

## SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES SEPM 2008 ANNUAL MEETINGS

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY) FOR THE YEAR ENDING AT THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

#### Annual Meeting

SEPM held its Annual Meeting San Antonio, TX, jointly with A.A.P.G. Mary Kraus turned the gavel over to the new President, Dale Leckie. Under the leadership of SEPM Vice-Janok Bhattacharya and his committee, SEPM sole and joint sessions accounted for 38% of the oral presentations and 50% of the poster program. The SEPM Research Symposium for 2008 was "Paleoclimate: Implications for Stratigraphic Interpretation and Modern Climate". At the business luncheon, Chris Paola gave his insights into "What Can We Learn from Sandboxes?" Then at the outgoing President's Reception Mary honored the society's 2008 medalists and the best journal papers, best poster, best oral presentation and student awardees. SEPM offered a full load of courses and trips, however, only one field trip had to be cancelled due to low registration. Due to the sale in early summer of our previous office building in Tulsa to new landlords, our headquarters needed to move rather suddenly but the move was managed with very little disruption.

#### SEPM Annual Meeting Committee

- Janok Bhattacharya, Vice-Chair for SEPM
- John Holbrook, Technical Program & Oral Session Chair
- Beverly DeJarnett, Poster Session Chair
- Steve Ruppel, Field Trip and Short Course Chair
- Mike Nault, Award Chair

#### Short Courses & Field Trips

SEPM sponsored field trips and short courses at the Annual Meeting.

- SEPM Short Course: Sequence Stratigraphy for Graduate Students
- SEPM Short Course: 3-D Seismic Interpretation for Geologists
- SEPM Short Course: Core Workshop on Developing Models and Analogs for Isolated Carbonate Platforms – Holocene and Pleistocene Carbonates of Caicos Platform, British West Indies
- SEPM Short Course: Siliciclastic Shelf Margins Revisited
- SEPM Trip: Lower Cretaceous Carbonate Geology of the Edwards Plateau
- SEPM Trip: Central Belize Mixed Margin: Long-lived Isolated Carbonate Platforms versus Young Barrier Reef and Atolls
- SEPM Trip: Geo-environments of Mustang and North Padre Islands, Texas: Status, Trends and Environmental Management of a Barrier-Island System
- SEPM Trip: Barnett, Woodford and Related Mudrock Successions in Texas Cores and Outcrops Comanchean Carbonate Shelf Margin: Unconventional Play Concepts

#### Journals

Both of our journals continued having excellent years with increases in articles and pages published. The Impact Factors for both journals also increased. The *Journal of Sedimentary Research* continues publishing top-quality papers under the guidance of the new co-editors, Gene Rankey (University of Kansas) and Paul McCarthy (University of Alaska). *PALAIOS* under the continuing editorship of Steve Hasiotis and Edie Taylor at University of Kansas published more pages and decreased turn around time. One article known now as the "dinosaur dance floor" by Winston Seiler and Marjorie Chan, gained a large popular science interest with references by the Associated Press, Washington Post and National Geographic. With online science journal access being the preferred mode by most scientists and students, SEPM and its journals continued to play an important role, as a founder and current board member of the geoscience online journal aggregate, GeoScienceWorld (GSW), which continues to thrive.

*The Sedimentary Record*, the full color member magazine, now in its sixth year, under the continued editorship of Molly Miller; Dave Furbish and Steve Goodbred, all of Vanderbilt University. The SedRec has continued publishing a current, interesting science article as well as giving members up to date information concerning the world of sedimentary geology. In 2008, the Sedimentary Geology Division of GSA, began including its former "newsletter" as part of this magazine in the March and September issues to better communicate to the wider sedimentary geology community.

#### Special Publications

- *SP # 88 - Sediment-Organism Interactions: A Multifaceted Ichnology* Edited by: Richard G. Bromley, Luis A. Buatois, Gabriela Mangano, Jorge F. Genise and Ricardo N. Melchor
- *SP # 89 - Controls on Carbonate Platform and Reef Development* Edited by: Jeff Lukasik and J.A. (Toni) Simo
- *SP #90 - Recent Advances in Models of Siliciclastic Shallow-Marine Stratigraphy* Edited by: Gary J. Hampson, Ronald J. Steel, Peter M. Burgess and Robert W. Dalrymple
- *Short Course Notes # 52 - Applied Ichnology* Authors: James MacEachern, Kerrie L. Bann, Murray K. Gingras, and S. George Pemberton
- *Core Workshop Notes # 22 - Developing Models and Analogs for Isolated Carbonate Platforms - Holocene and Pleistocene Carbonates of Caicos Platform, British West Indies* Edited by: William A. Morgan and Paul M. (Mitch) Harris

SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES

**Research Conferences**

In 2008, SEPM was involved in four research conferences, which were all very successful and summaries can be seen on the SEPM website (www.sepm.org). Two of the conferences were in partnership with The Geological Society of London, which continues to be a fruitful relationship for both organizations. The schedule for 2009 looks toward two to three conferences with meetings in Chile, Houston and perhaps Bermuda.

- ***Outcrops Revitalize: Tools, Techniques and Applications***, a 5-day research conference held June in Kilkee, Ireland.
- ***Paleogeography, The Spatial Context for Understanding The Earth System***, (with GSL) a 3-day conference in Cambridge, UK.
- ***Clinofom Sedimentary Deposits: The processes producing them and the stratigraphy defining them***, a 5-day conference in Rock Springs, WY
- ***Rifts Renaissance: Stretching the crust and extending exploration frontiers***, (with GSL) a 3-day conference in Houston, TX.

**Collaborations (AAPG, GSL, GSA, and NACSN)**

In 2008, we continued our long tradition of holding the SEPM Annual Meeting in conjunction with AAPG and helping provide an excellent technical program with the volunteer work of the SEPM members on the Local Convention Committee. We cosponsored a student field trip with AAPG and also cosponsored a field trips with the AAPG Education Directorate. SEPM continues to work with AAPG, GSA, GSL and our sections to produce jointly sponsored conferences and publications where applicable. SEPM remains an official member of the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature as well as an associated society with the International Union of Geologic Societies, which held its xx International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway in 2008. SEPM is also a member of the North American Committee for the Year of the Planet Earth (2007-2009).

**Foundation Items**

The SEPM Foundation, Inc. continues to award student grants to those pursuing research in sedimentary geology. To date over \$350,000 has been dispensed from the foundation. In 2008, the foundation supported 18 student presenters with travel grants to the Annual Meeting as well as 21 student research grants.

