ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY FOR 2020 DIRECTOR'S REPORT, SOCIETY AWARDS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT (2019) Director's Report

SEPM and 2020 during a pandemic

2020 was as we all know a very unusual and tragic year for the world and the pandemic impacted most all aspects of life in one way or another. SEPM and its activities was no exception. However, SEPM's staff has long been practicing significant remote working practices so that aspect of the pandemic was not highly impactful on our regular operations. Many of our outsourced companies were not so lucky and that has impacted regular operations, mostly with delays in their support to our publishing and some member interactions. Another aspect of SEPM in 2020 was the addition of Rebekah Grmela as a digital media/marketing hands-on consultant. She was also already a 'remote' worker through her regular consulting business. SEPM's online presence from its website to social media accounts is being enhanced under Rebekah's partnership with SEPM HO and Council.

The major impact on SEPM was the forced cancellation of our long planned International Sedimentary Geoscience Congress (ISGC) which had been scheduled for April, 2020 in Flagstaff, AZ, USA. The SEPM staff and the Program Committee had worked extremely hard to organize the meeting and it was cancelled very close to the 'last minute'. Based on information available then and our contract with the Flagstaff convention venue, the meeting was rescheduled for April, 2021 and the original Program Committee has worked hard on organizing a revised program. The probability of actually holding a face to face meeting in April, 2021 is also questionable but SEPM has options available for offering aspects of the program as a hybrid or fully virtual event.

SEPM Annual Meeting

AAPG cancelled the ACE in Houston and then rescheduled an all virtual version for September, 2020. SEPM contributed to the technical program for the virtual version, especially with its regular SEPM Research Symposium, **"Addressing the Three-Dimensionality of the Stratigraphic Record: Implications for Sequence Stratigraphy"**. The SEPM content of the original meeting the virtual version was overseen by the Annual Meeting Committee. Most of the virtual ACE content was available online for the rest of 2020.

SEPM Annual Meeting Committee

- Ashley Harris, SEPM Vice-Chair
- James Bishop, SEPM Field Trip Chair
- Howard Harper, SEPM Short Course Chair

Short Courses & Field Trips

Due to the pandemic – planned SEPM Courses and Field Trips were cancelled with the exception of – Vitor Abreu's **Advanced Sequence Stratigraphy**, which was given as a virtual online course.

SEPM President's Reception and Awards Ceremony

Due to the pandemic and the virtual nature of the ACE, the SEPM President's Reception was not held, however, the 2020 Awards Ceremony was held online with participation by most all of the awardees and President Mike Blum presiding. The video of the meeting is available on SEPM's YouTube Channel - <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u>watch?v=wQXI3_DMquM&t=40s

SEPM Research Groups

Associated with the virtual ACE meeting, SEPM supported and organized three Research Group virtual meetings.

- Clastic Diagenesis RG
- Carbonate RG
- Deep Water RG the video for this meeting is in the process of being edited for SEPM's YouTube Channel.

Journals

Both of our technical journals continued having great years although there have been some delays at Allen Press in processing manuscripts due the pandemic impact on their operations. The Journal of Sedimentary Research continues publishing top-quality papers under the guidance of the co-editors, Peter Burgess (University of Liverpool), Gary Hampton (Imperial College, London) and with Kathleen Marsaglia (California State University, Northridge) transitioning in to replace Gary. PALAIOS under the continuing editorship of Martin Zuschin (Universitat Wien) and Patrick Orr (University College, Dublin). SEPM journals continue to be available online via GeoScienceWorld (GSW), which continues to thrive. JSR is also part of AAPG-Datapages, while PALAIOS is also available in BioOne and JSTOR online aggregates. Both of the journals as well as an SEPM eBooks are within SEPM's independent online publications site www. sepmonline.org. Journal issues are available individually in print at the SEPM Bookstore (https://sedimentary-geologystore.com/).

