beautiful Vail, Colorado, co-hosted by the Corpus Christi Chapter. A big shout out to our Executive Director Diane Finstrom, and to Vice President Patrick Nye of the Corpus Christi Chapter who is chair of our annual meeting. They have done an outstanding job securing lodging at a significant rate discount, and they have put together a great program of events for us.

I am looking forward to updating my skills by listening to timely and informative technical presentations, attending the field trip, and networking with fellow SIPES Members. And I certainly will enjoy escaping the summer heat of Kansas to enjoy the cool mountain air at the beautiful Four Seasons Resort in Vail. As always, there will be plenty of stellar extra-curricular activities for members and spouses in which to partake. I encourage all of our membership to attend. And, it is not too late to become a convention sponsor or advertiser. If you are interested, please contact Diane Finstrom at sipes@sipes.org or Patrick Nye at patrick@nyexp.us.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the SIPES organization, I am honored and will aspire to meet the needs of this great group as best as I can throughout the upcoming year.

---

**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN CONTINUED**

In 2017, a Senior Dues Option is available until April 15th for members who are age 70 on March 1, 2017 and have been a SIPES Member for twenty consecutive years. A Dues Waiver is available in 2017 for members who are at least 80 years old on March 1, 2017 and have been a SIPES Member for twenty consecutive years.

Members who elect to waive national dues are required to notify the SIPES Office annually that they are taking this option. Please mail, email or leave a voice message on the headquarters office telephone — 214-363-1780 advising that you are taking the dues waiver. The office is unable to return any phone call regarding national dues waivers. If there is an eligibility problem, you will be contacted.

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**SIPES 2017-2018 NATIONAL DUES INVOICES HAVE BEEN MAILED**

SIPES National Dues cover the time period March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018

Dues are $90 until June 1. On June 1, national dues increase to $115.

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FORT WORTH

The Fort Worth Chapter finished off the last quarter of 2016 with several impressive speakers.

In October, 34 members and guests were in attendance at the Fort Worth Petroleum Club as SIPES National and Fort Worth Chapter member Tom Zadick, #3323, educated us with an enlightening case study via his presentation "Preparing the model - Covenant Field, Central Utah Overthrust." Mr. Zadick’s talk summarized important geology, petrophysics and engineering considerations that were incorporated into the most recent history match for Covenant Field.

Also in October, Fort Worth Chapter member and Membership Chairman Michael Morris, #3071, presented geologist Scott Sabatka, #3452, with his SIPES membership certificate.

For our November luncheon, 47 members and guests were in attendance. Among those were members of the SIPES National Board and their guests as SIPES National Director and Fort Worth Chapter Member Wayne Hoskins, #2661, presented his compelling and informative talk titled "Seismic Inversions & Perversions - What’s New? What’s Not?"

Continuing the growth of our local chapter and national organization, Fort Worth Chapter member and Membership Chairman Michael Morris presented Monte Meers, #3463, of Abilene with his SIPES membership certificate.

Closing out 2016, 52 members and guests were in attendance at the Fort Worth Petroleum Club as Jim Manatt, chairman and CEO of Thrust Energy, Inc. of Roswell, New Mexico presented "A Return to Exploration: Finding Something New and Valuable in a World of Challenging Industry Economics and Mindset."

The Fort Worth Chapter meets September through June on the first Wednesday of each month at the Fort Worth Petroleum Club.

Jarvis (Jay) Moore
Secretary

DENVER

At our October meeting, Connie Knight, #3089, chairman of the Denver SIPES Chapter, presented a talk on “the Eagle Basin of Northwest Colorado: A Compartmentalized Evaporite Basin and Large Hydrocarbon Frontier.” The Eagle Basin, a Pennsylvanian (predominantly Desmonian aged) evaporite basin (similar to the Paradox Basin) contains widespread carbonate rocks and black shales that are exploration targets for oil and gas reserves. Connie’s talk focused on Moffat and Rio Blanco counties where normal marine and penesaline facies flank hypersaline halite facies. One specific prospect is estimated to have 400 million barrels of oil equivalent. Cumulative production from some of the larger fields in NW Colorado include: Rangely 800 million BO (Pennsylvanian Weber sandstone), Wilson Creek 84 million BO (Jurassic sandstones), Moffat 9.5 million BO (Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic and Pennsylvanian sandstones), Iles 19 million BO (Cretaceous and Jurassic sandstones).

(Continued)
AUSTIN

The Austin Chapter’s regular lunch meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at the County Line on the Hill Restaurant from October through May.

At our October meeting, our speaker was Deborah Sacrey, #1271, owner of Auburn Energy in Houston, Texas, and a SIPES Past President. The title of her talk was “Finding Oil and Gas Using the Power of Machine Learning.” She showed how computers can improve drilling success by reducing vast amounts of data to manageable levels. The use of Principal Component Analysis (PCA), which is a linear quantitative process designed to understand which seismic attributes have interpretative significance by analyzing the variations in the data, has proven to be an excellent approach to sorting through vast amounts of data. PCA used in the interpretation workflow can help determine meaningful seismic attributes, and in turn, these attributes can be used as input into neural analysis in the creation of Self-Organized Maps (SOM). SOM analysis is a pattern recognition process using unsupervised neural networks, and can reveal the natural clustering and patterns in the data which often are distinctive geological features not easily identifiable using singular seismic attributes.

