



University of Wisconsin-Madison AAPG Student Chapter Newsletter

January 2004



Statement of Purpose

The UW Department of Geology and Geophysics has strong ties to the oil and gas industry, and many alumni have enjoyed distinguished careers in industry. The University of Wisconsin-Madison AAPG Student Chapter was founded with the purpose of furthering student awareness of career opportunities in the geosciences, as well as encouraging students to take advantage of those career opportunities. Also important to the Student Chapter is the building of leadership and teamwork skills of Chapter members, which we feel is priceless, regardless of which career paths students may choose.

2003-2004 Executive Committee

President: Kuwana Dyer; kmdyer@geology.wisc.edu

Vice President: Chris Gordon; cgordon@geology.wisc.edu

Secretary: Marwan Wartes; mwartes@geology.wisc.edu

Treasurer: Skylar Primm; skylarp@geology.wisc.edu

Chapter Advisor: Dr. Alan Carroll; acarroll@geology.wisc.edu

Chapter Co-Advisor: Dr. Toni Simo; simo@geology.wisc.edu

Society Sponsor: Michigan Basin Geological Society

Society Liaison: Dr. G. Michael Grammar, carbonate sedimentology and stratigraphy, Western Michigan University

Program/Publicity Committee: Erik Hoffmann

Field Trip Committee: Liz Leslie

Membership Committee: Brad Sleeth

Chapter Members

Kuwana Dyer-MS student, sedimentology/stratigraphy

Chris Gordon-MS student, sedimentology/stratigraphy

Marwan Wartes-PhD student, sedimentology and tectonics

Skylar Primm-MS student, structural geology

Preeya Jirutthitjaroen-MS student, sedimentology/stratigraphy

Colin Walling-PhD student, sedimentology/stratigraphy

Tina Johnson-MS student, geochemistry & micropaleontology

Leo Piccoli-PhD student, sedimentology/stratigraphy

Alan Kobussen-MS student, petrophysics/tectonics

Amy Garbowicz-MS student, sedimentology

Liz Leslie-PhD student, paleoclimatology & sedimentology/stratigraphy

Stuart Schmitt-MS student, geophysics/tectonics

Essam Sharaf-PhD student, sedimentology

Tim Oleson-MS student, geochemistry
Brad Sleeth-PhD student, geomorphology
Steve Beyer-PhD student, sedimentology/stratigraphy
Ben Bymers-MS student, sedimentology/stratigraphy
Erik Olson-MS student, geophysics/seismology
Erik Hoffmann-MS student, paleontology
Simon Masters-undergraduate senior, vertebrate paleontology
Shannon Briscoe-undergraduate junior, undecided

Startup of the Chapter

Founding of Chapter	November 2003
Appointment of Executive Committee	November 2003
First meeting of Chapter	December 8, 2003
December report sent to headquarters	December 9, 2003
Chapter web page created	January 2004
Chapter newsletter created	January 2004
Second meeting of Chapter	January 26, 2004
Distribution of Chapter newsletter	February 2004

Looking Ahead

American Cancer Society Walkathon	April 10, 2004
National AAPG Conference	April 18-21, 2004
Chapter Field Trip	TBA

The American Cancer Society is having their annual walkathon on April 10th, and we plan to participate in this event to help raise money for the organization. We also plan to attend the national AAPG conference this April, and while there volunteer at the AAPG General Store to help raise funds for our Chapter. We are also currently organizing a field trip to a local place of interest. Logistics are still being worked out regarding locality, dates, and field trip leader. More information is forthcoming.

UW-Madison Recruiter Visits

During Fall 2003, the following recruiters came to UW-Madison:

ConocoPhillips, September 2003

BP, September 2003

ExxonMobil, September 2003

Shell, October 2003

Schlumberger, October 2003

In Spring 2004 we are expecting Jay Nania and Fabian Wirnkar of **BP**; Rick Sarg of **ExxonMobil**; and Bill Morgan of **ConocoPhillips** to visit our department. They are on the UW Board of Visitors and will be attending the Spring Banquet in April. There is also a possibility that **Shell** will engage in some recruiting, though it will probably be geared more toward the undergraduate population.

Industry Support of Department Activities

Each year a number of companies donate money to the department to help fund items such as field trips, summer field research, conference attendance, scholarships, research assistantships, instruction, and faculty research, just to name a few. This year **BP**, **Shell**, and **ExxonMobil** have generously donated funds to the department. **BP** has donated their **BP Fund**, which they give every year, whose primary purpose is to offset the cost of AAPG conference attendance for those not presenting. **Shell's** funds will be allocated for the San Andreas field trip in May, as well as for the Iceland trip in August. **Anadarko Petroleum Corporation** has generously sponsored research in sedimentary basins by Dr. Carroll, and this money has provided the primary support for work in northern Alaska. In addition to these, **ConocoPhillips** also gave a gift donation. Among those companies who gave matching donations this year are **BP**, **ExxonMobil**, **Shell**, **Occidental**, the **El Paso Energy Foundation**, and **Marathon Ashland**.