**Robert and Ruth Weimer Fund**

- **Geoffrey J. Gilleaudeau**, University of Tennessee
- **Zhenzhu Wan**, University of Cincinnati
- **Majie Fan**, University of Arizona
- **Kean Bliss**, San Diego State University
- **Amanda Millhouse**, Northern Arizona University
- **Joseph Collette**, University of Massachusetts
- **Jesus Ochoa**, Montana State University
- **Rachelle R. Wagner**, Northern Arizona University

**Gerald Friedman Fund**

- **Randolph J. Moses**, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
- **Cara K. Thompson**, University of Tennessee
- **Mark Sitton**, Northern Arizona University

**John Sanders Fund**

- **Emily Finzel**, Purdue University

**SEPM President's Fund**

- **J. M. Eros**, University of California – Davis
- **Erik Gulbranson**, University of California - Davis
- **Jason S. Mintz**, Baylor University
- **Michelle Summa**, Utah State University
- **Dustin Sweet**, University of Oklahoma
- **Daniel Buscombe**, University of Plymouth
- **Cara Harwood**, University of California - Davis
- **Melanie Hopkins**, University of Chicago

**SEPM NAMS-Garry Jones Fund**

- **Julie Retrun**, Univ. of Kansas

**Annual Meeting Mobil Poster Award Travel Grants**

- **Brian Smith** (University of Texas at San Antonio, USA)
- **Eric Blankenship** (University of Houston, USA)
- **Hernan Reijenstein** (University of Houston, USA)
- **Jean-François Gagnon** (University of Alberta Edmonton, Canada)
- **Jonathan Allen** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA)
- **Laura Gillespie** (University of Miami, USA)
- **Luca Dimuccio** (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal)
- **Marianne Sandstrom** (University of Adelaide, Australia)
- **N. Rebecca Buell** (Mississippi State University, USA)
- **Peter Flaig** (The University of Alaska-Fairbanks, USA)
- **Sushanta Bose** (University of Houston, USA)
- **Welley Loc** (Bard High School Early College, New York, USA)
- **Bryan Anderson** (Montana State University)
- **Elnur Binyatov**
- **Rachelle Kernen**
- **David Mans**
- **Richard MacKenzie**
- **Frank Graf**

SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES



Antonius J. (Tom) van Loon accepts the Distinguished Service Award from President Mary Kraus.

**Distinguished Service Award  
For extraordinary service to the Society  
Antonius J. Van Loon**

Antonius J. Van Loon, “Tom” to most everyone, has been the Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Sedimentary Research* since 1998. He has overseen hundreds of JSR Book Reviews and outlasted three sets of journal editors before finally deciding to “retire” from this volunteer position. He has seen the book reviews transition from being printed on a few tightly constrained pages to the essentially unlimited length allowable on the SEPM website with color images of book covers to better entice a reader.

His own scientific publications began with his Doctoral dissertation, “A prograding deltaic complex in the Upper Carboniferous of the Cantabrian Mountains (Spain); the Prioro-Tejerina Basin”, at Leiden in 1972 and he has continued to publish over 90 articles through 2007 (as least according to GeoRef) with an increasing geographical and topical range of subjects.

Being a book review editor requires a broad range of interest and a very large network of colleagues spanning many disciplines within sedimentary geology. One must also be a convincing salesman to talk people into reading and commenting on a whole book. Over the last decade, Tom has used his network and no doubt developed an even larger one, called on friends and made new ones and used a great deal of coaxing to help him produce so many excellent reviews.

The value of book reviews is often not given high marks as it is not original research but they represent a significant part of this society's mission to disseminate information about sedimentary geology. Book reviews are an excellent data point in the decision process to read or not to read a book. Geoscience librarians also rely on book reviews to help make their purchasing decisions, which of course can affect a whole school full of students. Today, so much is published so quickly that no one can keep up with everything, even within a select specialty. Good book reviews make it easier on us all to better choose what to read next.

Biographers: Kitty Milliken and Howard Harper

Citation: To Antonius J. Van Loon for his long and dedicated service to SEPM and the *Journal of Sedimentary Research* as associate editor for book reviews (1998-2007). This work has facilitated the dissemination of literature on sedimentary geoscience, one of the core missions of SEPM.

**Reply from Tom Van Loon**

It is, obviously, a great honor to receive the SEPM Distinguished Service Award. Indeed, I have served SEPM, first as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology* and then of its successor, the *Journal of Sedimentary Research*; and later, for 10 years, as book-review editor of JSR. These were all valuable experiences, so it is a bit strange to be awarded for them.

Both types of activities I have carried out with pleasure, although, admittedly, not always: when work is piling up on your desk, deadlines have to be met, and students ask for your time-consuming help, ongoing flows of manuscripts to be reviewed or books to be handled are not always truly welcome. It is, like many of you will have experienced, always the family that suffers most. Therefore I want to thank here my wife, Marion, for her support and understanding.

A manuscript that is submitted to a peer-reviewed journal like JSR will be reviewed by two reviewers at least. Of all manuscripts submitted to such journals about half will eventually be rejected. Some manuscripts will be reviewed for a second time. A rough calculation shows that each printed article will be equivalent to some 5 reviews. If you publish 2 articles per year during a career of, let's say, 30 years, this implies that you publish 60 articles, and that fellow-geologists have been reviewing 300 manuscripts for you. So you, in turn, should also review some 300 manuscripts to do your share. Do you, indeed? If not, tell the editors of the SEPM journals that you are eager to do more reviews!

Book reviews are something completely different, and I'm not sure that all of you are aware. Therefore I would like to take the opportunity now to draw your attention to this service that SEPM offers to its members and to the readers of its journals. Writing or editing a truly good book is cumbersome. I know because I have written a book, together with a colleague behind the then still existing iron curtain, and at a time that internet was not yet available. It took 10 years of hard work. Life is easier now, but each book still needs hard work. Books are really needed, however: they form still the most solid basis for scientific research. I think it therefore a shame that managers in university, who are responsible for the awful invention of scientific credits, do often not grant credits to authors of a book or a chapter in a book. The reason is merely that they cannot judge scientific quality, and therefore rather rely on quantitative data as presented through the Science Citation Index.

Having been book-review editor for the *Journal of Sedimentary Research* for some 10 years, I think that I am quite well aware of these problems. And having been President of both the Netherlands' and the European Association of Science Editors, I have also learned quite a lot about all these aspects. It is for this reason that I have not only accepted the task of being series

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editor of the book series *Developments in Sedimentology*, but also the task of handling book reviews for JSR. In the past decade, I have handled almost 200 book reviews, and this handling has changed considerably in the past few years. Changing from print in JSR to publication on the JSR website only, it became possible to handle increasingly more book reviews (in the first 15 weeks of this year already 23!). In addition, thanks to the great help of Melissa Lester in the SEPM office (thank you, Melissa!), it appeared possible to present the reviews in an ever more attractive way. So, read them!

In this way, handling the book reviews has been not only interesting and rewarding because of the knowledge that I acquired myself, but also a continuous challenge. I hope that all of you will recognize that much has been done for you by the approx. 80 reviewers from some 25 countries that have done so much reading for you. I hope that they did so with just as much pleasure as I did. Thank you, reviewers for your cooperation; thank you, readers, for your comments and suggestions; thank you, JSR, for a decade of interesting work; and thank you, SEPM, for the honor of being rewarded for these activities that have made my life so much more interesting.



Charles Savrda accepts the Distinguished Service Award from President Mary Kraus.

**Distinguished Service Award**  
**For extraordinary service to the Society**  
**Robert Gastaldo and Charles Savrda**

Drs. Robert A. “Bob” Gastaldo and Charles E. “Chuck” Savrda, with the able assistance of Editorial Assistant Elvira Gastaldo, worked exceptionally hard as an editorial team to take *PALAIOS* to new heights during their six years as coeditors of *PALAIOS*—one and a half terms as editors is no small feat while juggling teaching, research, and service duties. Taking on the editorship is a huge commitment with great responsibility, especially for full professors with an average teaching load of four classes per year in a small department. During their tenure, Bob and Chuck worked tirelessly to maintain the journal during a downturn in the oil industry, and to increase the journal’s stature in the Science Citation Index (SCI®). They recruited young paleontologists into the review process and as members of the editorial board of *PALAIOS*. All of their activities ensured a

bright future for the journal as well as broadening its use as a vehicle to maintain and enhance the membership of academic, industry, and emeritus paleontologists and sedimentologists in SEPM.