The Sedimentary Record, the full color open access publication, is now in its 18th year, continued under the editorship of Lauren Birgenheier. The SedRec has continued publishing a current, interesting science article as well as giving SEPM members and sedimentary geoscience

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community up to date information concerning the world of sedimentary geology. The Sedimentary Geology Division of GSA, continues to publish its newsletter section twice a year as part of this publication in the March and September issues to better communicate to the wider sedimentary geology community. With the transition to a new editorial team in 2021 (Jake Covault (Jackson School of Geosciences, USA), Jenn Pickering (Shell, USA), Jeong-Hyun Lee (Chungnam National University, South Korea)), *The Sedimentary Record* will be evolving into a larger, full open access journal so look for these changes in the coming months.

Special Publications

Under the continued editorship of John-Paul Zonneveld, the special publications of SEPM continue to produce top of the line products. In 2020, a total of two new books were published. The pipeline of future books continues to look for new proposals. Online First, where new Special Publications will be published chapter by chapter online at the <u>https://www.sepm.org/Online-First</u> as each chapter continues to officially publish chapters as they are completed by the authors. After the last chapter is finalized the book is compiled and place for sale in the bookstore and processed to be online at <u>www.sepmonline.org</u> and GSW. Due to the pandemic the pathway to uploading new books online has encountered delays.

Upper Cretaceous Stratigraphy, Depositional Environments, and Reservoir Geology of the Henry Mountains Region, Southern Utah, SEPM Field Trip Guidebook 15. Janok P. Bhattacharya and Christopher R. Fielding

Geologic Controls on Production: Upper Cretaceous Eagle Ford and Austin Chalk, South Texas, SEPM Field Trip Guidebook 16. Bruce S. Hart, Alexis Godet, Michael C. Pope, and Christine Griffith

Additionally, SEPM is working with IAS to help manage the publication their continuing series of book publications. The first of which should come out in 2021.

Research Conferences and Meetings

There were no SEPM Research Conferences in 2020. Plans for 2021 are of course impacted by the continued pandemic and SEPM is hoping that the rescheduled ISGC can be held with some face to face events. Otherwise, virtual aspects of the meeting are being considered. Future meetings over the next few years include:

ISGC - Flagstaff, April 11-14, 2021

<u>Mountjoy Carbonate Research Conference III – Virtual</u> <u>Sampler, August 17-19, 2021</u>

Bouma Deep Water Geoscience Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands, April 20-23, 2022

SEPM's YouTube Channel

A recent addition to SEPM's online presence is its <u>YouTube</u> <u>Channel</u>. Check it out - selections currently include:

- "How to" videos for Logging in, Resetting your password, Renewing and Joining
- SEPM Awards Ceremony 2020
- Dr. Kitty Milliken's Lectures on Mudrock Petrology and Imaging 7 videos (1A-G)
- SEPM's 2019 Research Symposium on "A look into the future of energy and sustainability using the sedimentary record"
- Assorted Field Trip samplers

Collaborations (AAPG, AGI, GSL, GSA, ANAPS, NACSN and IUGS)

In 2020, SEPM continued its long tradition of collaborating with multiple geoscience organizations. Although face to face meetings and thus SEPM's onsite exhibit booths were all cancelled, SEPM did have virtual booths at the ACE and GSA meetings, although their impact as a new 'thing' is questionable and will continue to be evaluated.

The Society continues to work with AAPG, GSA, GSL, IAS, SEPM Sections, and our Global Ambassadors to produce jointly sponsored conferences and publications where applicable. SEPM remains an official member of the American Geological Institute (AGI), the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature (NACSN), the Association of North American Paleontological Societies (ANAPS), as well as an associated society with the International Union of Geologic Societies (IUGS).

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SEPM Governance and Council 2020

In 2020 SEPM's Bylaw changes to Council terms became fully implemented with terms for councilor's extended to three years and the President' term to two years after a one-year term as President-Elect. Additionally, all terms begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of the year.