In November, our speaker was Glenn Sharman, a post-doctoral researcher at the Bureau of Economic Geology here in Austin. The title of his talk was “Drainage Reorganization of the Early Cenozoic Rockies-Gulf of Mexico Sediment Routing System.” Detrital zircon U-Pb ages from the Rocky Mountain region and Gulf of Mexico (GOM) sedimentary basin demonstrates profound changes in the U.S. continental drainage divide that controlled the rate of sediment delivery to the northern GOM during Paleocene-Eocene time. Sedimentation rate increased two orders of magnitude, reaching approximately three times the Cenozoic average, during deposition of the Lower Wilcox Group, accompanied by pronounced shoreline regression and delivery of a large volume of sand to the basin floor. Gary hypothesized that this dramatic increase in sediment delivery to the GOM resulted from drainage capture of a significant portion of the Sevier-Laramide hinterland (~910,000 km^2) that included the headwaters of the California and Idaho rivers.

Ward Davenport
Chairman

November guest speaker John Gustavson (left) with Lou Bortz.

At the Christmas Party are (L to R) Roger Knight, Shirley and Lou Bortz.

were treated to a catered Mid-Eastern dinner and holiday music by Michael (violin) and Sheryl (accordion) Holmes. Holiday cheer was enjoyed by all party-goers.

Lou Bortz, #1698

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Thank You for Your Support
DALLAS

Our October luncheon talk was about ARCO’s Exploration Success Story - the Margham Field in Dubai, UAE. The speaker, Charles Goebel, #3031, is a Dallas Chapter Member who lived and worked in Dubai developing the field for many years in the ‘80s. ARCO’s thoughtful development and the reinjection of produced gas into the retrograde condensate field, contributed to over 100 MMBbls production. Charles’ personal insight into the people in the United Arab Emirates at the time was an extra bonus.

The Dallas Chapter’s annual November E&P Symposium was held on Tuesday, November 1 at Brookhaven College Geotechnology Institute (BCGI). The event was co-hosted with Dallas Geological Society and titled: “Conventional Success in an Unconventional World.” Oklahoma City Chapter Member Greg Riepl, #2322, shared his insights on reservoir characterization and stratigraphy. Gary Rice with GeoFrontiers spoke about using soil geochemistry as an exploration tool. Bill Van Sickel with West Bay Exploration traced the development of the Napoleon Field in southern Michigan. Bob Weiner discussed using new data in old Muenster Arch fields to discover and develop deeper Ellenberger pay. EsPlore scientists presented the use of electro seismic to identify shallow Wilcox channel sands and deep Smackover carbonates. Anas Alhajji with Energy Outlook Advisors was the featured luncheon speaker. Dr. Alhajji gave an insightful, animated talk on the future of the oil and gas industry in light of Middle East posturing, world trade, shale oil and electric vehicles. He is a captivating speaker. Next, Dallas member Dick Boyce, #3245, filled us in on his seismic interpretation of offshore Guyana in the Canje Block, adjacent to Exxon-Mobil. Lee Petersen, #2838, reminded us that our own minds are the key tools to revisiting mature basins with critical thinking. He gave examples in the Midland Basin and Eastern Shelf. Bill Fairhurst finished up with a talk about building the geoscience team to reevaluate mature plays. Our take-away was a renewed optimism to rethink our old ideas and plays.

The Holiday Party we all look forward to was Saturday, December 3 at the Petroleum Club. It was a lovely evening. The Dallas Chapter has a great 2017 planned.

Carol Shiels
2016 Chairman
OKLAHOMA CITY

The Oklahoma City Chapter met on October 5 at the Petroleum Club for lunch. Our speakers for the event were Mike Austin, #2366, and Mike Pollok, #2512, independent geologists who work northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas. The title of their presentation was "My Odyssey through the Mississippian Subcrops – Continued. Northwest Purdyville Field. THE CORE ANSWERED WHERE THE OIL REALLY IS." There was great interest in this talk and much discussion followed.

Our November meeting was held on November 2 at the Petroleum Club. We were pleased to have Steve M. Wyett, CFA, senior vice president of Bank of Oklahoma as our speaker. His topic was "The Complex Environment and Outlook for Carbon Based Energy." Those who attended the SIPES Convention in San Diego in August will remember Steve, as his talk there was excellent. He encouraged comment and conversation throughout his talk and there was much discussion that followed.

Our chapter foregoes its normal luncheon meeting in December for a Christmas dinner and party. On December 16, about fifty members and guests sat down to an excellent dinner at the Petroleum Club. The view of all the Christmas lights below in downtown Oklahoma City was inspiring. Entertainment for the evening was once again provided by Michael Kleid on piano and sax. It started out with Christmas music and wound up with an impersonation of the Rolling Stones. Lots of visiting and well wishes were exchanged as several members danced the night away. Another very successful event for the Oklahoma City Chapter.

James Franks
Chairman

HOUSTON

The October luncheon lecture was by David Connolly, SIPES Limited Member, and the chief geologist with dGB Earth Sciences. He spoke about the vertical migration of hydrocarbons and its detection and implications for hydrocarbon exploration, in a talk entitled “Detection of Vertical Hydrocarbon Migration Pathways in Seismic Data: Toward the Quantification of Top Seal and Charge Risk.” The talk focused on using the vertical migration signature as an exploration tool and reservoir limiting tool.

The Gulf Coast is dominated by hydrocarbon migration, and chimneys are often detected by the chaotic nature of the reflections affected by the migration. Chimneys are widespread and are seen with both oil and gas migration. Most chimneys are processed out of the data, but should be placed on the seismic as they provide important clues about migration and accumulations. David showed a funny example via a cartoon of a hidden chimney in a house that was only revealed once the house was burned down!

Employing seismic attributes such as amplitudes and frequency, and neural networks, the chimneys can be placed back on the data and used to study top and lateral seals, as well as migration pathways. Studying the chimneys involves analyzing the data to determine if it’s bad data or a chimney.