Of the many accomplishments during their tenure, the editorial team reduced the turnaround time for the journal from first submission of a manuscript to first editorial decision from a “long time” to, on average, ten to twelve weeks. This was, in many ways, due to the exceptional organizational skills of Elvira Gastaldo, but also to the quick turn around at the Editorial level—all before the advent of electronic submission and review. In addition to the two external reviews, both Chuck and Bob read and commented upon each manuscript submitted for consideration. In effect, the authors received three to four critiques, one to two of which was directly from the editors.

The editorial team made the first efforts to making *PALAIOS* an online journal by posting tables of contents and abstracts onto an old NOAA website host, with the assistance of Carla Moore. In fact, for about the first year or so, Bob did all of the formatting and coding of the files for upload onto that website himself. Subsequently, SEPM received the digital files from Allen Press, which were then posted.

The editorial team in those days had no assistance for copy editing accepted papers prior to their submission to Allen Press. Both Chuck and Bob did all of the copy editing of the final versions, which, afterwards, Elvira would translate into the final text file to be sent for publication. In this way, the editorial team attempted to standardize the quality of the papers published. Such attention to detail is a credit to the professional appearance and success of *PALAIOS*.

The editorial team was part of many other inroads over their 6 years that benefited *PALAIOS* and SEPM as a society. Bob and Chuck were part of the Editors group that pushed for the online publication of all geoscience journals in GeoScienceWorld (GSW), and Bob personally participated at Tulsa meeting. The editorial team also pushed for, although unsuccessfully, bringing color images to the print version of the journal.

In addition to their work on *PALAIOS*, both Chuck and Bob have tirelessly served the professions of sedimentary geology and paleontology throughout their careers. They both have been chairs of their respective departments, served on various editorial boards, acted as distinguished lecturers for professional societies, and organized symposia at professional meetings. They are both very active researchers and are involved in training the next generation of earth scientists, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Both have also done extensive outreach in the community to interest children in earth sciences and paleontology. They are coauthors of a laboratory manual for historical geology classes. They have continued to support *PALAIOS* after their time as coeditors by serving as Associate Editors, reviewing manuscripts, and by publishing their research results in the journal.

For their continued and tireless efforts to serve not only the Society for Sedimentary Geology, but also the wider community of sedimentary geologists, paleontologists, and the community of scientists represented by *PALAIOS*, we recommend Drs.

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Gastaldo and Savrda for an SEPM Distinguished Service Award.

Biographers: Steve Hasiotis and Edith Taylor

Citation: To Robert A. Gastaldo and Charles E. Savrda for distinguished service to SEPM through their responsibilities as coeditors of *PALAIOS* during six years of highly meritorious service.

No Written Reply Submitted

James Lee Wilson Award  
For Excellence in Sedimentary Geology Research  
by a Young Scientist  
Tim Naish

Elegant science is often borne from the simplest of concepts and Tim's idea to re-evaluate the classic Wanganui Basin sequence in New Zealand, is an example. First described by Sir Charles Fleming in 1953, the Plio-Pleistocene Wanganui sequence is one of the finest shallow marine records of global sea-level and climate change. Tim's idea was to apply modern sequence- and cyclo-stratigraphic methods to unravel the sedimentary history and, through correlations with deep-sea isotopic records, identify the Milankovitch forcing parameters.

Tim initially studied at Waikato University where his interest in sequence stratigraphy was kindled during his PhD. That interest was boosted by a fruitful post-doctoral fellowship at James Cook University, Australia, where research on the Wanganui Basin continued. Using seismic and outcrop data, he was soon identifying sedimentary cycles at a range of orbital and other frequencies. Recognizing the potential of the record, Tim gathered a team of specialists that led to a basin-wide study and synthesis. He also led the publication of results in two, dedicated journal volumes.

His cyclo-stratigraphic expertise later focussed on Antarctica where he identified orbital forcing of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet as recorded in core from the Cape Roberts Drilling Project. That research appeared in *Nature*. This work continues today under the Antarctic Drilling programme, which is unravelling the history of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. Tim was co-chief for ANDRILL Leg 1 that recovered 1285 m of sediment core - currently the longest Antarctic core - containing an exceptional record of ice sheet variability over the past 13 million years.

Tim is relaxed, generous with his time, and a "team player". Those attributes, plus an incisive mind, underpin his substantial achievements. And as ANDRILL indicates, there is more to come. He is a worthy recipient of the James Lee Wilson Award.

Biographer: Lionel Carter

Citation: In recognition of achievements in Sedimentary Geology, relating to the application of sequence- and cyclo-stratigraphy to better understand the evolution of sedimentary successions; and of contributions to the science community through publications, teaching and leadership of major science initiatives.

Honorary Membership

For contributions to the science and SEPM

Brian O'Neill

Brian O'Neill, received a BS in Biology from Boston College (1976) and an MS degree from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in Geology (1979). In 1979 he began his career as a biostratigrapher with Shell Oil Company. He is currently a Senior Staff Biostratigrapher for Shell International Exploration and Production Inc. in New Orleans.

Brian has been, and continues to be, an innovator of techniques in developing high resolution biostratigraphic interpretations, primarily in the Gulf of Mexico Basin, and in other basins, worldwide. He has been a moving force in developing computer software that greatly facilitates recording microfossil data that enables high quality correlations and paleoenvironmental interpretations.

Brian has been instrumental in organizing and presenting short courses on applications of paleontology for solving exploration and exploitation problems. These courses given within Shell as well as for professional societies, universities and the MMS have taken him around the U.S as well as to Europe and Asia.

Brian has authored or coauthored over twenty-five papers and abstracts focused on biostratigraphy.

Brian's contributions and service to SEPM are significant. Since joining in 1979, he has served on the Membership Committee ('85-'87 and '95-'97), K-12 Earth Science Education Committee ('90-'00), Research Committee ('94-'95), Chair of Meetings Policy Committee ('93-'95) and as member ('95-'97), Chair of Moore Medal Selection Committee ('95-'97), SEPM Council as Paleontology Councilor ('95-'97), Chair Outstanding Paper - *PALAIOS* ('95-'97), NAMS Section President ('02-'04), Nominating Committee ('04-'04), Vice Chair SEPM 1993 and 2000 Annual Meetings ('91-'94 and '98-'01), and Honorary Membership Selection Committee ('01-'04).

Brian O'Neill, through his exemplary years of service, is eminently deserving of Honorary Membership in SEPM - The Society for Sedimentary Geology.

Biographer: Ed Picou, Jr.

Citation: In recognition of his leadership in the science of biostratigraphy and its applications in the petroleum industry and academe, and for his dedicated service to SEPM in significant capacities over the years.

No Written Reply Submitted

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Charles Nittrouer accepts the Francis P. Shepard Medal from President Mary Kraus.

**Francis P. Shepard Medal  
For Sustained Excellence in Marine Geology  
Charles Nittrouer**

As Marine Geology evolved from disciplinary studies common during its infancy to the more integrative programs of recent decades, it required strong leadership skills to bring together and guide a diverse research community to shape national and international research at the forefront of the science. Chuck has been the champion of the sedimentary geology community in this regard, and his efforts have spawned major interdisciplinary programs that have shaped the future of Marine Geology for decades to come. His legacy includes a legion of students and fellow scientists who understand the value of working hard and working together toward a common goal.

A product of the Philadelphia area, Chuck earned his B.A. at Lafayette College where he had his first exposure to sedimentary geology from Dick Faas. Chuck moved on to the University of Washington where he earned his M.S. and Ph.D. with Dick Sternberg (another Shepard Medalist) investigating sediment dispersal from the Columbia River along the Washington continental shelf. In a classic 1979 publication, Chuck and his co-workers brought into mainstream the application of Pb-210 geochronology to the study of fine-grained sediment accumulation on the continental shelf. The approach he pioneered has been used in subsequent decades by countless researchers to link sediment transport and strata formation in continental margin environments. Since his Ph.D. work, Chuck has employed numerous tools and strategies to forge a fundamental understanding of sedimentary processes and stratigraphy of continental margins.

