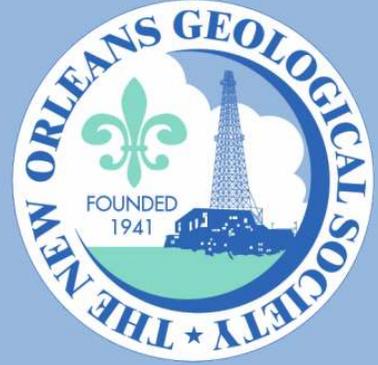


NOGS LOG



July 2010

Volume 51, Number 1

Upcoming Events and Activities

July 12 - NOGS Luncheon

*** At the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***
\$2.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Guest speaker Dwight "Clint" Moore, Ion Geophysical Corporation, will present "Pioneering the Global Subsalt/Presalt Play: The World Beyond Mahogany (USA) Field."

(See page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME	ADMISSION:
Check with concierge or front desk for location	with reservation \$30.00
Lunch served at 11:30am	without reservation \$35.00
	Student Member with reservation Free

July 15 - 2010 Flood Protection Geological Symposium

Jefferson Parish West Bank Government Office Building (200 Derbigny St. Gretna)
See announcement on page 8.

August 2 - NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome. Speakers Carlo Christina, Charley Corona and members of the *Overview of our new Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010* Publication Committee will present this new publication.

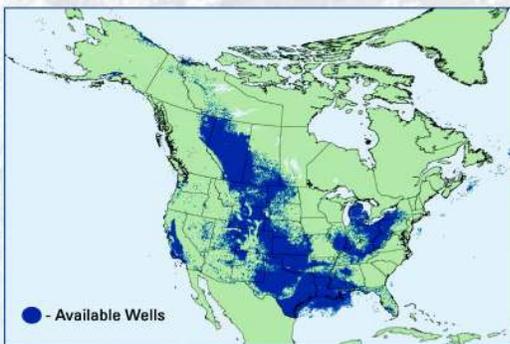
August 18-19 - 14th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium

At the Hilton Riverside Hotel. See announcement on page 17.

October 10-15 - GCAGS 2010 Convention

In San Antonio, TX. See short courses and field trips information on page 14.

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 Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.
 Sent to press on June 6, 2010.



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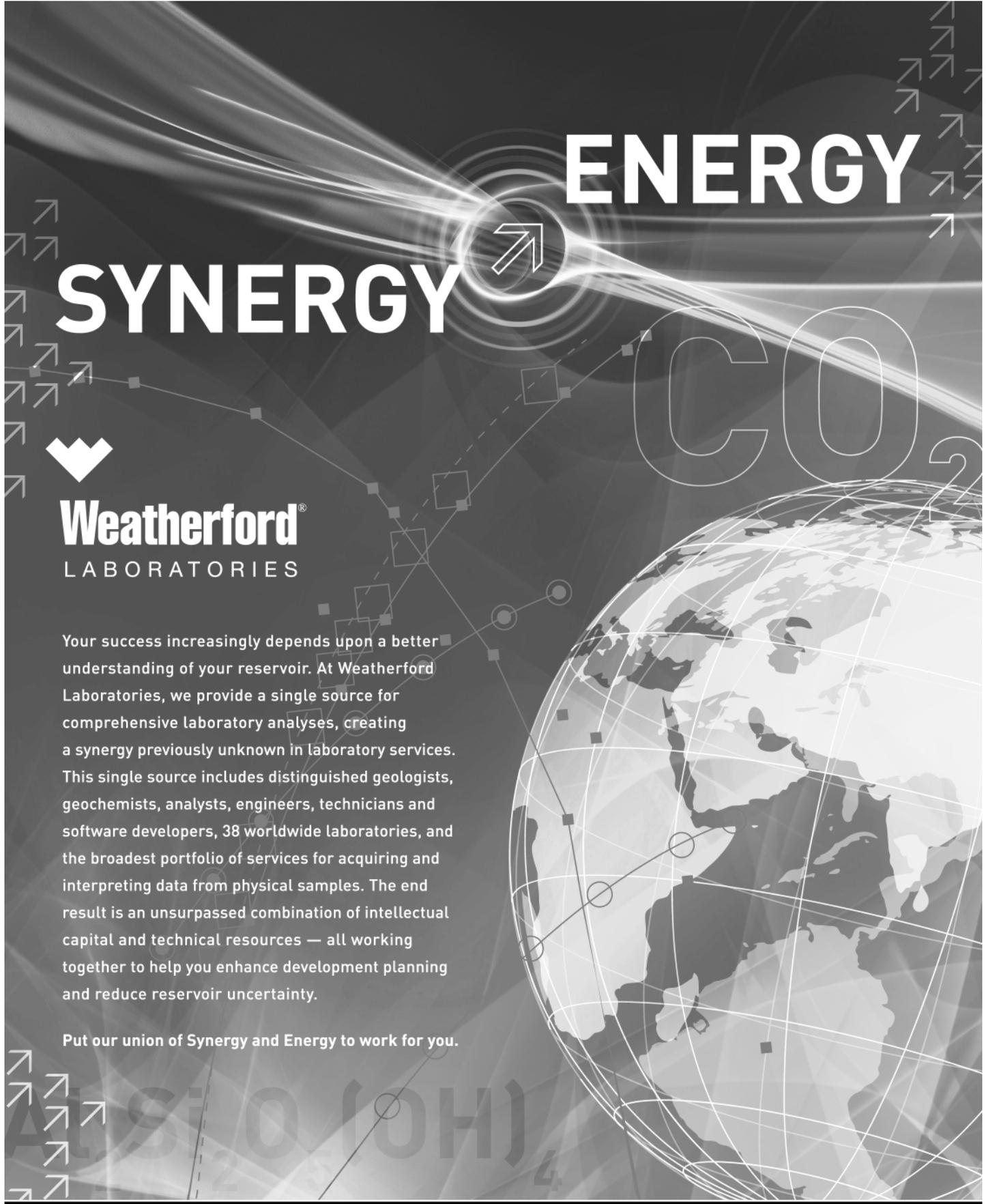
NOGS LOG STAFF