Some features of chimneys are that they are related to thermogenic hydrocarbon migration, can be from deep source rock, correlate to basin evolution (modeling), are linked to surface geochemistry data, and correlate to mud log shows. Mud volcanoes formed by chimneys can be indicators of an underlying oil reservoir. Chimneys are also directly related to faulting and are responsible for the ‘pock-marked’ character of fluid flow along the trace of a fault.

Chimneys can also be used as a near-field exploration tool. Grand Bay was discovered in the 1960s, and chimneys are being used to study migration and seal characteristics that may help prove the charging of a deeper Eocene target. Eugene Island Block 330 field exhibits gas clouds (chimneys) over oil reservoirs, and less severe effects over gas reservoirs – the gas reservoirs have less leakage. David is currently compiling an atlas of gas chimneys.

The November luncheon lecture was by Arthur E. Berman, #3062, director of Labyrinth Consulting Services, and perhaps the only geologist ever to be in Rolling Stone. He spoke about the price of oil and the influence the economy and oil prices have on one another in a talk entitled “Oil Prices Lower Forever? Hard Times in a Failing Economy.” The talk focused on explaining the history of oil price fluctuations and probed the question of sustainable prices.

(Continued)
So much information was contained in an amusing talk, that the best report is highlighting some of the points made during the talk:

- Sustainable price is not $45/BO; the industry needs about $85/BO to survive, because oil prices may be low, but they are 40% higher than during the 1996-2004 low, and today’s replacement costs are about double
- Oil has been revalued to affordable prices by deflation
- U.S. light oil has no place to go. Refineries are geared for heavier oil, and change is slow
- Energy is the economy; money is a call on energy – the economy grows when there is a surplus of cheap energy. The world is not running out of energy, it is running out of cheap energy!
- High energy cost, massive debt, and economic stagnation are directly related
- At current prices ($45-50/BO) shale plays cannot provide the returns normally required by capital markets
- Technology makes unconventional oil cheaper than five to ten years ago, but unconventional hydrocarbon accumulations will never be cheaper than the oil produced in the giant conventional fields of the world. The real cost of developing and producing unconventional resources is about three times higher than conventional resources

Considering all the statistics and the scenario constructed by Mr. Berman, the startling take-a-ways are:

- Public policy makers ‘believe’ tight oil is a sure thing
- Renewable advocates ‘believe’ wind and solar will save us
- The world also has placed a false hope in OPEC, because economic fundamentals point towards lower prices for a longer term
- Finally, perhaps we should all find ways to live better with less!

The December luncheon lecture was by Gary P. Citron, managing partner at Rose & Associates (Ret.). He spoke about play and prospect risk analysis in a talk entitled “The Challenge of Unbiased Application of Risk Analysis Towards Future Profitable Exploration.” The talk focused on principles of using both forward and backward-looking techniques.

If there is a portfolio of opportunities, there must be a method to analyze the opportunities that is unbiased. The presentation was broadly divided into three sections: the Nature of the Challenge, the Premise of the Review (Backward or Forward-looking), and the Future Challenges.

The importance of objectively studying aspects of risk before the venture and then again after the venture is tantamount to assess risk properly. Risk analysis should be with quantifiable and calibrated measurements.

Some forward-looking parameters might be what creative techniques are available, and what have been employed to overcome typical obstacles in a specific venture. Some backward-looking parameters might be found in the broad title “What Tricked Us?” For an exploratory well such items might be accurate EUR, Success Rates and Failure modes.

It is also important to compare predrill expectation and risk to the list of ‘got-yas’ after the well. Were predictions accurately made, did failure/success occur due to foreseen or unforeseen items? Various matrix analyses were shown as ways to track pre- and post-risk analysis.

Mr. Citron advocated that play data should be updated quarterly. Also, there should be earlier integration of engineering data (drilling techniques, production forecasting, reservoir modelling) and constant reinvestigation of discount rate as applied to drilling prospects.

Interesting quotes that sum up the exploration game are: “Experience is inevitable, learning is not,” and “Good judgment comes from experience, but experience comes from bad judgment!”

Bill Smith, Bob Moses, Andy Hampf and Mike Wisda have completed the Herculean task of updating the SIPES Deal Buyers List. Hats off to them for a job well done! The board discussed ways in which this list might be made available to members only through the existing website.

The current board did a great job steering the society through a tough year. Board member duties are changing in January 2017, and incoming board members will be: Chairman Russell Hamman, Vice Chairman Bill Bippus, Secretary Coerte Voorhies, and Treasurer Bruce Blake.

May 2017 bring good health and much success to each of us, our companies and SIPES!

Barry Rava
2016 Secretary
CORPUS CHRISTI

Roger Young, chief technology officer and co-founder of eSeis, Inc., was our October speaker. He holds two patents: one dealing with AVO and the other with frequency-based pore pressure.

Roger discussed “AVO Problems and their Solutions.” When evaluating prospects and projects, one must realize that all data have errors. While utilizing all data available, the explorationist must understand this and properly condition, scale, correct, and de-spike the data to create a unified model for the best chance of reducing risk.

Roger has 27 years of industry experience, including 14 years with eSeis developing LithSeis®, an advanced seismic analytical tool, DrilSeis®, a seismic process that produces pore pressure and fracture gradient volumes, and Q-Based® Pore Pressure Prediction, which derives pore pressure from Frequency Absorption. Prior to eSeis, Roger worked as a petrophysicist for Union Texas, an integration engineer for Grumman, and a logging engineer for Schlumberger. Roger was instrumental in the discovery of the largest oil field in North America in the last two decades, using this proprietary seismic petrophysics technology. Roger holds an M.S. degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Houston, and a B.S. degree in physics from Clarkson College of Technology.