Never shy about taking on big challenges, Chuck's first program after leaving his graduate studies began to focus effort on the Amazon continental shelf, a nascent study which expanded into, a large multidisciplinary initiative that extended over a decade and served as the gold standard and template for similar large interdisciplinary programs that would follow. The many published special research volumes stand as a testament to the successes of these programs that collectively summarize the current state of our knowledge of siliciclastic continental margin sedimentation.

With a keen eye on the overarching science and the acumen to pull together diverse teams of scientists towards a common interest, Chuck has excelled in building the major programs in sedimentary geology over the past quarter century.

Biographer: Steve Kuehl

Citation: In recognition of his many accomplishments in Marine Geology, including: research in continental margin sedimentation, stewardship of major national programs, education of a diversity of students, and leader of the sedimentary geology community.

**Reply from Charles Nittrouer**

**BEING A MARINE GEOLOGIST:** Appreciation for a Wonderful Profession, a Large Supporting Cast, and a Special Award

"Mom and Dad, I want to be a marine geologist when I grow up.

"Great, you can learn all about fish."

"No, I said Marine GEOLOGIST."

"What do they do?"

"Among many things, marine geologists learn how Earth history is recorded in sedimentary deposits. They can investigate marine and terrestrial processes that create signatures within the seabed of continental margins, so sedimentary deposits can be interpreted better. They study how waves and currents transport sediment and, after movement stops and particles reach the seabed, how biological mixing impacts sedimentary signatures. Marine geologists can use short-lived radioisotopes to quantify the rates of sediment accumulation, and provide estimates of mass fluxes defining the fate of sediment. When done at the margins between land and sea, these studies are valuable for the people who live there and the resources found there.

Marine geologists learn their trade from many outstanding professors at the college and university they attend. They work with stimulating undergraduate and graduate advisors, who are wonderful educators and role models, and become life-long friends. Marine geologists are able to return the favor by teaching at great universities and transferring the excitement of the field to the next generation. Working with graduate students is particularly rewarding, because they have eager, creative minds. The successes of these students provides fulfillment, and they too become life-long friends.

Through all of this, US funding agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research provide financial support for your graduate education in marine geology, and continue support for decades of research into important scientific questions. The funding agencies also provide research vessels and allow investigations to be undertaken where the answers can be obtained best - anywhere in the world. You meet and study with interesting and bright scientists from all corners of the US and the globe. Many weeks are spent working around the clock under harsh conditions at sea, where you make new friends.

There are times when your spouse and kids can accompany you

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around the world. This allows them to appreciate what you do and they support your scientific endeavors, even though the work requires long hours and crazy travel schedules.

These opportunities for research can lead you to surf ten-meter waves on ships in the North Pacific. You might crawl across Amazon mudflats, as flocks of pink flamingoes take flight overhead. You can hear the crackle and see the crash of Alaskan glaciers. Typhoons might drive you ashore in the Yellow Sea. You watch penguins scamper across sea ice as your research vessel plows through the Ross Sea. You listen carefully for the splash of saltwater crocs, while working in the mangrove forests of the Fly River.

A marine geologist might spend nights sleeping in hammocks or might eat meals fit for a sultan. There are Mediterranean research cruises with fine Italian, Spanish and French cuisine (and wine). After other successful cruises, there are long nights celebrating with shipmates.

Then, after thirty or forty years having the privilege to work as a marine geologist with the support of students, colleagues and family, SEPM rewards you with the Shepard Medal. I'm extremely grateful for all this."



Richard Fortey accepts the Raymond C. Moore Medal  
from President Mary Kraus.

**Raymond C. Moore Medal  
For Sustained Excellence in Paleontology  
Richard Fortey**

Richard Fortey applies unusual talents as a systematic paleontologist to the widest range of geological issues. His contributions to systematics, paleoecology, paleogeography, stratigraphy, and functional morphology are fundamental. He has an exemplary record of scientific productivity - over 200 publications spanning short articles in *Science* to major systematic monographs and popular books. He has brilliant scientific intuition, and is a staunch and highly visible advocate for paleontology through popular science writing that has been widely recognized internationally. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Why is Richard so good? Because he combines an extremely sharp mind with a fervent passion for revealing the broader

geological and evolutionary implications of fossils. He has an apparently photographic memory for morphology and uses his encyclopedic knowledge of the group as a guide to functional interpretation, with elegant explanations for novel features of individual specimens, biofacies distributions across broad paleoshelves, and global faunal provinciality in the search to constrain paleocontinental movements. In each study Richard combines independent lines of evidence to deduce an explanation of broad explanatory power. He has been deeply involved in the details of stratigraphic debates on Ordovician stratigraphy and in the establishment of a global chronostratigraphic framework of that system. Although remaining primarily a systematist, he has consistently applied novel approaches to the understanding of morphology - ranging from biomechanical modeling to phylogenetic systematics. His views on trilobite higher-level systematics are the current "industry standard" and the basis for the phylogeny provided in the recently updated Treatise. He is also a widely regarded specialist on graptolites. Richard's approachability and his willingness to engage in discussion have led to his playing a major role in the development of younger scientists.

Richard has long been an author of popular books but in recent years has found his voice widely appreciated as a public communicator of science. In a series of bestselling books Richard has elegantly reconnected readers with geological and evolutionary history and with the triumphs of human discovery that have led to our current understanding of our place in nature. He is now a major public figure in science in the UK, and can count Bill Bryson as an acknowledged fan. He is also, as far as I'm aware, the only soft-rock geologist to be a personal friend of Anni-Frid Llyngstad, one of the lead singers of the 1970's super band ABBA. Raymond C. Moore would surely have been proud.

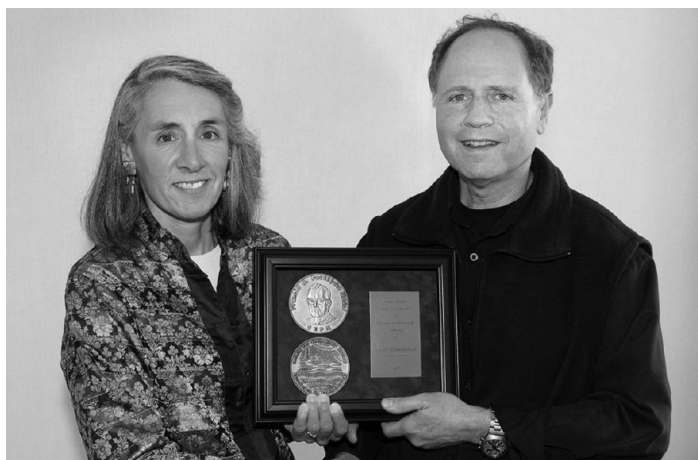
Biographer: Nigel Hughes

Citation: For his unparalleled ability to apply details of specimen-based paleontology to the broadest range of geological and evolutionary questions, and for his outstanding contributions as a public communicator of science.

**No Written Reply Submitted**



**SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES**



Henry Posamentier accepts the Francis J. Pettijohn Medal  
from President Mary Kraus.

**Francis J. Pettijohn Medal  
For Sustained Excellence in Sedimentology  
Henry Posamentier**

As one of the original developers and proponents of sequence stratigraphic concepts and as a driving force behind seismic geomorphology, Henry's influence and impact on sedimentology over the last 25 years has been immense.