Editor	Fran Wiseman	MMS	504-736-2912	nogseditor@gmail.com
Editor-Elect	David Tatum	Chevron	985-773-6477	davidtatum@chevron.com
Auxiliary	Susie Baker	NOGA	504-466-4483	abaker1006@aol.com
Info Tidbits	Fran Wiseman	MMS	504-736-2912	nogseditor@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Edward B. Picou, Jr.	Consultant	504-529-5155	epicou@bellsouth.net
Layout	Jannette Inc.			

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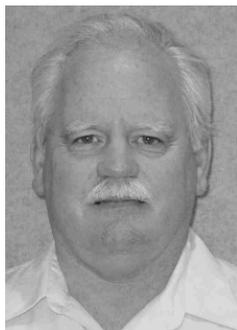
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EUROPE
EUInquiries@weatherfordlabs.com

LATIN AMERICA
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from the President

I would like to begin this new fiscal year as your NOGS President by sincerely thanking all of those who have volunteered their time in the past year in making NOGS a dynamic and essential part of our geoscience community here in New Orleans. I've always thought that it's an important part of one's overall career fulfillment to help a professional organization such as NOGS attain its goals. In the case of NOGS, those goals as stated in its constitution include "facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology" by the "dissemination of pertinent geological and technological knowledge." NOGS and its community of volunteers attain these goals not only by monthly technical luncheons, but by short courses, field trips, publications, science fair judging, Super Science Saturday, and most importantly, the disbursement of numerous scholarships each year to deserving Geology students in area universities. I challenge each NOGS member, sometime in your Geologic career, to volunteer your time, experience, and expertise to help NOGS, or any other professional organization, attain their goals. A good way to begin helping NOGS is to look at the list of committees on page 3 of the NOGS Log, pick one that interests you, and take the plunge. Volunteering for NOGS is truly a richly rewarding experience!

This past year has indeed been richly rewarding for me, working with past president Tom Klekamp who taught me a great deal about the inner workings of NOGS. He and NOGS office manager Annette Hudson kept me on time and on task as I strived to fulfill my duties as President-Elect and Entertainment Chairman. All of the social events, the NOGS kickoff party and the annual Christmas party, were rousing successes due largely, in part, to the efforts of NOGA, especially members Judy Lemarié, Linda Peirce, and Amber Klekamp. The NOGS golf tournament was one of the best in many years with a new venue at Tchefuncte Country Club with 23 foursomes participating. An early estimate of around \$4500 profit will be added to the Bill Craig Fund for scholarships, and better yet, will be matched this year by the GCAGS Scholarship Fund-Matching Program. A special thanks goes to all the hole sponsors, the volunteers who helped with betting holes, and especially to Leslie Broussard and Tim Klibert with Diversified Well Logging who helped me organize the tourney and provided the sumptuous post-tournament steak

dinner. I'm sure that incoming President-Elect and Entertainment Chairman Bob Hafner will have an equally enjoyable time organizing upcoming social events and working with many of these same volunteers.

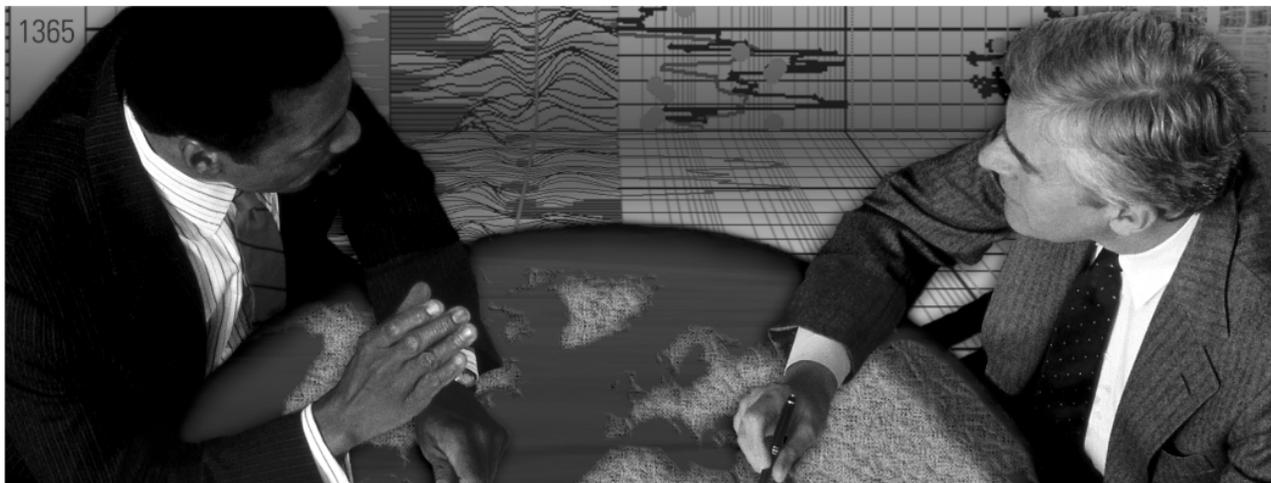
Each month, I am privileged to attend the NOGS Board Meeting with some of the best and brightest minds in the New Orleans petroleum community. This past year's NOGS Board did a splendid job of fulfilling all the goals of the society and keeping us financially afloat for another year. Tom Klekamp kept the Board focused on important issues despite having to deal with the NOGS sponsorship of the AAPG convention which took a lot of extra time and effort. Bob Hafner, as Vice President, provided one of the most varied and sometimes controversial speaker programs in many years. As Treasurer, Chuck Holman did a great job keeping the values of investments in various NOGS accounts from slipping during difficult economic times. NOGS Secretary Jennifer Connolly kept exacting records of Board meeting minutes for those of us "old fogies" on the Board who couldn't remember what we did last month. And, the hardest job on the Board, NOGS Log Editor, was accomplished masterfully by Liz Petro. Mike Ledet did a great job as NOGS Director and will be transitioning off the Board to become the Chairman of the Nominations committee. If you happen to meet any of these former Board members, thank them for their hard work and dedication to serving NOGS.