Due to the holidays, Corpus Christi does not hold technical meetings in November and December. Our annual Holiday Party was hosted by Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti in their lovely home.

Corpus Christi is co-hosting the SIPES 54th Annual meeting and 2017 Convention, to be held in Vail, Colorado on June 26-29, 2017. Patrick Nye and Brian Calhoun are doing an excellent job of co-chairing the committee. Thanks to Frank Cornish, Ed Riddle, Stephen Thomas, and Dawn Bissell for assisting.

Officers for 2017 are: Brian Calhoun, chairman; Mike Bergsma, program chairman; Dan Pedrotti, treasurer; Dawn Bissell, secretary; and Patrick Nye, national director.

Dawn Bissell
Secretary
WICHITA

Our October meeting was held at the Wichita Petroleum Club with 53 members and guests in attendance. Our guest speakers were the dynamic duo of Mike Pollok, #2512, president of Pollok Energy, and Mike Austin, #2366, president of M&M Exploration, who presented their talk entitled “The Odyssey through the Mississippian Subcrops.”

Their Mississippian experience is extensive on both sides of the Oklahoma and Kansas state line. They discussed theories on exploration and had an example of their experiences in Hodgeman County, Kansas. They have weathered the storm of the horizontal Mississippian Play in our area and have drawn some strong opinions.

After a laptop to projector mishap, the slide presentation started. However, with these two fellows, a technical misstep by the chapter chairman was expertly covered up by the outgoing personalities and speaking abilities of both of our speakers. The larger than normal attendance reflected the interest in the Mississippian and the expertise of our speakers.

Our November meeting was held four days prior to the presidential election. We had 43 members and guests in attendance at the Petroleum Club to hear our esteemed speaker, Mike Pompeo. Congressman Pompeo is currently a four-term congressman from the 4th District of Kansas. He serves on two major committees: Energy and Commerce. He also was appointed to the House Select Benghazi Committee to investigate the tragic events in Benghazi, Libya. Mike also served on the House Intelligence Committee which led to his nomination as the next director of the CIA. Mike spoke to our chapter that day just prior to the election on the possibility of the election outcome for both the House and the Senate. Mike also reflected on future election outcomes and how they will affect the energy industry. As we now know, the election brought about a dramatic shift in Washington D.C. The industry will now have a much more business-friendly administration. Congressman Pompeo stressed at our meeting that he never wants the government to pick winners or losers in the business world. He believes that the market should determine who has the best energy solution for our country. Several of our members expressed their concerns on foreign oil imports, possible tariffs, non-renewable energy incentives and the recent intrusive policies of the EPA. Hopefully, by the time of this publication, Mike Pompeo will be confirmed as the new director of the CIA.

Our December meeting was held at the Wichita Petroleum Club with 30 members in attendance. Our speaker was Leah Kasten, SIPES Limited Member, of CMX, Inc. Leah’s talk was entitled “The Tri-State Mining District: A Tale of the Beguiling Mississippian.”

Leah also gave this talk at our 2016 SIPES National Convention in San Diego. The Tri-State Mining District, located at the intersection of the Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma state lines, produced lead and zinc commercially from 1850 to 1960 out of deposits in the Mississippian formation. There are interesting parallels, historically and geologically, that can be made between the development of the Tri-State lead and zinc mining district and the Mississippian Lime Oil and Gas play in Oklahoma and Kansas due to the nature of the host/reservoir rock of the Mississippian. By examining the mining history and economics, the geologic processes which formed them, and nature of the lead and zinc deposits themselves, we gain a better understanding of the Mississippian formation as an economic resource. Several members asked questions about the history of the mining efforts and about the deposition of the minerals and metals.

Lanny Butner  
Chairman
NEW ORLEANS

The October 18 luncheon was held at Andrea’s Restaurant in Metairie. The guest speaker was Marc Ehrhardt, executive director of the Grow Louisiana Coalition, with a presentation on “Coming Together to Grow Louisiana.” The Coalition is an advocacy group in support of the Louisiana oil and gas industry and has over 22,000 members, and over 45,000 supporters. Over its three-year existence, the coalition has continued to grow and has given over 100 presentations throughout the state on the importance of the industry to Louisiana businesses, and to the way of life for the 300,000 Louisianans working in and alongside the industry here.

Ehrhardt pointed out that the industry pays nearly $1.5 billion to Louisiana in state taxes and fees, yet this information is not widely known by most citizens. The current climate includes the industry being blamed for everything, while there is little publicity for the coastal restoration work being funded by our oil and gas companies. There is a further misconception that the nation does not need fossil fuels, and the renewables can be used instead. Rather than being a dying industry for Louisiana, ours is the most innovative.

Funds collected from coastal zone wells from January 2009 to January 2016 have been used for coastal restoration, and total $3.37 billion. Federal funds to be collected starting in 2017 under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) are estimated at $140 million per year.

The industry continues to face lawsuits related to coastal issues, and even though the lawsuits keep getting thrown out, the current governor (John Bel Edwards) is pursuing suits through each parish. A significant impact of this is its chilling effect on industry investment in Louisiana. Members were encouraged to contact local officials to build opposition to the suits.

During the business portion of the meeting, Eric Broadbridge, #2174, was approved to serve as the treasurer for the chapter. Five new members are in the process of joining.

On November 9, the annual Joint Energy Industry Association Luncheon was held at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel with twenty-three other energy-related societies. The keynote speakers were Mike Celata, regional director of the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy’s Gulf (Continued)
of Mexico Region, and Marc Ehrhardt, executive director of the Growth Louisiana Coalition, who was the speaker at the chapter’s October meeting. Celata gave an update on leasing, drilling, and production activity in the Gulf. Ehrhardt gave a similar presentation as he gave in October, with updates on the ongoing litigations. The New Orleans SIPES Chapter was well represented, with 23 members and several guests.