Henry is a product of New York City, having attended the City College of New York as an undergraduate and Syracuse University for his doctorate. While he taught college for a few years, it was only when he joined Exxon in 1979 that his calling became clear. Working closely with Peter Vail and colleagues provided Henry with the opportunity to develop expertise in interpreting depositional sequences using the emerging concepts of seismic stratigraphy. This led Henry to assume a leadership role in the development of sequence stratigraphy, first published in a series of seminal papers in 1988.

During the years that followed, Henry created a staggering body of work that includes books, edited memoirs, innumerable papers, conference presentations, university lectures, industry workshops, field trips, and several distinguished lecture tours. As his influence, stature and leadership in his field grew, Henry was elevated to increasingly responsible positions, including Chief Geologist world-wide for Anadarko Corporation and most recently, Senior Technical Advisor for Chevron Energy Technology Company.

With sequence stratigraphic concepts firmly entrenched, Henry moved into the world of 3D seismic. He correctly recognized that the next leap in understanding of depositional systems would come from the integration of high-quality imaging with traditional data sets. This has resulted in the development of a new field termed seismic geomorphology. The revision of deep-water models published in several ground breaking papers and summarized in his co-edited volume, *Facies Models Revisited*, is a consequence of that work.

Not unexpectedly, Henry has won many awards for his contributions to stratigraphy and sedimentology. Crowning these is the Pettijohn medal for which he is a most worthy recipient.

Biographer: David James

Citation: In recognition of his numerous contributions to sedimentology and the development of sequence stratigraphy. For his leading role in promoting the use of 3D data sets which has resulted in the development of seismic geomorphology. For his ground breaking re-examination of the sedimentology of deep water deposits. And for his numerous publications, conference and academic presentations, workshops and schools that have encouraged and influenced earth scientists around the globe.

**Reply from Henry Posamentier**

I am deeply grateful and appreciative of the award that I am receiving tonight. As I look back on the path that I have taken to get here, I shake my head and smile. It was, indeed, a most unlikely path. At each significant step along the way, I can see that the key factor was the mentor who for me was in the right place at the right time. I cannot overstate the value of the support and guidance that I received from these mentors. I learned from them more than the academic aspects of my discipline; perhaps most importantly I learned the life values of persistence, commitment, and caring for others.

The slightest of glimmers of things to come can be traced to my early years growing up near the northern tip of Manhattan. Although I was in the heart of a big sprawling urban environment, I nonetheless had access to the outdoors in the form of huge boulders strewn across Fort Tryon Park and other parks in Washington Heights. This, in addition to my summers spent in the Catskill Mountains, thanks to my parents' desire for all of us children to experience more than what was available in an urban setting, imbued in me a love for the outdoors that continues to this day. Still, my career in Geology would have been stillborn had it not been for the enthusiasm of one professor in my early undergraduate years at The City College of New York. Uncertain as to what I should major in, I took a geology course in part to satisfy a core requirement and in part just to see what a course in an outdoor-oriented discipline would be like. Dr. Simon Schaffel was the instructor in this course. His enthusiasm and his love for the science were truly contagious; he was remarkable, the course was remarkable, and it changed my life. I knew now what I wanted to pursue, and the rest, as they say, was history; I never looked back.

Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, I went on to Syracuse University for my advanced degrees. Again, it was my graduate advisor who played a key role in my development. Dr. Ernest Muller, in his low-key but caring way gave me the freedom to pursue my interests, giving me enough rope to allow me to occasionally hang myself. But I learned and grew from each experience. My field of study was glacial geology and to that end I trekked the mountains of Austria and later Switzerland, in pursuit of my studies. My degree in glacial geology led me to a brief teaching career and ultimately to a research position with Exxon Production Research Company.

When I have looked back on my early days with EPRCo, I must say that they took somewhat of a risk in hiring me. When I walked through the doors on day one of my career at Exxon, I was placed into the seismic stratigraphy group, despite the fact that I had never before seen, let alone worked with, a seismic



SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES

section! It turned out to be a great fit for me. Here again, it was the linkage with a key mentor that made all the difference. I had the great fortune to be at the right place at the right time in the evolution of seismic and later sequence stratigraphy. During that time, I came to know and work with Dr. Peter Vail. He became my role model and mentor. Pete created an atmosphere at EPRCo that allowed creativity to flourish, giving me opportunities to grow and learn, that I would never have had without his presence. I was able to contribute to the transformation of seismic stratigraphy into sequence stratigraphy; the recognition that the principles developed on the basis of seismic data were also applicable using a broad range of data types.

In recent years I have come almost full circle from my early days as an undergraduate where I was attracted to the discipline of geomorphology, to the present day where I have been involved in the development of the discipline of seismic geomorphology. 3D seismic data has proven to be a veritable gold mine of information regarding paleo-landscapes. These insights, when integrated with stratigraphic observations can lead to much improved predictions of lithologic distribution.

To conclude, I have many people to thank, including Drs. Schaffel, Muller, and Vail, mentioned above. Numerous collaborators through the years have taught me so much and at the risk of inadvertently leaving some off this list, I would like to thank in particular, David James, George Allen, V. Kolla, Bill Morris, Janok Bhattacharya, Roger Walker, Bob Suchecki, Ole Martinsen, Michel Tesson, and Paul Weimer. But it is to my loving wife, Ceri, also a geologist, that I reserve my most deeply felt thanks. She has stood by me and believed in me and most importantly, put up with me through all the travels that are such an integral part of what we do. And thanks to all of you for the honor you have bestowed upon me. I am most humble to be listed amongst the other awardees of the Pettijohn Medal.

Our Society embraces, because of its nature, a wide spectrum of scientists interested in all natural aspects of the modern and ancient world. The two pillars of our endeavor are sedimentology and paleontology and Steven Stanley, perhaps more than anyone, has embraced these disciplines throughout his illustrious career.

A graduate of Princeton and then Yale he has spent most of his career at The Johns Hopkins University. He is now Professor of Geobiology at the University of Hawaii. Over these years he has been a strong force in the Paleontological Society, the Geological Society of America, the National Research Council, and was recently President of the American Geological Institute. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy. Steve is much honored for his science; amongst the most notable accolades, together with outstanding paper awards, being the Paleontological Association Schuchert Medal, the Mary Clark Thompson Medal from the National Academy, and the Paleontological Society Medal.

His research is characterized by painstaking observation, innovative experimentation, sparkling synthesis, and renegade thinking. His interests are eclectic; bivalves and mammals loom large, evolution and diversity are central, organisms and their relationship to changing environments are critical, and carbonates keep coming back. A continuing theme is the focus on specific attributes an organism or groups of taxa that inevitably lead to larger scientific issues.

He began his research career by studying attributes of the Pleistocene Key Largo limestone, but it was his work on bivalve form and function that brought his work to international prominence. These studies quickly led to thinking about trends, rates, and patterns of evolution through the Phanerozoic, not only of mollusks, but of all taxa. This global approach has been the centerpiece of his science ever since. Recognizing patterns of origination, speciation, and mass extinction resulted in consideration of the complex relationship between organisms and the ever-evolving ocean-atmosphere system. Such thinking has recently led to one of the most arresting theories of the last decade, formulated with his colleague Laurie Hardie, on the relationship between changing ocean chemistry, global tectonics, and the mineralogy of skeletal invertebrates. This proposal has not only resulted in a new way of thinking about the rock record but has also acted as a catalyst for a host of companion theories and much new research. It has been hailed by some as perhaps the most fundamental advance in sedimentary geology in recent years.

