President’s Column

This will be my final newsletter to the membership as President, and I wanted to personally thank you for your support this past year. Transitioning to an all-volunteer society is not for the faint of heart, but it went far smoother than anticipated due to the cadre of committed volunteers who fought into the vision and made sacrifices in the present to pay dividends for you in the future. It has been an honor serving with such a hard-working group of chairpersons and Board members.

We held our annual meeting on May 16 where several important announcements were made that I would like to share here as well.

First, from a financial standpoint, the society is in excellent shape. The shift to an all-volunteer model reduced our fixed expenses from ~$25,000/year to ~$4,000/year—a far more sustainable scenario. Long-term, this allows the society to steadily increase its financial strength to better carry out its purposes to promote the science of geology in the Permian Basin, foster scientific research in sedimentology and related disciplines, and disseminate scientific information. Additionally, the income generated by the Young Professional Field Trip and our spring short course/core workshop has given the society a significant cushion for maintaining operations in this unpredictable oil price environment. A heartfelt thanks to Robert Campbell and Norman Frances for organizing those two events.

Second, I wanted to share with you the results from the Section elections and express my thanks to each of you who utilized our new online voting booth. James Hawkins will be your 2017-2018 President, and Mohamed Zobaa (President Elect), Robert Campbell (1st VP), Curtis Helms (2nd VP), Brice Otto (Treasurer), and Bryce Swinford (Secretary) will constitute the remainder of the Executive Committee. Their biographies are included on pages 4-5 of this Newsletter. As you have opportunity, please welcome the new leadership in the days and months ahead.

Third, it was my honor to present several of our society’s highest awards. The Honorary Life Award was given to Dr. Merlynd Nestell for his significant contributions to geology. With several active and former students, we hope to hear more of his research in future talks. Additionally, the Don Perryman Award for exceptional contributions in support of the Section was given to Concho Resources, Inc., and was accepted on their behalf by Pat Welsh. Lastly, Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Frank Fullbright whose wizardry in the digital realm enabled him to automate and streamline many of our everyday tasks to compensate for not having a full-time office staff.

I am truly excited for what lies ahead for PBS-SEPM. This year was a new beginning for the society, but going forward it has been given a firm foundation to build upon and an experienced Board to guide it. My hope is that you who have benefitted from PBS-SEPM membership or programs will be inspired to volunteer for a leadership role next year.

So long for now, and God bless!

Cory L. Hoffman
PBS-SEPM President
2016-2017
Web: http://www.pbs-sepm.org
E-Mail: info@pbs-sepm.org
Phone: (432) 279-1360
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6054
Midland, TX 79704

Mark Your Calendars! [PBS-SEPM luncheons at Carrasco Room, Midland College]

JUNE 2017
- 8-11: Young Professional and Intern Field Trip (Guad. Mtns.)

JULY 2017
- Summer Break—no meeting

AUGUST 2017
- 15: PBS-SEPM Luncheon: (11:30am-1pm) Speaker: Dr. Lynn Soreghan, Univ. of Oklahoma, Title: “Eolian-Transported Dust in the Permian Basin of the Western U.S.—Implications for Paleoclimate and Source-Rock Formation”

SEPTEMBER 2017
- 19: PBS-SEPM Luncheon: (11:30am-1pm) Speaker: Dr. Kent Condie, New Mexico Tech

Title: The Beginning of Plate Tectonics
Abstract

Eolian-transported clastic (including dust or “loess”) deposits are well known as both an archive and agent of climate change for Earth’s recent record, especially of the past few million years. But dust deposits are increasingly recognized in Earth’s deep-time record, especially from ~300 Million years ago—a well-known “icehouse” with widespread glaciation analogous to today’s planet. Oddly, dust deposits in low paleolatitudes from this time (western-midcontinent U.S.) are the thickest known from any time in the history of the planet. Data indicate that dust deposition pulsed on a glacial-interglacial timescale, and was sourced from regions that included the (tropical) Central Pangaeana Mountains. Even the coarser-grained units of the Delaware Mountain Group exhibit sourcing from the east and southeast. The equatorial setting of all this eolian material is remarkably unusual relative to the Cenozoic, signaling an oddly dusty tropical atmosphere, and requires semi-arid to arid conditions at the source, and a glacial-interglacial modulation of sourcing. Climate modeling (Community Climate System Model v.3) suggests that cold tropical climate with upland glaciation represents one scenario capable of replicating the conditions necessary for dust generation and mobilization from the Central Pangaeana Mountains. Notably, the voluminous atmospheric dust stimulated productivity in the marine and terrestrial biosphere, thus affecting biogeochemical cycling and source-rock development. The latter represents a real example of what many suggest as a geoengineering approach to control future CO2 emissions.

Biography

Dr. Lynn Soreghan is the James Roy Maxey Professor of Geology in the School of Geology & Geophysics, University of Oklahoma. Lynn uses sediments to interpret Earth’s “deep-time” climate. Much of her research focuses on the world of ~300 million years ago, as this interval captures the global mountain building and remarkable climates associated with the supercontinent Pangaea. Lynn also studies ancient “dust” deposits to understand Earth’s ancient atmosphere and climate. She earned her B.S. (Geology, 1986) at UCLA, and her PhD (Geology, 1992) at the University of Arizona, and subsequently worked at Amoco Production Company before joining (in 1996) the faculty of the University of Oklahoma.
PBS-SEPM Publications

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YOUR 2017-2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