Our incoming Board is equally capable, and consists of President-Elect Bob Hafner, Vice President Rick Kear, Secretary Penne Rappold, and Treasurer Will Jorgenson. Our new NOGS Log Editor is Fran Wiseman, who will be assisted by the new Editor-Elect David Tatum. The incoming Director is Jack Langford, who is joining current Directors Scott Wainwright and Art Johnson. As you can readily see, this is truly a winning team for the NOGS Board of Directors, not unlike last year's Super Bowl Saints.

A couple of upcoming technical events are of special note. The "2010 Flood Protection Geological Symposium: Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection in Coastal Louisiana" will be held on Thursday, July 15, at the Jefferson Parish West Bank Government Office Building,

--- continued on page 30 ---

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July 12 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

At the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

Pioneering the Global Subsalt/Presalt Play: The World beyond Mahogany (USA) Field

presented by

Dwight "Clint" Moore
ION Geophysical Corporation

ABSTRACT

Ten years into the 21st century, the Subsalt play that began in the U.S. offshore Gulf of Mexico during the 1980's, has evolved into a growing global Subsalt/Presalt play, of likely historic impact. Today, we are at the dawn of major reserve and production additions to the world oil & gas supply, as global Subsalt/Presalt petroleum exploration yields major results, not only in the Gulf of Mexico, but also off Brazil and West Africa. In the years ahead, these new discoveries will fuel further exploration & production below complex salt layers worldwide.

Since its inception, the greatest challenge for the Subsalt/Presalt play concept has been explorers' difficulty in accurately imaging the seismic data below and around salt, in order to identify the potential structures to drill. As a result of recent major advances in seismic processing algorithms and computer processing speeds, explorers' can now see Subsalt/Presalt images much more clearly. The most progressive are applying these latest technologies to more salt basins globally.

Reverse Time Migration (RTM) represents the most recent and significant advance in seismic imaging below salt layers. Propelled by advances in workflows, computing power, and data management, RTM now provides the most accurate view of Subsalt/Presalt prospects, discoveries, and fields. In addition, improved seismic acquisition technology utilizing longer seismic cable lengths and denser, larger data volume collection programs, such as wide-azimuth (WAZ) and multi-azimuth (MAZ) geometries, provide extensive data volumes for the application of advanced RTM technology. Without accurate seismic imaging technology, the drilling and development of prospects is much riskier and more expensive than desired.

Discovery and development of Subsalt/Presalt fields found in past decades, using less-advanced pre-stack depth

--- continued on page 14 ---

BIOGRAPHY

Dwight "Clint" Moore is Vice-President - Corporate Development at ION Geophysical Corporation. He has previously worked as a geoscientist at Diamond Shamrock-Maxus, Anadarko, and Murphy. Clint earned degrees with Honors in Geology and Business Administration/Finance (Economics minor) from Southern Methodist University in 1978.

Clint has focused much of his 30+ year professional career on petroleum exploration and development offshore, especially North America, where he has worked on the discovery and development of many offshore fields in the Gulf of Mexico. Since 1985, he has pursued subsalt/presalt

exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. Clint joined Anadarko in 1987 and was the discovery geologist for Mahogany Field, the first productive subsalt field in the Gulf of Mexico.

Clint is a Past President (94-95) of the HGS, as well as past Treasurer of AAPG (04-06), and has received the HGS Distinguished Service and Honorary Membership Awards. In April, he received AAPG's Distinguished Service Award. He was Editor-in-Chief of the joint NOGS & HGS guidebook on "Productive Low Resistivity Well Logs of the Offshore Gulf of Mexico. He's been a continuing member of NOGS since first joining in 1978, and presented his first GOM subsalt talk to NOGS in the late 1990's.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JULY 7 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next NOGS Luncheon will be held on August 2. Speakers Carlo Christina, Charley Corona and members of the *Overview of our new Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010* publication committee will present this new publication. Contact the NOGS office to make your reservation.

Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection in Coastal Louisiana – A Symposium

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2010
Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: Jefferson Parish West Bank
Government Office Building
200 Derbigny Street
Gretna, LA 70053

Presentations by:

Dr. Kam-biu Liu – LSU
Dr. Stephen A. Nelson – Tulane
Dr. James M. Sothern – Fletcher Community College
Ms. Kathleen S. Haggard – Riparian, Inc.