Steve has transmitted his science, not only via innumerable scientific papers but also through books, ranging from the highly scientific (*Macroevolution: Pattern and Process*), to science aimed at the general public, (*Children of the Ice Age*; *Living Fossils* (with N. Eldridge); and *Evolution*) to textbooks (*Earth and Life Through Time* - 2 editions; *Principles of Paleontology* (with D.M. Raup) - 2 editions; and *Earth System History* - third edition now at the press). To read one of these books is to be awash in original thinking and big ideas.

This summary of a truly amazing body of work is merely an overview. His influence on our science has been profound and



Steven Stanley accepts the William F. Twenhofel Medal from President Mary Kraus.

William F. Twenhofel Medal  
For a Career of Outstanding Contributions in  
Sedimentary Geology  
Steven Stanley

SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES

an inspiration to his colleagues and students everywhere. The Society honors both him and itself by bestowing our highest award on this exceptional scientist.

Biographer: Noel James

Citation: For profoundly insightful research into the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that have influenced organism evolution throughout geologic time, and for the elegant transmission of these findings to the scientific community.

Reply from Steven M. Stanley

I thank Noel James for the excessively kind words of his citation.

First, let me express my heart-felt gratitude to two colleagues: One is Al Fischer, my undergraduate mentor whose brilliance and contagious enthusiasm lured me into this business. The other is Lawrie Hardie, who a decade ago challenged me to investigate whether marine life displayed patterns indicating that secular changes in seawater chemistry have influenced the mineralogy of calcifying organisms. I will refrain from mentioning some of my former students, since I can't mention them all, but they have always been a source of inspiration and collegial support.

Al Fischer headed off on sabbatical the summer before my senior year in college, forcing me to undertake my undergraduate thesis on the Key Largo Reef Limestone of Florida entirely on my own. I evaluated the paleoecology and diagenesis of this beautiful coral reef rock, learning how to make thin sections, stain for aragonite, and do a lot of other useful things along the way. The result was a paper in the AAPG Bulletin: my first publication. Al Fischer later surprised me with the comment that his departure was the best thing that could have happened to me, because it gave me the chance to prove to myself that I could do independent research. In this sink-or-swim situation, I had found that I loved research. In fact, I emerged as such an independent researcher that a few years later the readers of my doctoral dissertation had little idea what it would contain until I handed it to them (unbound, of course).

Paleontology has undergone two renaissances during my career, and it happens that I authored or coauthored textbooks reflecting these events. I want to focus on these renaissances.

In the mid-1960's, I was one of a group of graduate students at Yale who were convinced that Paleontology needed a stronger biological underpinning. This was, in fact, what the first renaissance was about, and it gave rise to the label Paleobiology. In 1968 I completed a dissertation on the functional morphology of bivalve mollusks. The aim was to enable paleoecologists and students of evolutionary trends to deduce the life habits of extinct bivalves from their morphologies. The dissertation dealt only with living animals, yet paleontologists universally appreciated it.

Then in 1971, Dave Raup and I published a textbook on conceptual Paleontology. We avoided calling it *Principles of Paleobiology*, fearing that this would give oldtimers an excuse not to use it. As it turned out, nearly everyone adopted the book, probably with little concern about its title. Clearly the first renaissance was underway.

In the spirit of the first renaissance, I reinterpreted Cope's Rule in a paper published in 1973 that put me on the map as a

macroevolutionist, and then, seeing a need to test the punctuational model of evolution, I did so, with a favorable verdict. At the same time, I explored the concept of species selection and, using species instead of higher taxa as units, I explored rates and patterns of large-scale evolution in my book *Macroevolution: Pattern and Process*.

Sometime in the 1970's, there came an epiphany. I suddenly realized that Geochemistry and Geophysics derive facts and concepts from Chemistry and Physics but offer nothing in return. On the other hand, we paleontologists were exchanging facts and concepts with biologists. After all, we paleontologists possess a unique archive of the deep history of life and environments.

The second renaissance is still in progress. It is about the study of life's history in the context of past environmental change. My *Earth System History* textbook is based on my unshakable conviction that the biological and physical history of Earth are inseparable.

I have recently focused on the biotic consequences of the late Paleozoic and modern ice ages and, more generally, on secular changes in animal diversity. The memoir I published on this latter topic last November essentially proposes a new paradigm for the dynamics of marine animal diversification. I have also been showing, via fossil data and laboratory experiments, that changes in the magnesium-calcium ratio of seawater have exerted a strong influence over biocalcification throughout Phanerozoic time. This would never have happened had not my brilliant colleague Lawrie Hardie pushed me to take on this topic. Lawrie had shown that Phil Sandberg's aragonite and calcite seas, named for nonskeletal precipitates, were the product of demonstrable changes in the magnesium/calcium ratio of seawater. For me, the key was to focus on biologically simple organisms that have been major sediment producers and reef builders. We can now understand why massive chalk deposits accumulated in the Cretaceous calcite sea and why aragonitic reef-building corals and benthic green algae flourish in the modern aragonite sea.

The second renaissance must guide us into the future. Anyone who has spent time on advisory committees and boards in Washington should recognize that no scientific field can flourish in isolation. Every discipline must connect to others. For a number of years my research connected paleontology to biology. That was in a sense satisfying, but the whole time I felt out of place. I was only secondarily a biologist, and Biology departments offer few jobs to paleontologists. The work on seawater chemistry and carbonates, in contrast, connects geological disciplines. It starts with plate tectonics -- because rates of formation of oceanic crust govern the magnesium/calcium ratio of seawater -- and extends through geochemistry to biocalcification, paleontology, and sedimentology.

At the age of twenty-one I studied the ecology of the Key Largo reef limestone and the diagenesis of the *Halimeda* segments within it. Now, after a long hiatus, I'm back studying reefs and *Halimeda*. It's been great to come home again.

I thank this Society's medal committee and Council for this very meaningful award.

**SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Other Awardees**



Ron Boyd accepts the 2007 Excellence of Oral Presentation Award from President Mary Kraus.



Xavier Janson, left, and Chris Kendall, right, accept the 2007 Excellence of Poster Presentation Award from President Mary Kraus.



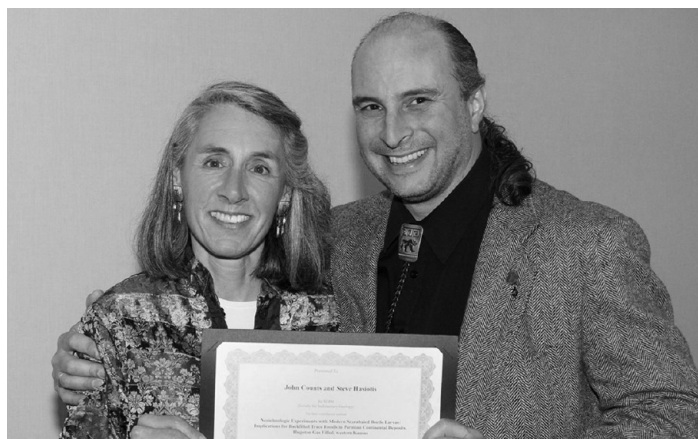
Jurgen Schieber accepts the 2007 Excellence of Oral Presentation Award from President Mary Kraus.



Wayne Wright accepts the 2007 Excellence of Poster Presentation Award from President Mary Kraus.



K. L. Miskell-Gerhards, left, and Gary Gianniny, right, accept the 2007 Excellence of Poster Presentation-Honorable Mention from President Mary Kraus.



Steve Hasiotis accepts the 2007 Excellence of Poster Presentation-Honorable Mention from President Mary Kraus.

*SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES*

Other Awardees

***2007 Excellence of Oral Presentation***

Ron Boyd and Kristian Ruming

“Dynamics of Downslope Sand Transport Sourced from  
Estuarine Density Flows”

Jürgen Schieber, J.B. Southard, and K.G. Thaisen

“The Sedimentology of Milk - Studying Deposition and  
Transport Modes of Moving Clay Suspensions”

***2007 Excellence of Poster Presentation***

Chris Kendall, Gene Shinn and Xavier Janson

“Holocene Cyanobacterial Mats and Lime Muds: Links to  
Middle East Carbonate Source Rock Potential”

Wayne Wright

“Paleogeography and Depositional Geometries of the  
Pennsylvanian/Upper Carboniferous Succession of the Greater  
Permian Basin Region, Texas and New Mexico”

***2007 Excellence of Poster Presentation - Honorable Mention***

Gary Gianniny and K.L. Miskell-Gerhards

“Progradational Sequence Sets on the Tectonically Active Eastern  
Margin of the Pennsylvanian Paradox Basin, Colorado and Utah”

John Counts and Steve Hasiotis

“Neoichnologic Experiments with Modern Scarabaeid Beetle  
Larvae: Implications for Backfilled Trace Fossils in Permian  
Continental Deposits, Hugoton Gas Field, western Kansas”

***2006 Outstanding Paper in the  
Journal of Sedimentary Research***

S. Tyrrell, P.D.W. Haughton, J.S. Daly, T.F. Kokfelt  
and D. Gagnevin

The Use of the Common Pb Isotope Composition of Detrital  
K-Feldspar Grains as a Provenance Tool and Its Application to  
Upper Carboniferous Paleodrainage, northern England,  
JSR, vol 76 iss 2, pgs. 324-345

***2006 Outstanding Paper in the  
Journal of Sedimentary Research - Honorable Mention***

Peter M. Burgess

The Signal and the Noise: Forward Modeling of Allocyclic and  
Autocyclic Processes Influencing Peritidal Carbonate Stacking  
Patterns, JSR, vol 76 iss 7, pgs. 962-977

Szczepan J. Porebski and Ronald J. Steel

Deltas and Sea-Level Change, JSR, vol 76 iss 3, pgs. 390-403

***2006 Outstanding Paper in PALAIOS***

Adam Tomasovych

Brachiopod and bivalve ecology in the Late Triassic (Alps,  
Austria): Onshore-offshore replacements caused by variations in  
sediment and nutrient supply, PAL, vol 21 iss 4, pgs. 344-368

***2006 Outstanding Paper in PALAIOS -  
Honorable Mention***

Jonathan L. Payne, Daniel J. Lehrmann, Jiayong Wei  
and Andrew H. Knoll

The Pattern and Timing of Biotic Recovery from the  
End-Permian Extinction on the Great Bank of Guizhou,  
Guizhou Province, China, PAL, vol 21 iss 1, pgs. 63-85

Alexander P. Wolfe, Mark B. Edlund, Arthur R. Sweet  
and Steven D. Creighton

A first account of organelle preservation in Eocene nonmarine  
diatoms: Observations and paleobiological implications,  
PAL, vol 21 iss 3, pgs. 298-304



Szczepan Porebski, left, and Ronald J. Steel, right, accept the 2006 Outstanding  
Paper in JSR-Honorable Mention from President Mary Kraus.

SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES



SEPM 2008-2009 Council  
Back Row: Steve Hasiotis, Gene Rankey, James MacEachern,  
Don McNeill and Paul McCarthy  
Front Row: John Snedden, Dale Leckie and Tim Carr  
(not pictured: Steve Driese, Andre Strasser, Lynn Soreghan,  
John Holbrook, Edith Taylor and Gary Nichols)



SEPM 2008 Organizing Committee  
Left to Right: Stephen Ruppel, Beverly DeJarnett and Mike Nault  
(not pictured: Janok Bhattacharya and John Holbrook)

TABLE 1.—Membership Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>SEPM MEMBERSHIP</b>											
Members	4,804	4,706	4,625	4,597	4,299	4,156	3,790	3,521	3,504	3,399	3,422
Nondues Paying Members	239	296	261	200	192	265	205	332	345	402	194
	5,043	5,002	4,886	4,797	4,491	4,421	3,995	3,853	3,849	3,802	3,616
<b>PALAIOS MAILING LIST</b>											
SEPM Members & Honorary (Regular)	1,034	1,040	992	937	906	810	812	807	848	830	775
SEPM Members (Students)	175	187	148	169	149	109	138	142	481	523	468
Subscribers	432	440	447	430	456	494	509	435	386	312	278
	1,641	1,667	1,587	1,536	1,511	1,413	1,459	1,384	1,715	1,665	1,521
<b>Journal of Sedimentary Research MAILING LIST</b>											
SEPM Members & Honorary (Regular)	3,180	3,170	2,959	2,859	2,569	2,107	2,175	2,112	2,261	2,191	2,083
SEPM Members (Students)	479	482	397	422	268	253	298	277	587	571	501
Subscribers	1,298	1,310	1,204	1,176	1,176	1,122	1,073	1,022	988	882	817
	4,957	4,962	4,560	4,457	4,013	3,482	3,546	3,411	3,836	3,644	3,401
<b>NEW MEMBER INFORMATION</b>											
Applications Completed	349	335	198	236	181	229	296	294	320	302	
Reinstatements	21	19	16	15	12	10	8	20	25	20	
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resigned	45	31	34	29	14	15	45	30	15	28	
Deceased	21	17	15	16	5	4	5	15	7	12	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	346	288	281	236	306	713	294	336	387	495	

## SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES



EMMONS, HARTOG &amp; SWARTHOUT, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

1560 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 300 • Tulsa, OK 74114-1302  
Phone: 918-743-2581 • Fax: 918-742-9057 • Internet: www.ehsweb.comPaul P. Hartog, Ext. 116  
Lee R. Swarthout, Ext. 120

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

SEPM Council  
SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Emmons, Hartog & Swarthout, P.C.*

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
March 26, 2008

## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2007 and 2006

ASSETS	2007	2006
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 922,895	\$ 557,221
Accounts receivable	38,782	18,603
Inventories	128,280	161,166
Prepaid expenses	51,106	48,272
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,141,063</b>	<b>785,262</b>
Non-Current Assets		
Furniture and equipment, less accumulated depreciation	26,023	24,454
Long-term investments, including board-designated funds of \$808,963 and \$787,505	1,874,804	1,794,418
<b>\$ 3,041,890</b>	<b>\$ 2,604,134</b>	

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 26,444	\$ 51,942
Deferred income	585,802	488,464
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>612,246</b>	<b>540,406</b>
Net Assets - Unrestricted	<b>2,429,644</b>	<b>2,063,728</b>
<b>\$ 3,041,890</b>	<b>\$ 2,604,134</b>	

See Accompanying Summary of Accounting Policies and Notes to Financial Statements.