Treasurer

Brice A. Otto  
**Title:** Technical Development Geologist  
**Company:** SM Energy, Midland TX  
**Education:** 2015, M.S. Geology, Oklahoma State University; 2013, B.S. Geology, University of Tulsa  
**Memberships:** AAPG, GSA, Geochemical Society, PBS-SEPM, WTGS  
**Activities:** AAPG Student Chapter Treasurer (2014-2015) and Interim VP (2015), Boone Pickens School of Geology – Oklahoma State University, PBS-SEPM Treasurer 2016-17

Secretary

Bryce Swinford  
**Title:** Geophysicist  
**Company:** Concho Resources, Midland TX  
**Education:** 2012 MSc. Applied Geophysics, IDEA League Joint Masters; 2007 BSc. Geophysical Engineering, Colorado School of Mines  
**Memberships:** SEG, WTGS, PBS-SEPM, PBGS  
**Activities:** Summer Mummers, Midland Community Symphonic Band, PBS-SEPM Secretary 2016-17

2nd Vice President

Curtis D. Helms, Jr.  
**Title:** Director  
**Company:** Midland College PPDC, Midland TX  
**Education:** 2011 M.S. Geology, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin; 2003 B.S. Biology, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin  
**Memberships:** AAPG, AAPG-DPA, AAPG-SWS, FCGS, PBGS, PBPA, PBS-SEPM, RMAG, SIPES, SPE, SPE-ESG, TACE, WTGS  
**Honors:** PBS-SEPM Volunteer of the Year 2013-2014, PBS-SEPM Volunteer of the Year 2011-2012
YOUR 2017-2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

1st Vice President

Robert Campbell
Title: Independent
Company: Apache
Education: M.S. Geology, Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin, 2005; B.S., Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin, 1993
Activities: 26 Years Oil & Gas Experience in Permian Basin; Current Vice President SPWLA (2016); Past President SWPLA Permian Basin (2015), PBS-SEPM President-Elect 2016-17
Memberships: AAPG, PBS-SEPM, SEPM, WTGS, APGE, SPWLA, SPWLA Permian Basin, SPE

President-Elect

Dr. Mohamed K Zobaa
Title: Senior Lecturer of Geology
Company: University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Education: PhD in Geology and Geophysics, Missouri University of Science and Technology, 2011; MS in Geology, Benha University, Egypt, 2006; BS in Geology, Benha University, Egypt, 2000
Activities: AASP-The Palynological Society Board of Directors (2012-2015); Vice President, Webmaster, and Founding Team Member: Arabian Geosciences Union (ArabGU) (2013-2016); Geology Department Representative, University Team for Ranking Improvement in the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, Benha University, Egypt (2013-2014); Organizer and Instructor, Geology Field Camp Benha University, Egypt (2013, 2014); Co-organizer and Presenter, 1st Geoscience Symposium, UTPB, Odessa, TX (April, 2017); Co-organizer and Presenter, 2nd International Workshop on: Applications of Palynology in Oil and Gas Exploration, Alexandria University, Egypt in collaboration with Missouri S&T, USA (March, 2012); Vice President of the Islamic Center of Rolla Missouri (ICRM), USA (2010-2011); President, ICRM, USA (2009-2010); Rolla Optimist Soccer Training and Coaching (Fall 2015-Spring 2016).
Memberships: GSA, Egyptian Syndicate of Scientific Professions, Arabian Geosciences Union (ArabGU), AASP-The Palynological Society, AAPG, AAPG-EMD, Paleontological Society of Egypt, Geological Society of Egypt

President

James Hawkins
Title: Senior Geologist
Company: Apache
Education: M.S. Geology, Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin, 2005; B.S., Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin, 1993
Activities: 26 Years Oil & Gas Experience in Permian Basin; Current Vice President SPWLA (2016); Past President SWPLA Permian Basin (2015), PBS-SEPM President-Elect 2016-17
Memberships: AAPG, PBS-SEPM, SEPM, WTGS, APGE, SPWLA, SPWLA Permian Basin, SPE
**INTRODUCTORY PRICE: $40 (all proceeds go directly to PBS-SEPM)**

- Get 2 tools for 1 low price — spreadsheet includes carbonate log analysis AND core data analysis tools
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Out-going PBS-SEPM Executive Board (2016-2017)

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<td>Bryce Swinford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Advisor</td>
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Do you have an idea for an interesting luncheon talk? Have a core workshop you’d like to present? Have some suggestions on how PBS-SEPM can better serve the geologic community? Just click on the e-mail above & drop us a note, your PBS-SEPM Executive Board wants to hear from you!

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“Science is facts: just as houses are made of stone, so is science made of facts: but a pile of stones is not a house, and a collection of facts is not necessarily science.”

- Jules Henri Poincaré (1854-1912)  
French mathematician

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“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else”

- Benjamin Franklin
PBS-SEPM is the Permian Basin Section of SEPM—the Society for Sedimentary Geology. However, you do not need to be a SEPM member or a geologist to join PBS-SEPM.

Our non-profit society relies entirely upon the efforts of dedicated volunteers to serve the geological community—primarily through educational events. These events include monthly luncheon talks, core workshops, annual field trips, and special geological publications. Additionally, we are involved on the college campuses—reaching out to future earth scientists through scholarships, discounted memberships, and offering full-time geology students the ability to participate in professional-grade field trips at little to no cost.

If you would like to join PBS-SEPM, you may visit our updated website (www.pbs-sepm.org) to learn more about us, download or fill out a membership form, and learn how to get involved.


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“In reply, I can only plead that a discovery which seems to contradict the general tenor of previous investigations is naturally received with much hesitation.”

Charles Lyell, British Lawyer, Geologist, (1797 - 1875)

“Volunteering is an excellent way to provide meaning in your life and help give back to your local community.”

Peter Muggeridge