The December 20 luncheon was the chapter’s “Open Mike” event, when members were given the opportunity to speak on any topic. In addition to stories and humor, Bill Vollenweider, #2278, shared his “General Exploration Philosophies” and gave an extended talk on his global experiences. Bill diagrammed some of his critical concepts and described how they could be applied in basins throughout the world.

Art Johnson
Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to note the passing of the following members:

James K. Anderson, #792
of Norman, Oklahoma
who died on May 26, 2016

John P. Harlan, #923
of Covington, Louisiana
who died on November 24, 2016

L. Franklin Rogers, Jr., #2786
of New Orleans, Louisiana
who died on November 24, 2016

Norman K. Barker, #1211
of Midland, Texas
who died on December 2, 2016

Douglas H. McGinness, #500
of Wichita, Kansas
who died on December 8, 2016

Don D. Shawver, #2019
of Wichita, Kansas
who died on September 15, 2016

Thurman B. Geddie, #2111
of Austin, Texas
who died on November 5, 2016

Elwin M. Peacock, #416
of Houston, Texas
who died on December 10, 2016

Marvin L. Smith, #984
of Houston, Texas
who died on December 31, 2016

*
The Lafayette Chapter usually holds its monthly meetings at the Petroleum Club of Lafayette on the second Wednesday of each month. However, our October meeting is reserved for our annual Bar B Q in the park. If I remember correctly, the weather was fair, dry and sunny (perfect for our area of the world). Close to forty members, guests and students showed up for this annual get together. There was plenty to eat, friends to talk to, and for those who did not show up, people to talk about. There was a game of “Toss & Drill” where you got an opportunity to toss a sand weight into a high or low spot on a cartoon structure map. There were a few dry holes, but it did not cost anything to give it a try. Our dry holes are a little less fun, so it was good to stay on the light side of drilling.

Our third fall meeting was held on Wednesday, November 9, at the Petroleum Club of Lafayette. The speaker was Liz Chamberlain, a Ph.D. graduate student. Miss Chamberlain earned her B.S. and M.S. in geology from LSU, working with geochemist Jeffery Hanor on issues associated with the Baton Rouge aquifer system. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Tulane University, under the guidance of Torbjorn Tornqvist. While at Tulane, Liz had opportunities to broaden her knowledge of delta systems, including participating in a field school in the Ganges Brahmaputra Delta (Bangladesh), and internships at OSL Labs in both Liverpool (UK) and Wageningen (Netherlands). Liz specializes in luminescence dating of coastal systems; another component of her dissertation research is developing OSL dating techniques for the Ganges Brahmaputra Delta. Additionally, she collaborates with regional archaeologists in the Mississippi Delta to investigate prehistoric land use practices including mound building.

Miss Chamberlain shared her experiences about the Lafourche sub delta of the Mississippi Delta, specifically how land was built in different times, and the processes and time scales involved in delta building reworking and erosion. Miss Chamberlain also brought to our attention archeological mounds that are continuing to be discovered and documented in her work. One person’s passion to preserve cultural history is our gift. Many thanks to Miss Chamberlain for her presentation and dedicated work.

In December, our chapter holds its annual Christmas social. This year we had a harpist play Christmas music while wining and dining the night away. This was my “Swan Song” as chairman, so I was hoping to end on a good note. The harpist helped the event to happen just that way. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to talk and visit with old friends. To help reminisce, there were slides of past Christmas events. A few of us are not here anymore, and these pictures were warm memories for those who have moved on to a better place. But all in all, we were thankful for our many oil field friends here on earth, and for making it through 2016. With great hope and humility, our membership looks forward to the challenges in 2017. Let’s all dig in and remake this oil field again for the generation coming behind us. Thank you for the opportunity to serve SIPES for the last five years.

Tom Poché
2016 Chairman
CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED

MIDLAND

In October, our speaker was George B. Asquith, #3127, a professor in the Department of Geosciences at Texas Tech University. His talk was entitled “The Quest for ‘sweet spots’ in an Unconventional Permian Oil Reservoir.”

Walls and others (2012 and 2013) used Pe versus RHOb data from CT scans to construct cross plots to define the “sweet spots” in potential “shale” reservoirs. The first step in our quest is to define the potential “sweet spot” in our Wolfcamp example using a Pe versus RHOb cross plot. The results from the cross plot indicate that upper 400’ of the Wolfcamp (Wolfcamp 1) is potentially the best reservoir.

Next three of the six factors (listed below), reported by Rick Lewis (2013) as necessary for an economic shale are examined to verify that the upper 400’ in the Wolfcamp is the superior reservoir.

- **Reservoir Quality**
  - Hydrocarbon in Place
  - Matrix Permeability
  - Pore Pressure

- **Completion Quality**
  - Hydraulic Fracture Surface Area
  - Hydraulic Fracture Conductivity
  - Hydraulic Fracture Containment

1.) **Hydrocarbons in Place:**
   - Wolfcamp 1 OOIPstb/160ac.
     - 10.0mmbo
   - Wolfcamp 2 OOIPstb/160ac.
     - 1.8mmbo

2.) **Matrix Permeability:**
   - Wolfcamp 1 Thickness KSDR>1mD
     - 826ft avg. KSDR = 8.8mD
   - Wolfcamp 2 Thickness KSDR>1mD
     - 636ft avg. KSDR = 4.2mD

3.) **Hydraulic Fracture Surface Area (Fractureability)**
   - Wolfcamp 1 SHmin [avg. 6,000psi]
     - Brittleness Coefficient [avg. 80]
   - Wolfcamp 2 SHmin [avg. 7,000psi]
     - Brittleness Coefficient [avg. 65]

Therefore, using multiple criteria, Wolfcamp 1 has greater Hydrocarbon in Place, greater KSDR Permeability, and superior Geomechanical properties.