Julie Baxter – Symposium Moderator

Please note: the Symposium is free and open to all

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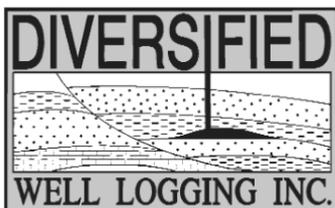
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Presentation titles and abstracts will be posted on the NOGS website
www.nogs.org by the end of June**



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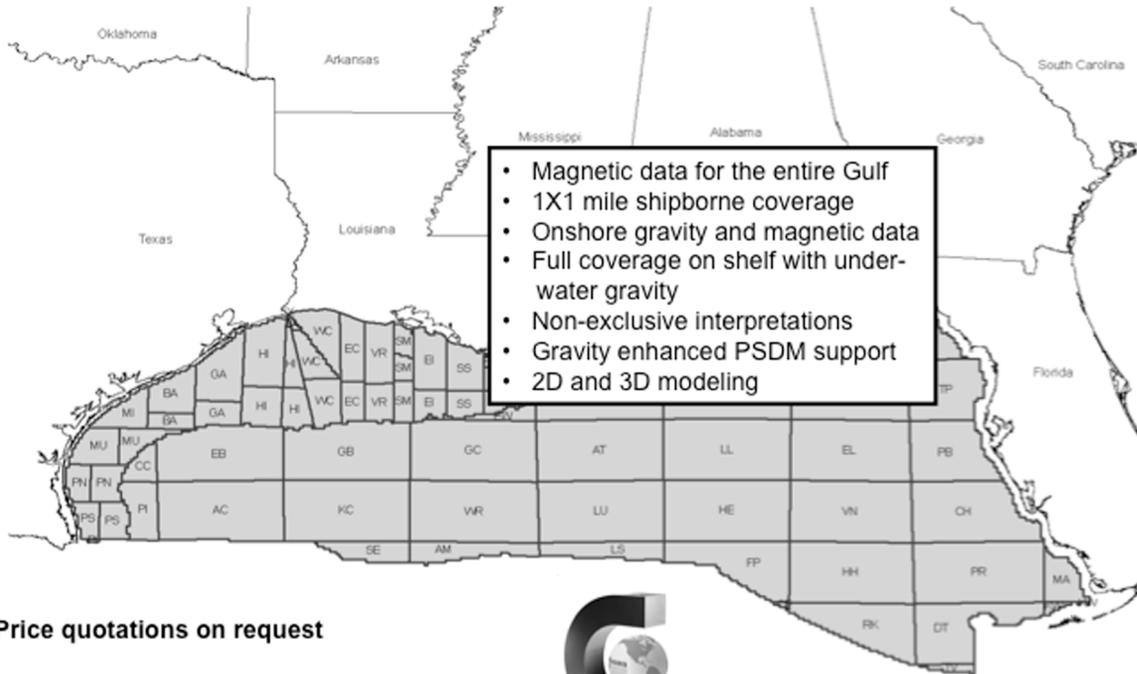
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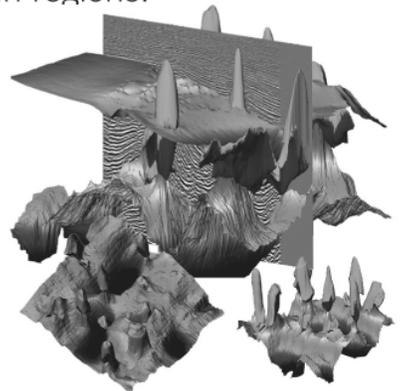
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Solicitation for Field Studies

The abstract below is from a presentation at the May 2003, NOGS South Louisiana Onshore Petroleum Exploration Symposium. A special NOGS Ad Hoc Committee is currently soliciting Field Studies from members for publication in the forthcoming Oil and Gas Fields Volume IV. Please consider contributing a field study. For details contact: Carlo Christina CarloCC398@cox.net or Charles Corona cjc corona@cox.net.

Exploration for Deep Miocene Reservoirs in South Louisiana:

The Story of the Etouffee Discovery, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana

Tom Fletcher, Anadarko, Houston, TX

ABSTRACT

In 1997 Geco-Prakla and Union Pacific Resources secured a seismic option covering all the unleased acreage owned by Continental Land and Fur in western Terrebonne Parish to undertake one of the first regional, truly exploratory, 3-D surveys in the onshore of south Louisiana. Earlier 3-D surveys had typically targeted producing fields, making imaging of deep targets problematic. The Etouffee Prospect was the first well drilled based on this new 3-D survey and became a significant success, with estimated reserves of 250 Bcfe. Comparing the Etouffee discovery to other activity in South Louisiana shows it to be the one of the largest discoveries made during the 1990's.

The Etouffee discovery south of Kent Bayou Field in Terrebonne Parish is a down dip extension of the prolific middle Miocene *Robulus* "L" producing trend. Prior to the discovery, the closest production from the *Robulus* "L" section was 5 miles to the northeast and structurally 4000 feet higher across a system of large growth faults of varying age. The Etouffee Sands were deposited with thinly bedded shales on the distal front of a shelf-edge delta. Slumping, faulting, and salt tectonics combined to deform the large shelf edge delta and control sand distribution. Hydrocarbon migration probably occurred early as the Etouffee Sands formed a typical rollover anticline associated with growth faulting. The overlying *Cibicides opima* section prograded over the Etouffee deltaics forming a southward-thickening wedge of sands and shales. This subsidence of *Cibicides opima* sediments south of Kent Bayou began the rotation of the Etouffee structure onto south dip. Further rotation onto south dip and complications due to *Cristellaria* "I" aged deposition and faulting completed the formation of the structure as it appears today. From *Biginierina humblei* time to present, the structure uniformly subsided to its current depth. A 700-foot gas column was preserved on a faulted, down thrown, three-way closure within the *Robulus* "L" aged Etouffee sands.