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## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended December 31, 2007 and 2006

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	2007	2006
Revenues, Gains and Other Support		
Dues	\$ 108,435	\$ 94,183
Publications	214,485	154,724
Journal of Sedimentary Petrology - subscriptions, royalties and other	673,492	450,531
Palaos - subscriptions, royalties and other	181,207	153,523
Continuing education	37,750	119,616
Meetings, conferences and field trips	121,845	118,603
Membership activities	29,565	25,391
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(55,786)	112,144
Investment income	155,886	123,202
<b>Total revenues, gains and other support</b>	<b>1,466,879</b>	<b>1,351,917</b>
Expenses		
Publishing costs - Journal of Sedimentary Petrology	233,914	253,549
Publishing costs - Palaos	136,301	126,066
Publications	146,063	116,175
Continuing education	33,235	61,536
Meetings, conferences and field trips	52,677	59,121
Membership activities	115,831	99,232
General and administrative	382,942	378,826
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,100,963</b>	<b>1,094,505</b>
<b>Change In Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>365,916</b>	<b>257,412</b>
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<b>2,063,728</b>	<b>1,806,316</b>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 2,429,644</b>	<b>\$ 2,063,728</b>

## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years Ended December 31, 2007 and 2006

	2007	2006
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ 365,916	\$ 257,412
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	8,966	8,702
Net realized and unrealized (gain) loss on investments	55,786	(112,144)
(Increase) decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	(20,179)	32
Inventory	32,886	43,242
Prepaid expenses	(2,834)	9,790
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(25,498)	29,498
Deferred income	97,338	34,085
Due to affiliate	-	(21,979)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>512,381</b>	<b>248,638</b>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payments for purchase of equipment	(10,535)	(10,159)
Purchase of investments	(436,708)	(122,700)
Proceeds from maturations and sales of investments	300,536	6,892
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(146,707)</b>	<b>(125,967)</b>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	<b>365,674</b>	<b>122,671</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	<b>557,221</b>	<b>434,550</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 922,895</b>	<b>\$ 557,221</b>

## Supplemental Cash Flows Information

Interest paid	-	-
Income taxes paid	-	-

## SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES

## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Organization and Business**

On September 27, 1987, the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (Society) became a separate entity from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Prior to this date, the Society was an unincorporated technical division of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the net assets will be donated to charitable, scientific or educational institutions; no assets shall inure to the benefit of any member.

The objective of the Society is to advance the science of stratigraphy through the dissemination of scientific knowledge of, promotion of, research in, and other contributions to paleontology, sedimentology, and allied disciplines.

The Society primarily deals with members of the organization for services, to universities and oil-related companies for attendance at educational schools, workshops, and short courses, and for sales of special publications. Substantially all customers are located in oil-producing regions both within the United States of America and internationally.

**Estimates**

In preparing financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Inventory**

Inventory consists of special publications (including short course notes), which excludes the journals published by the Society. The limited excess quantities of the journals are provided as reference material to the profession and, as such, are not inventoried.

Special publications are valued at cost (specific identification) in the year of publication and the next two succeeding years. After this period, publications are valued at 50% of cost, with the further limitation that the valuation of publications over five years old is limited to 100 copies.

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## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Contributions**

Donor-restricted contributions are classified as unrestricted support if the restrictions are satisfied in the same reporting period in which the contribution was received.

**Advertising Expense**

Advertising costs are expensed when incurred. No advertising expenses were incurred during the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.

**Investment Valuation**

The Society's investments are stated at fair value as determined by quoted market prices. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis.

**Risks and Uncertainties**

The Society invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of financial position.

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## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Inventory write-downs were as follows:**

	2007	2006
Publications	\$ 27,817	\$ 18,517

**Inventory consists of the following:**

	2007	2006
Publications	\$ 96,572	\$ 139,465
Continuing education materials	17,097	20,036
Work in process	14,611	1,665
	<u>\$ 128,280</u>	<u>\$ 161,166</u>

**Furniture and Equipment**

Furniture and equipment are valued at cost. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the useful life, three to 7 years.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Society considers all cash and short-term securities with maturities of three months or less when purchased as cash and cash equivalents.

**Tax Status**

The Society is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is not a private foundation.

**Revenue Recognition**

The Society recognizes income and expense on the accrual accounting basis for financial statement presentation.

Membership dues and subscriptions are recognized as revenue ratably over the period of membership or subscription term.

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## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Note 1. Furniture and Equipment**

Included under this caption are the following:

	2007	2006
Furniture and equipment	\$ 169,069	\$ 158,533
Less accumulated depreciation	143,046	134,079
<b>Net furniture and equipment</b>	<u>\$ 26,023</u>	<u>\$ 24,454</u>

**Note 2. Investments**

Investments at December 31, 2007 and 2006, consist of the following:

	Historical Cost	Market (Carrying Amount)
<b>December 31, 2007</b>		
General Investments		
Growth and capital appreciation funds	\$ 448,338	\$ 514,141
Cash and cash equivalents	41,333	41,333
Bond and balanced funds	271,662	252,484
International funds	174,148	257,883
<b>Total general investments</b>	<u>935,481</u>	<u>1,065,841</u>
New Frontiers Fund		
U.S. Government and agency obligations	49,756	55,921
Cash and cash equivalents	94,978	94,978
Growth and capital appreciation funds	263,846	312,449
International funds	117,620	146,492
Bond and balanced funds	197,077	199,123
<b>Total New Frontiers Fund</b>	<u>723,277</u>	<u>808,963</u>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<u>\$ 1,658,758</u>	<u>\$ 1,874,804</u>

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## SOCIETY RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES

## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 2. Investments (Continued)

	Historical Cost	Market (Carrying Amount)
<b>December 31, 2006</b>		
General Investments		
Growth and capital appreciation funds	\$ 480,474	\$ 544,564
Bond and balanced funds	255,559	240,842
International funds	148,079	221,507
<b>Total general investments</b>	<b>884,112</b>	<b>1,006,913</b>
New Frontiers Fund		
U.S. Government and agency obligations	46,829	51,193
Cash and cash equivalents	22,003	22,003
Growth and capital appreciation funds	309,364	395,932
International funds	92,012	147,245
Bond and balanced funds	166,277	171,132
<b>Total New Frontiers Fund</b>	<b>636,485</b>	<b>787,505</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 1,520,597</b>	<b>\$ 1,794,418</b>

Realized and unrealized gains and losses were as follows:

	2007	2006
Unrealized Gains	\$ (57,776)	\$ 111,338
Realized Gains	1,990	806
Total realized and unrealized gains and losses	<b>\$ (55,786)</b>	<b>\$ 112,144</b>

## Note 3. Deferred Income

Deferred income consisted of the following:

	2007	2006
Dues	\$ 46,381	\$ 61,635
Subscriptions	475,650	379,041
Publications in process and other	63,771	47,788
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 585,802</b>	<b>\$ 488,464</b>

## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 4. Commitment

The Society leases its offices and warehouse under operating leases. Total minimum rent commitments for space and equipment leases are as follows: December 31, 2008 - \$10,302

Rent expense was \$32,706 and \$34,404 in 2007 and 2006, respectively.

## Note 5. Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets consist of the following:

	2007	2006
General Fund	\$ 1,620,681	\$ 1,276,223
New Frontiers Fund	808,963	787,505
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,429,644</b>	<b>\$ 2,063,728</b>

The New Frontiers Fund represents board-designated funds for the purpose of funding the development of science and education. The board has designated one-third of the royalties from the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., to be used specifically for the building of this fund.

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, the New Frontiers Fund consisted of the following:

	2007	2006
Investments	\$ 808,963	\$ 787,505

## SEPM (SOCIETY FOR SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY)

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 6. Related Party Transactions

The Society received \$8,000 and \$8,004 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, from the SEPM Foundation, Inc. (an affiliated non-profit entity) for management fees.

The Society had receivables from the SEPM Foundation, Inc. of \$34,422 and \$18,430 at December 31, 2007 and 2006 respectively.

In 2007 the Society contributed \$18,053 to the SEPM Foundation, Inc. for student grant purposes.

## Note 7. Concentration of Credit Risk

The Society maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Society has not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Society believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.