Our November speakers were Glenn Winters, Fasken Oil and Ranch, and Samantha Siegel, Drillinginfo. Their talk was entitled “Decoding the Permian: Incorporating Seismic Data into a Multivariate Data Analysis of the Wolfberry in the Midland Basin.”

Fasken Oil and Ranch, Ltd., a Midland, Texas privately held company, and Drillinginfo, recently entered into an agreement to work together with a large robust data set containing engineering, geological and seismic information over the next two years. Well data comprises open and cased hole logs, completion information, core data, four years of history production data, and recently acquired 3-D seismic data. These data are being integrated to determine the best practices to optimize the Wolfberry Play of the Permian. The data set includes more than 1,900 wells with production history of more than fifty horizontal wells. Fasken has more than 600 square miles of contiguous merged and reprocessed seismic data. The seismic data has pre and post stack inversion applied to it.

Over the next two years, items to be investigated include vertical versus horizontal wellbores, well spacing and landing targets, conventional vs. unconventional reservoir targets, and completion practices. In this presentation we will look at high grading conventional targets and generating a porosity volume. On the engineering side we’ll look at how production on a lease fluctuates over time with the increase in density of vertical wells. Utilizing rock properties of the seismic data, well logs, and production analysis, this study will hopefully find the golden nugget to high grade, the best places to drill in today’s low-price environment.

Also in November, Ryan Robbins, son of SIPES member Dennis Robbins, #2759, was presented with a $2,500 scholarship check from the SIPES Foundation. This award was funded by the SIPES Midland Chapter.

We do not have a December meeting.

Bill Mueller
Secretary
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In accordance with the SIPES Constitution, By-Laws & Code of Ethics, the following announcement of new members unanimously approved by the SIPES Membership Committee during the last quarter is printed below.

Any member in possession of information which might possibly disqualify an applicant is asked to submit this information to the secretary of the society (Michael L. Jones) within thirty days of this publication. To be considered, this information should be in writing and bear the writer’s name. If this information is received within thirty days after the publication of the applicant’s name, the SIPES Board of Directors must reconsider its previous approval of the applicant. The board’s action, after consideration of such new information, shall be final.

Patrick A. Nye, National Membership Committee

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<td>3486</td>
<td>Elizabeth C. McDade</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>A. Johnson, G. Severson, A. Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>2802</td>
<td>Thomas A. Tucker</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Reciprocal DPA</td>
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I was first aware of the program from announcements in the AAPG Explorer – the pilot project was conducted in 2007 with a small group of invited participants. I contacted the AAPG and proposed that a team from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) be included, but was told that the details were already settled and nine teams from around the world had already been pre-selected. When the 2008 competition was opened, however, we quickly signed up.

I felt that this was a great opportunity for the ULL program as we already had a long history of specializing in petroleum geology. In the 1960s and 1970s, Professor Bill Paine had been responsible for teaching classes in subsurface geology, introducing students to the various data types and mapping techniques necessary as job skills in the petroleum industry. The supplemental mapping projects class, investigating mainly South Louisiana fields, matched each student with an industry geologist familiar with the field to mentor and provide perspective based on a more diverse experience base. Many of Bill’s students have gone on to successful careers in the industry. Bill drew upon local expertise, particularly from Bob Anderson (who judged the mapping project, with the best papers presented to the Lafayette Geological Society), but including other members of the Lafayette Chapter of SIPES.

After Bill retired, members of the local SIPES chapter (to name just a few: Leon Comeaux, Guy Ellison, Phil Judice and Ellis Guilbeau) stepped up and helped me continue the program and inspire additional generations of students. Most recently, Bill Finley has taken over teaching the program subsequent to my own retirement. In addition, Lafayette is fortunate in being a center of the petroleum industry, still with a large community of small companies and independent geologists, many of them members of SIPES, who support, mentor and continue to employ students. The practical value of the experience of working part-time in this community cannot be measured or overestimated.

With this background, a team from ULL participated in the 2008 competition. The IBA starts with local competitions held by each section and regions of the AAPG – six U.S. regional sections, including the Gulf Coast Section (better known as the GCAGS), and six international regions. Only three teams – UL Lafayette, University of Houston and Stephen F. Austin University – represented the Gulf Coast that first year, at a meeting hosted in Houston. ULL were announced as the regional winners. The local winners then engaged in a second and third round at the AAPG Convention, held that year in San Antonio. Fourteen teams participated, including the sectional winners, and the winning program from the pilot project and one from Imperial College. Six teams from the first round continued the following day to a final round, including ULL. While we did not place in the top three at that time, we felt we had made a creditable start.

Over subsequent years, participation increased as the reputation of the competition became widely publicized. Generally, around twelve teams from the Gulf Coast (Texas through Florida) are involved each spring, including the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, University of Alabama, University of New Orleans, and Louisiana State University. UL won the Gulf Coast section again in 2010, 2012 and 2014, and took third place in 2011, and second place in 2015.

In 2012, UL also took first place in the international contest in Long Beach, California, winning the actual Imperial Barrel Award (with a $20,000 check for the program). The AAPG Explorer wrote, “That the University of Louisiana at Lafayette won this year’s Imperial Barrel Award over colleges and universities from around the world may have surprised some – just not anyone who connected with the school.” The full article can be accessed at http://www.aapg.org/Publications/News/Explorer/Details/ArticleID/1921/Barrel-Winner-ULL-A-Perennial-Competitor.