The Union Pacific Resources Continental Land & Fur #1 reached a total depth of 19,226 feet and logged 156 feet of pay between the depths of 18,654-18,954 feet on

October 31, 1999. Since that time, five development wells have been drilled with net pay reaching 306 feet in the CLF #4. Production rates peaked in April 2002 at 95,400 Mcfd, 18,600 Bcpd, and 0 Bwpd. The current field rate (1/31/03) is 85,000 Mcfd, 19,600 Bcpd, and 3,000 Bwpd. The Etouffee Sands cumulative total production to date is 54.5 billion cubic feet of gas and 11.6 million barrels of oil and condensate. Converted to gas, the field has produced 125 Bcfe or about half the estimated reserves.

The Etouffee prospect was identified as the result of a 280 square-mile 3-D seismic survey acquired in the fall of 1997 and spring of 1998. The existing 2D seismic grid in the area neither identified nor resolved the structurally complex prospect area. The data did show an overall structural high and the large expansion fault system, but it failed to identify the detailed fault pattern and actual structural crest. The 3-D data correctly imaged Etouffee as a three-way dipping structure on the downthrown side of a large down-to-the south growth fault system. The large expanse of 3-D data also allowed for the reconstruction of the depositional history of the area through the use of multiple sets of isochrons.

All six wells in the field have increasing sonic velocities and decreasing densities through the pay zone, creating a weak amplitude event at the top of sand. The lack of strong amplitudes and the structural complexity make it difficult to draw conclusions on rock properties and provide no definitive seismic signature for the pay sands.

Three separate reservoirs have been recognized based on log correlation, pressure analysis, and fluid properties. The Etouffee 1 and Etouffee 2 sands are high-temperature and high-pressure gas condensate reservoirs. The Etouffee 3 sand is an oil reservoir. Porosities average 25 percent with permeabilities ranging from 50 millidarcies to 5 darcies. These rock qualities are conducive to excellent production rates, especially from reservoirs below 18,000 feet. Early onset of overpressure and high bottom hole pressures (17,000 psi) have helped to preserve the excellent reservoir parameters.



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- #3: **Geology of the San Antonio Area**
- #4: **Eagle Ford (Boquillas) Formation and Associated Strata in Val Verde County, Texas**

NOGS Luncheon Abstract , continued from page 7

imaging applied to short-offset 2-D & narrow azimuth 3-D seismic surveys, has discovered significant reserves and production, but represents a fraction of the potential that will likely be globally discovered using new RTM technology. As was learned in the early years of exploring subsalt in the US Gulf of Mexico, we must accurately image below the salt layers, in order to have sufficient success rates to justify future economic investment. There are now fewer limits on the future global oil & gas potential below salt, and the likely discovery of substantial oil & gas reserves and production for the world of tomorrow.

Proposed Louisiana Professional Geoscience Practice Act (La Senate Bill 788)

by Tom Klekamp

This bill was introduced by Senator Troy Hebert of St. Martinville, with backing of the Baton Rouge Geological Society. It would create a nine-member Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists, six of whom would be licensed geoscientists, one a licensed professional engineer with expertise in geotechnical engineering and geoscience, and two members of the public. Each geological society in Louisiana, including NOGS, would have one member on the Board. This bill does NOT affect petroleum geologists or geologists who testify before the Mineral Board. Petroleum geologists need not apply, though many will probably apply anyway. Many petroleum geologists who registered in Texas report that, for them, it wasn't necessary. College and university professors are exempt, as are archaeologists. The proposed law authorizes the board to provide for examination and licensing. It requires a person to obtain a license to practice geoscience and provides for certain activities that do not require a license. It exempts an applicant who applies for licensure prior to Jan. 1, 2012, from taking the examination if he or she meets all the requirements of proposed law ("Grandfathering Clause"). It would require professional geoscientists to earn up to 15 hours of continuing professional development each year. Geologists working in groundwater, shallow hazard assessment, pipeline investigations, or any area of investigation that involves the public sector will need to be licensed, if SB 788 passes.

The bill has the endorsement of the professional engineers in Louisiana. It would allow reciprocity between adjacent states with professional registration of geosciences (TX, MS, AR, and TN).

As of July 8th, Senate Bill 788 had passed through the Senate and House Commerce committees. The main opposition is from legislators who think there are too many boards in Louisiana. If SB 788 survives this 2010 legislative session, it will probably come under the Louisiana Professional Engineers and Surveyors Board of Registration. In talking with Baton Rouge Geological Society members and seeing this bill come before the House Commerce Committee, it has a lot of legislative support. I predict it will become law.

You can keep up with SB 788 by going to <http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/byinst.asp?sessionid=10rs&billtype=SB&billno=788>

2010 Greater New Orleans Science & Engineering Fair

The fair was held in March at the University of New Orleans, and the winners were honored at the NOGS May luncheon. Mike Fein (pictured to the right), Coordinator of the NOGS awards for the fair, introduced the winners and teacher advisors pictured below.



Samuel Simpson - Junior Division winner from Meisler, and his advisor Leslie Nicks

Justin West - Senior Division winner from Haynes, and his advisor Sue Stevens





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Conference at a Glance

Sunday, September 12

- Opening Ceremony
- Icebreaker Reception
- Exhibition

Monday, September 13

- Technical Program and Posters
- Exhibition
- Plenary Session — Canada: Our Resources to International Exploration
- Management Forum — E&P Challenges in Complex Environments: From the Arctic to Deep Water
- Special Lecture — Burgess Shale Tales — Mud Volcanism and Chemosynthetic Communities on the Middle Cambrian Seafloor of Southeastern British Columbia
- Featured Speaker Luncheon — The Unconventional Future: Where Ideas and Technology Converge
- Student Reception
- James Joyce Pub Social Activity