Call for Articles

We are inviting all UW-Madison geology students to submit abstracts they've written related to sedimentology, stratigraphy, paleontology, structural geology, geophysics, seismology, petroleum geochemistry, basin analysis, and petroleum geology. These will be included in the May newsletter, as well as on the Chapter web page.

The Sedimentary Visualization Lab, Room 408 Weeks Hall

The Sedimentary Visualization Lab was under development for a number of years and a graduate course entitled "Fundamentals of Workstation Interpretation" was coordinated for Spring 2002 by Dr. Martin L. Shields, an alumni with 20 years industry experience as a workstation interpreter. The team of instructors originally included Dr. Shields, as well as Dr. Alan Carroll, Dr. Toni Simo, Dr. Cliff Thurber, and Dr. Richard Allen. The goal of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the subsurface investigation of sedimentary basins and structures using 2-D and 3-D reflection seismic and well log data.

The lab currently operates six Sun Ultra workstations equipped with Geoquest software. We received remodeling support, hardware, software, and data sets from the Weeks Fund, the College of Letters and Science, **Schlumberger/Geoquest**, **BP**, **ExxonMobil**, **Santa Fe Energy**, **Hampson-Russell**, **System Development Inc.**, and **Seismic Microtechnologies**. Dr. Shields was responsible for coordinating the development of this facility, and computer guru Ben Abernathy put in long hours getting all of the machines and software to work. A plaque is displayed at the entrance to the laboratory, which bears the names of the companies that have so generously donated to the facility.

(modified from 2001 *Outcrop*)

Upcoming Talks on Sedimentology, Paleontology, Geophysics and Structure

The Weeks Seminar is held on Fridays, and during this time invited speakers give a talk about their research. The following presentations are scheduled during Spring 2004 and focus on sedimentology, paleontology, geophysics, or structural geology.

February 20: Dr. Bruce Trudgill from the University of Colorado

(AAPG Distinguished Lecturer)

"Unraveling the Complexities of Salt Basins Through the Integration of 3-D Seismic Analysis, Field Studies, and Structural Restoration."

March 26: Dr. Lynn Soreghan of the University of Oklahoma, topic TBA
(Dr. Soreghan's areas of expertise are sedimentology, stratigraphy, and paleoclimate)

April 9: Dr. Peter DeCelles from the University of Arizona, topic TBA
(Dr. DeCelles's areas of expertise are physical sedimentology and petrology of clastic deposystems; tectonics and sedimentation of fold-thrust and strike-slip orogens in North American Cordillera, Nepal and central Mediterranean; analysis of sedimentary basins)

The department Graduate Seminar is held each week on Thursdays, and during this time graduate students who have signed up for a particular date give talks regarding their research. A good portion of these presentations are concerned with sedimentology, paleontology, geophysics, or structural geology, and all students and faculty are encouraged to attend these talks.

The Sedimentology/Paleontology research group hosts a weekly Brown Bag during both spring and fall semesters, during which students give talks regarding their research.

2004 Graduates, Recent Alumni in Petroleum, and Summer 2004 Interns

Dr. Jeffrey Pietras, sedimentology, PhD 2003 under Dr. Alan Carroll

Exxon internship, Summer 1997

Mobil internship, Summer 1998

BP internship, Summer 2001

BP employment starting December 8, 2003

Marwan Wartes, tectonics and sedimentation, PhD 2004 under Dr. Alan Carroll

Anadarko internship, Summer 1999

Anadarko internship, Summer 2000

BP internship, Fall 2002

BP employment starting in 2004

Selena Mederos, structural geology, MS 2003 under Dr. Basil Tikoff

BP internship, Summer 2003

BP employment starting in 2004

Leonardo Piccoli, sedimentology/stratigraphy, PhD 2004 under Dr. Toni Simo

BP internship, Summer 2001

ExxonMobil internship, Summer 2002

BP employment starting in 2004

Colin Walling, PhD student in sedimentology under Dr. Alan Carroll; expected graduation in May 2005

ConocoPhillips internship, Summer 2003
BP internship, Summer 2004

Erik Olson, MS student in geophysics under Dr. Richard Allen and Dr. Cliff Thurber;
expected graduation in May 2005

ExxonMobil internship, Summer 2004

Shannon Briscoe, Junior, expected graduation May 2005

Schlumberger internship (Seismic), Summer 2003

Schlumberger internship (Drilling and Measurements), Summer 2004

UW Alumni Working in the Petroleum Industry

Our goal is to compose a list of UW Alumni from the last five years who are now working in the petroleum industry. We are doing this in an effort to bridge the gap between those who are new to graduate school and the business of oil, and those who have a greater level of experience with both. At the moment the list is still in progress.

Contributions

I'd like to thank Dr. Alan Carroll, Dr. Toni Simo, Dr. Jeffrey Pietras, Marwan Wartes, Stuart Schmitt, Leonardo Piccoli, Colin Walling, and Judy Gosse for their contributions to this newsletter.