In 2014, UL made history as the first program to win the Imperial Barrel Award a second time! See the AAPG Explorer article at http://www.aapg.org/publications/news/explorer/details/articleid/9495/once-was-not-enough-ul-lafayette-makes-iba-history#sthash.qHhc3rzP.dpuf.

(Continued)
The IBA competition provides a great experience for the students. Data sets arrive early in the year, consisting of some combination of seismic, well logs, core data, etc. The team then has eight weeks to work on it before presenting results (including basin history and play analysis, seismic interpretation, prospect selection and risking) in front of a team of judges, mostly exploration managers. Twenty-five minutes of oral presentation are followed by questions from the judges, and all team members are expected to participate. The experience is intended to be as similar to the real world in a company setting as possible, and long hours virtually every day are needed to come up with a good report.

Different schools handle team selection differently, but I have always chosen the team myself, looking for academic qualities, of course, but also personality — is the student dedicated, hard-working, and most importantly, capable of working well with others? Can he or she function as a salesperson? These are the same qualities that company recruiters seek.

In the early years, we would have the team put together their studies and then go to oil companies in Lafayette, Houston and any place that would let us in the door, and make the first draft presentation to groups of working geologists and invite them to question and critique the results. This was usually the most valuable experience of the whole competition, and it was interesting to compare the contrasting emphasis that different companies would display. After the 2012 competition, the organizers tightened rules and this is no longer permitted. I think this is unfortunate, because it was such a valuable learning experience for the students. Instead, we are now restricted to two industry mentors and a faculty member, each limited to a maximum of one hour a week with the students. We have been particularly fortunate to continue to have the insights of Mary Broussard and Mike Quinn (until very recently both with Freeport-McMoRan), as our mentors. Both have been incredibly supportive and invaluable instructors with a great wealth of experience.

Although teams are limited to five students, the IBA program has spread widely here and overseas so that more than 120 universities now participate each year, impacting hundreds of students! At the University of Louisiana, we have benefited from the concern of professional societies like AAPG and SIPES and their individual members to mentor, advise, encourage and support the next generations of geoscience professionals. On behalf of our students, a big thank you is appropriate!!
SIPES 54th ANNUAL MEETING & 2017 Convention
June 26-29, 2017 Four Seasons Resort Vail

Foundation Seminar
Technical Sessions
Icebreaker
Area Tours
Discovery Room
Geological Field Trip

Visitors Are Welcome!

Thanks to the following 2017 SIPES Convention Sponsors

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Tuesday, June 27

Geology & Geophysics

8:30-9:00 a.m. — Bob Hardage — Bureau of Economic Geology
'Double the Value of Your P-Source Seismic Data'

9:00-9:30 a.m. — Tim Rynott — Ridge Resources, LLC
'Evolution and Economic Implications for Upper Cretaceous Sandstones: A New Example from the Inboard Gulf of Mexico'

9:30-10:00 a.m. — Brad Bacon — PDC Energy, Inc.
'Employing Multiple Sources of Data to Optimize Field Development' (co-author Mark Graeve)

10:15-10:45 a.m. — Rob Yorke — Advanced Geophysical Technology, Inc.
'Value of Depth Imaging Onshore — Better than Time. Period'

10:45-11:15 a.m. — Randy Bissell — Headington Energy Partners, LLC
'Evolving Models for Eocene Deepwater Channel Complexes and Fan Systems, Scotland District, Barbados'

Business Applications

1:30-2:00 p.m. — Scott Taylor — Branscomb PC — Shareholder
'Leases, Operating Agreements and Letters of Intent'

2:00-2:30 p.m. — Bill Fairhurst — Riverford Exploration, LLC
'Developing Creative, Critical & Strategic Thinking for Natural & Social Sciences'

2:30-3:00 p.m. — Jory Pacht, #3054 — Altair Resources
'Zero to $50 Million in One Year: How to Start Up a Private Equity Energy Company'

3:00-4:00 p.m. — Bill Finley, #2167 — Aquila, LLC
Ethics Course — 'Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists and Ethical Behavior'

SIPES Discovery Room — Open from 4:15 — 5:15 P.M.

Wednesday, June 28

Field Discovery

8:30-9:00 a.m. — Tony Hauglum, #2807 — Riviera Exploration, LLC/Riviera Production Company, Ltd.
'Whitsett South Eagle Ford Project'

9:00-9:30 a.m. — Bill Fairhurst — Riverford Exploration, LLC
'Stealth’ Exploration and Serendipitous Exploration for the Texas Woodford (⁄ Barnett), Permian Basin'

9:30-10:00 a.m. — Frank Cornish, #3128 — Imagine Resources, LLC
'Hydrocarbon Traps Associated with Upper Wilcox Canyon and Seismic Response, Mid-Gulf Coast, Texas' (co-author Louis Lambiotte, SIPES Limited Member)

10:15-11:45 a.m. — Steve Sonnenberg, #2158 — Colorado School of Mines
• 'The Niobrara Petroleum System, a Major Tight Resource Play in the Rocky Mountain Region'
• 'Insights into Niobrara Stratigraphic Architecture and Diagenesis, Wattenberg Field, Denver Basin, Colorado'
  and
• 'Glenwood Canyon - Field Trip Overview'

SIPES Discovery Room — Open from 1:30 — 5:00 P.M.

Speakers & Schedule are Subject to Change

Visitors are Welcome!
New incoming SIPES Chapter Chairs are Roger A. Freidline, #2859, of Midland, Texas; Russell R. Hamman, #3303, of Houston, Texas; G. King Pratt Munson, Jr., #3025, of Lafayette, Louisiana; and Donald P. Muth, Sr., #3083, of Dallas, Texas.