Tuesday, September 14

- Technical Program and Posters
- Exhibition
- Business Forum — Unconventional Exploration and Development Geoscientists' Toolbox
- Special Lecture — Geology of a Major SAGD Bitumen Development — A Case Study from Long Lake, Northwestern Alberta
- Unconventionals Day Topical Luncheon — Global Challenges in Shale Reservoir Development
- Calgary Zoo Social Activity

Wednesday, September 15

- Technical Program and Posters
- Exhibition
- Forum — The Value of Diversity in Leadership: Global Perspectives
- DPA Luncheon — Evaluation and Classification Issues of Unconventional Resources
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Excerpts from External Affairs

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GCSSEPM hopes to support students whose theses or dissertations are related to our primary objective. We are primarily concerned about quality of work and how it relates to our objectives, but we are not limited to a particular geographic area. Maximum grant will be for \$2500. http://www.gcssepm.org/scholarships/picou_grant.htm

AAPG DPA Governmental Affairs Committee Issue Advisory: Research and Development Needs of the U.S. Independent Oil and Gas Producer: A widely accepted view in the energy sector is that the United States' energy supplies will diversify over the coming decades. New and alternative energy sources will increasingly supplement existing conventional energy sources to meet consumer energy needs at affordable prices. This diversification is useful, because by reducing our reliance on any single energy source it enhances our nation's energy security.

Five technical areas have been identified as essential to enabling the nation's independent oil and natural gas producers to deliver the petroleum resources that U.S. consumers require for everyday living. Please go to http://www.nogs.org/nogs_external_affairs.html for more events and information.

INFO TIDBITS

The Minerals Management Service was recently split into three parts by a directive from Interior Secretary Salazar.

- * one group will oversee oil and gas leasing and renewable energy development
- * another will enforce environmental and safety regulations
- * the third will collect royalties on government leases.

For more information visit: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2010/05/gulf-oil-spill-offshore-drilling-watchdog-agency-formally-split-up.html>

Over the past decade, a wave of drilling around the world has uncovered giant supplies of natural gas in shale rock. By some estimates, there's 1,000 trillion cubic feet recoverable in North America alone, enough to supply the nation's natural-gas needs for the next 45 years. Europe may have nearly 200 trillion cubic feet of its own. Shale gas will revolutionize the industry and change the world in the coming decades. It will prevent the rise of any new cartels. It will alter geopolitics. And it will slow the transition to renewable energy.

For more information visit: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303491304575187880596301668.html?mod=rss_com_mostcommentart

The Icelandic eruption that has caused misery for air travelers could be part of a surge in volcanic activity that will affect the whole of Europe for decades, scientists have warned. They have reconstructed a timeline of 205 eruptions in Iceland, spanning the past 1,100 years, and found that they occur in regular cycles — with the relatively quiet phase that dominated the past five decades now coming to an end. For more information visit: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article7127706.ece>

- Fran Wiselady

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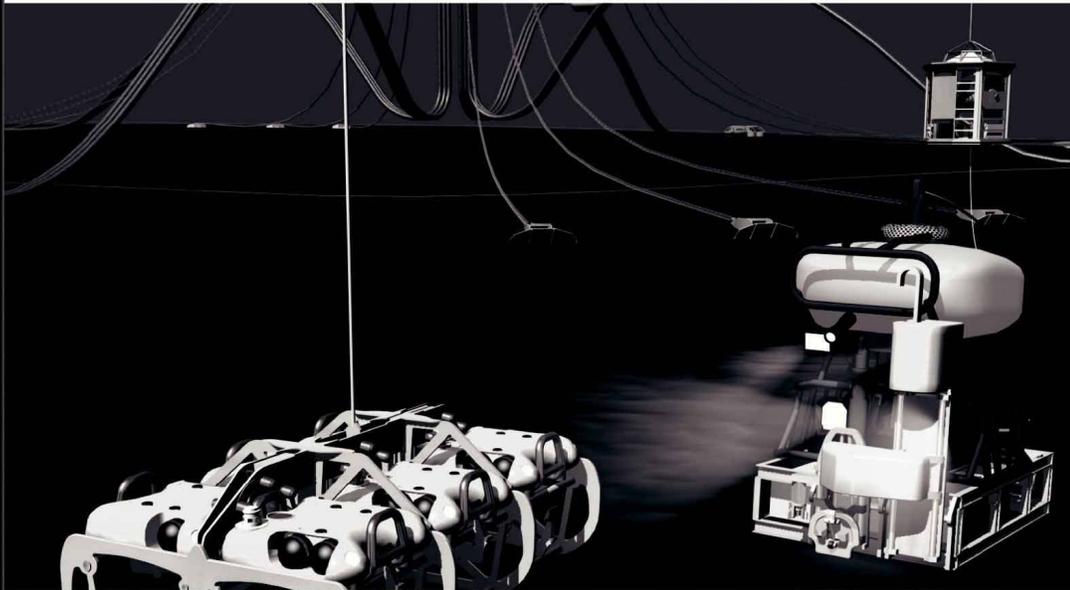
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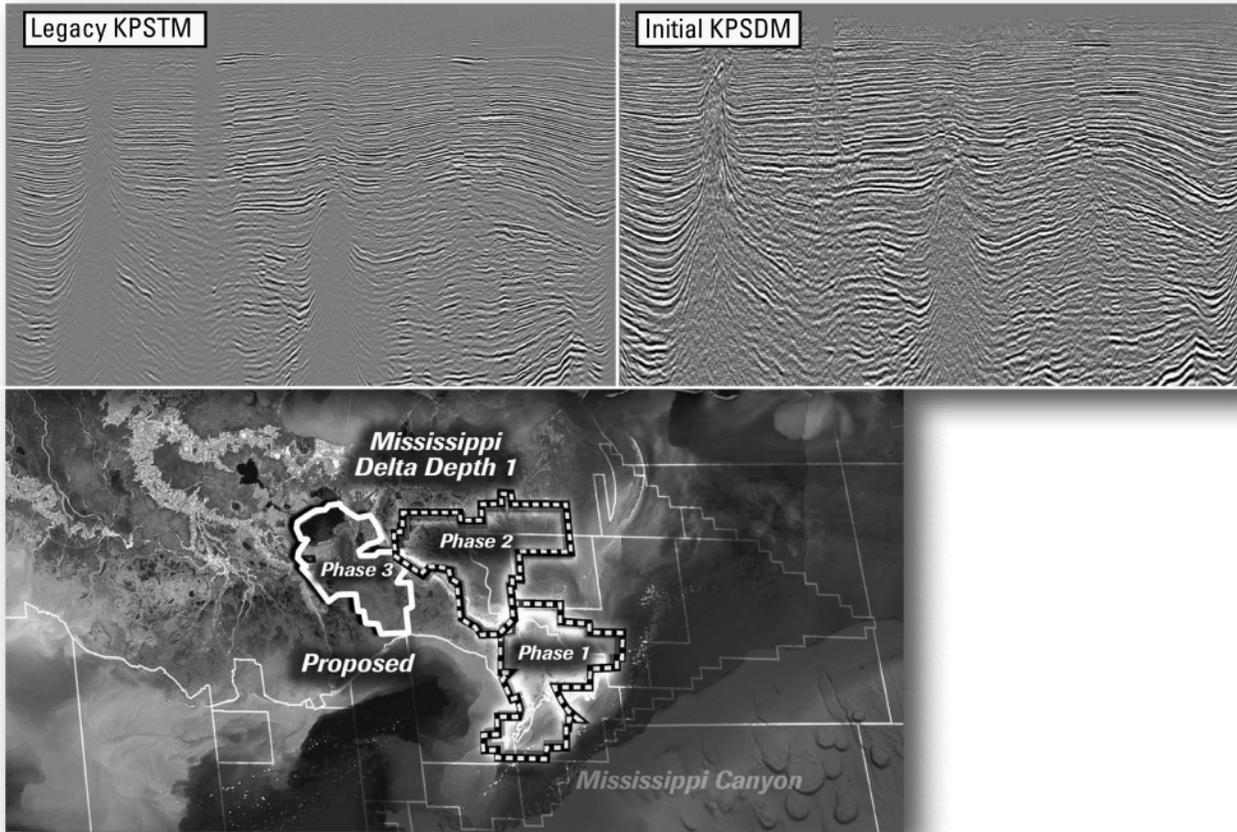
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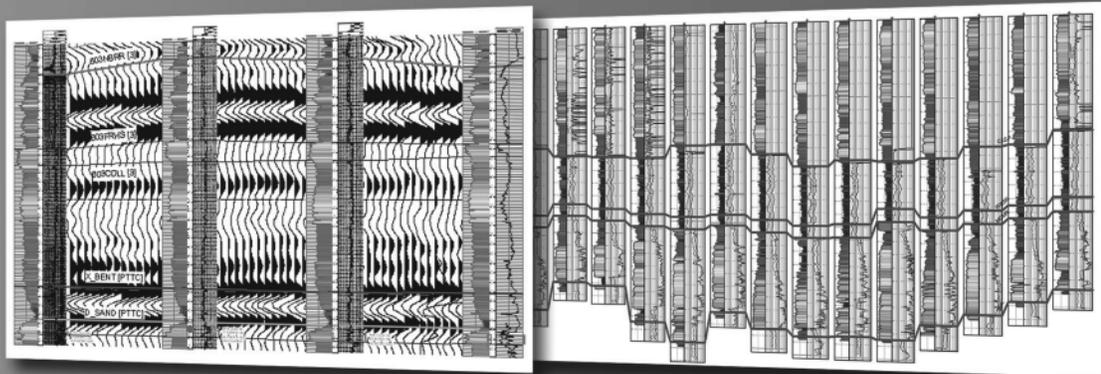


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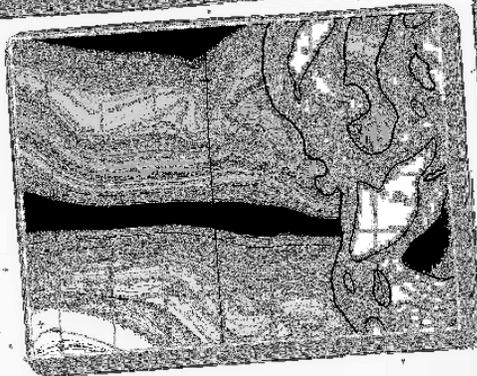
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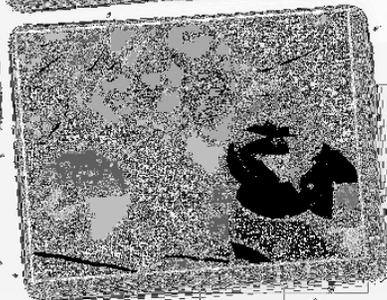