Peter MacKenzie, #2991, of Worthington, Ohio has been elected as the new SIPES Director at Large; he will serve a three-year term representing SIPES Members who reside in areas outside of a SIPES Chapter area or state.

David G. Rensink, #3297, of Houston, Texas is serving as general chair of the upcoming AAPG Convention that begins April 2 in Houston. The association will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Paul W. Britt, #2249, of Houston, Texas is serving as AAPG President this year; Charles A. Sternbach, #3006, also of Houston, is the AAPG President-Elect.

Several SIPES Members are being recognized and honored for their work in AAPG. The late Robert M. Cluff, #1832, of Denver, Colorado will be posthumously recognized with the Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award. It is presented to honor and reward the author(s) of the best AAPG Bulletin article published each calendar year. Bob and co-author Keith W. Shanley’s article was titled “The evolution of pore-scale fluid-saturation in low permeability sandstone reservoirs,” and was published in October 2015.

Paul M. Strunk, #1869, of Corpus Christi, Texas is this year’s recipient of the AAPG Foundation’s L. Austin Weeks Memorial Medal. He is being recognized for his valuable support and leadership to the AAPG Foundation provided consistently over the past three decades. He is the tenth recipient of this award, the Foundation’s highest honor, given in recognition of extraordinary philanthropy and service directed to advance the mission of the AAPG Foundation. He will be formally honored during the opening ceremony of the convention on April 2.

Walter C. “Rusty” Riese, #3355, of Houston, Texas and James P. Rogers, #1940, of Denver, Colorado will receive AAPG Honorary Membership at the association’s opening ceremony.
Plan to attend a new forum for the exchange of exploration concepts and ideas.

Every Discovery Room offeror will be a SIPES Member & every participant will be a registered SIPES Convention attendee.

Do you have a project (or 12) you want to show? A limited number of tables will be available to members at no charge. Also, if you are interested, there will be a modest presentation space available to make a brief introduction to your prospect.

Register for the SIPES 2017 Convention and complete the Discovery Room registration form!

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**SIPES FOUNDATION 2017 SEMINAR**

**Tales from 7 Continents - Living an Explorer’s Dream**

Presented by Bill Nye, Drilling Fluids Engineer

Monday, June 26, 2017  ⌁  3:00 to 5:00 pm

**Four Seasons Resort  ⌁  Vail, Colorado**

Bill Nye is a drilling fluids engineer with forty years’ experience worldwide. He is a Vietnam veteran, and has travelled and worked on all seven continents. He became an Australian citizen in 1992, and emigrated to New Zealand in 2005. He is currently a drilling fluids consultant and has owned Adventure Books in Oamaru, New Zealand since 2012.
Thank you very much for choosing me for one of the 2016 SIPES Foundation Earth Science Scholarships. I am honored to receive your generous support. This year, during my second year of my Ph.D., in addition to supporting my degree, your scholarship will assist me in attending the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting to give an oral presentation of my research. I also will be presenting a poster during the 2017 AAPG Annual Meeting. I look forward to attending my first AAPG Meeting and presenting my research there.

As part of my award, the local Denver Chapter of SIPES reached out to me and graciously invited me to their Holiday Party, where I met many local members who are wonderful contacts. They have also invited me to share my research at a future chapter meeting; I am very excited to be involved with the members here in Colorado.

Your support makes a significant impact on my education and ability to participate in additional opportunities like national conferences. I deeply appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Megan R.M. Brown, Ph.D. Student
Department of Geological Sciences
University of Colorado Boulder

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks for your generosity in funding the SIPES Foundation Earth Science Scholarship. I am extremely honored to be a recipient of this scholarship for the 2016 year.

I am currently finishing up my senior year majoring in geological sciences with a minor in natural resource economics. For the three years I have attended school, I have had the honor of being a Crimson Scholar and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. At the end of this fall semester I will have completed 139 credit hours as a full time undergraduate student. I plan on graduating with my degree and minor in May and continuing on to further my education out of state in the fall as a graduate student.

While attending New Mexico State University, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the professors and students of the Department of Geological Sciences. Not only am I working as a student aide in our departmental office on campus, but I am also honored to be doing undergraduate research with our Department Head, Dr. Nancy McMillan.

Receiving this scholarship will allow me to focus more on my studies and research for the upcoming spring semester. I am truly grateful for this opportunity to further my education and I look forward to being able to give back to the earth science community once I begin my career in geological sciences. I would like to thank you again for your generosity in providing scholarships for the important earth science fields.

Sincerely,

Hayden Thompson, Undergraduate Student
Department of Geological Sciences
New Mexico State University

SIPES Foundation 2017 Scholarship Applications are available on the SIPES website — www.sipes.org.

Applications are accepted each year from currently-enrolled, upper-division or graduate students majoring in geology, geophysics, petroleum engineering, or any earth science, who have an overall grade point average of 3.5 or higher and U.S. citizenship.
### SIPES Foundation Donors — January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2017

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<th>Range</th>
<th>Donor Name</th>
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<td>Raymond N. Blackhall</td>
<td>In memory of Robert Morris, Earl E. Gaertner, William T. Goff III</td>
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The SIPES Foundation gratefully accepts all donations and acknowledges these contributions with a letter. Due to limited space in the newsletter, we are unable to list gifts under $50. Please remember the SIPES Foundation in your estate plans.
SIPES Vision Statement

To be the pre-eminent organization for furthering the professional and business interests of independent practitioners of the earth sciences. In achieving this vision, emphasis will be placed on:

1. Professional competence,
2. Professional business ethics, and
3. Presenting a favorable, credible and effective image of the Society.

Adopted by the SIPES Board of Directors
September 21, 1996