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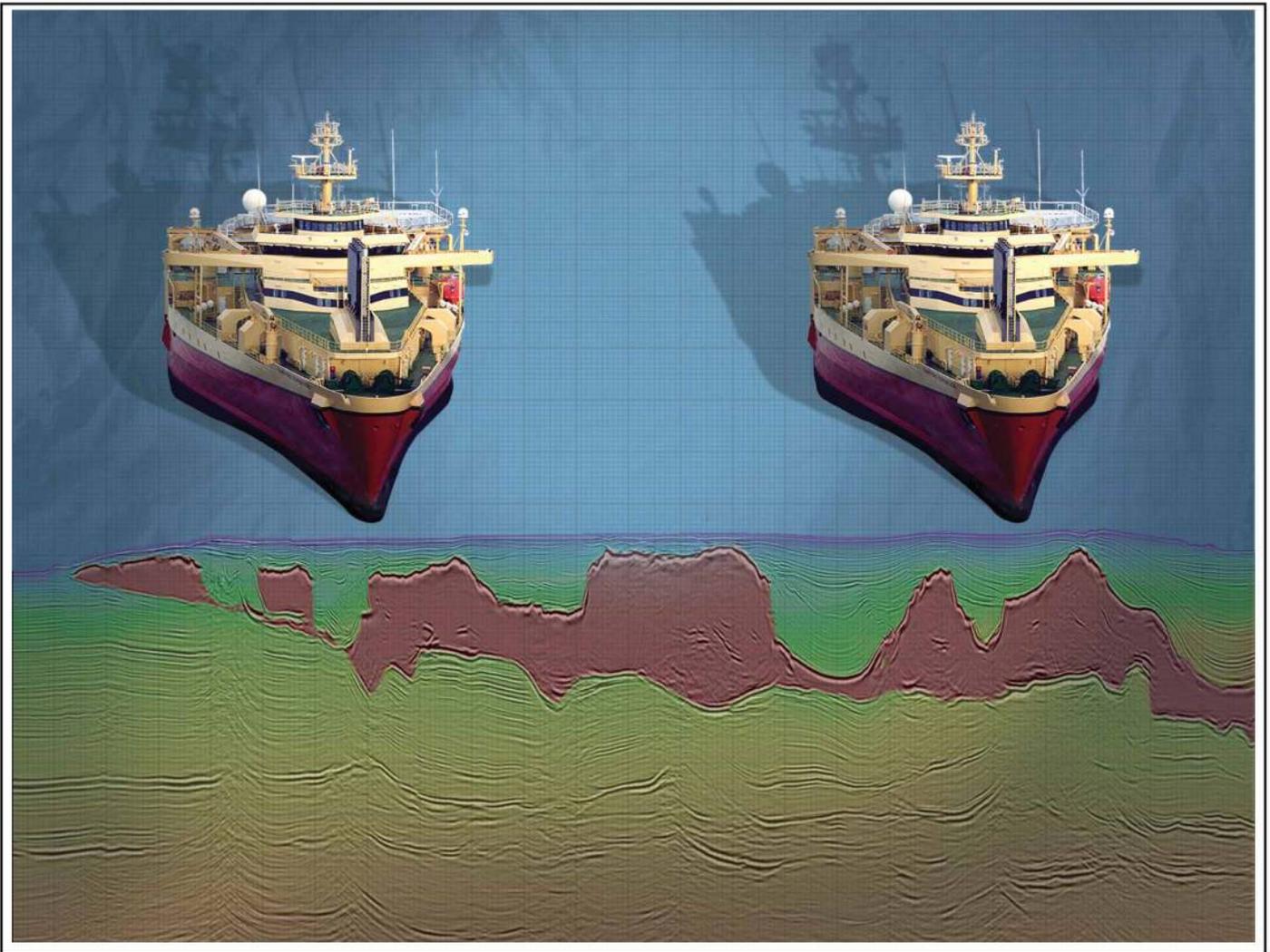
President's Letter (continued from page 5)

located at 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA. (See announcement in this LOG.) This is the fourth year for this NOGS sponsored symposium and is a must attend for anyone interested in the latest technical ideas concerning subsidence, coastal restoration, paleotempestology, and geotechnical hazards of flood protection in southern Louisiana. This event is free and open to the public. The second event of note is the "14th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium," a 2-day event scheduled for the Hilton Riverside Hotel on August 18 & 19. This symposium will address the latest deepwater technology concerning geoscience, regulatory, and many different types of engineering issues. It is quickly becoming one of the most anticipated and well attended meetings of its kind in the gulf coast region. Registration and additional information can be obtained at: www.deepwaternola.org/swf/deep.html.

When I first came to New Orleans out of college way back in 1980, there were thousands of geologists working

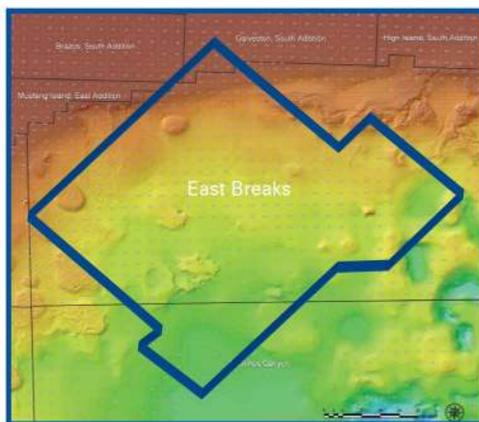
for just about every major oil company housed all up and down Poydras St. Now, with all the mergers, moves, and layoffs, there is but a skeleton geoscience community left in the greater New Orleans area. My employer, Eni Petroleum, has decided to become another one of those companies to close their New Orleans office and consolidate to Houston. I have accepted a position in Eni's Houston office, and as a result, I will most likely resign my post as NOGS President just prior to my anticipated move date in early August. At that time, the current Vice President Rick Kear will become your new NOGS President. In next month's President's Letter, I will more fully outline this transition of NOGS leadership, as well as some other changes in NOGS that the Board of Directors has been mulling over. Until then, please consider that now, more than ever, NOGS needs you to volunteer to help it attain its scientific and community goals.

Dave



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