SEPM Council - 2020

Michael Blum, President mblum@ku.edu Keriann Pederson, Secretary-Treasurer khpederson@gmail.com Emese Bordy, International Councilor emese.bordy@uct.ac.za Murray Gingras, Councilor for Paleontology mgingras@ualberta.ca Zane Jobe, Councilor for Sedimentology zanejobe@mines.edu Peter Flaig, Councilor for Research Activities peter.flaig@beg.utexas.edu Erin Pemberton, Web & Technology Councilor erin.a.pemberton@gmail.com Dawn Jobe, Early Career Councilor dawn.jobe@gmail.com Kristina Butler. Student Councilor kristina.butler@utexas.edu Kathleen Marsaglia, Co-Editor, JSR kathie.marsaglia@csun.edu Peter Burgess, Co-Editor, JSR Peter.Burgess@liverpool.ac.uk Martin Zuschin, Co-Editor, PALAIOS martin.zuschin@univie.ac.at Paddy Orr, Co-Editor, PALAIOS patrick.orr@ucd.ie John-Paul Zonneveld, Editor, Special Publications zonnevel@ualberta.ca Rick Sarg, President, SEPM Foundation jsarg@mines.edu

Newly Elected Council Members for 2021

- President-Elect: Elizabeth Hajek (Pennsylvania State University, USA)
- Early Career Councilor: Elisabeth Steel (Queen's University, Canada)
- International Councilor: Annette George (University of Western Australia, Australia)
- Special Publications Editor: Jean Hsieh (Consultant, Canada)
- SEPM Foundation President: Judith Totman Parrish (Emeritus, University of Idaho, USA)

Major Council Actions in 2020

- Action to approve \$3,000 towards a student reception at the 2020 ISGC.
- Action to cancel 2020 ISGC and reschedule
- Action to support the evolution of *The Sedimentary Record* into full open access journal
- Action to Approve 2021 SEPM Science Medal Awardees and Honorary Membership
- Action to create ad hoc search committee for next Special Publications Editor(s).
- Action to create ad hoc search committee for next *Sedimentary Record* editor(s).
- Action to create ad hoc search committee for next SEPM Foundation President
- Action to approve Kelly Poret as SEPM Ambassador to Thailand, Pawar Kumar Acharya as SEPM Ambassador to Nepal and Ahmed El Belasy as SEPM Ambassador to Egypt.
- Action to approve Judith Parrish as next SEPM Foundation President (2021-2023)
- Action to allow all ISGC 2020 student travel awards to be used for ISGC 2021.
- Action to create ad hoc committee to review and update procedures for SEPM Student Participation Grants
- Action to create ad hoc committee to evaluate SEPM DEI status and issues and recommend Council actions.
- Action to approve Don McNeill and Lesli Wood as new SEPM Foundation Board members.
- Action to approve that SEPM membership and subscription fees for 2021 be held at the same level as 2020.
- Action to approve SEPM 2021 Budget are presented by Headquarters and Business Committee
- Action to allocate \$29,634.05 from the 2019 net revenue to support virtual aspects of 2021 ISGC
- Action to create an ad hoc committee to write revisions to the SEPM Bylaws to extend voting privilege to more member types, to include student and associate membership categories.
- Action to transfer a bequest of \$100,000 from the Paul Potter estate from the Society to the Foundation, which will create a Paul Potter Fund to support clastic sedimentology and stratigraphy activities.
- Action to transfer a bequest of \$116,350.86 from the Sue Friedman estate from the Society to the Foundation to be deposited to the existing Friedman Fund.
- Action to approve the creation of a proposed Planetary Sedimentary Geology Research Group

Howard E. Harper, Executive Director

Director's Report

Table 1. – Membership Statistics

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SEPM MEMBERSHIP														
Professional Members	3027	2883	2883	2809	2767	2562	2560	2520	2445	2342	2320	2216	2040	1930
Student Members	775	733	697	795	972	827	854	800	770	775	834	832	777	856
New Members	302	293	299	407	264	383	344	367	274	360	394	394	259	290
Dropped Members	495	380	408	448	619	559	658	437	554	426	426	464	511	451
Journal of Sedimentary Research														
Individual Library Subscribers	882	817	768	715	669	621	587	522	458	428	455	383	324	300
Aggregate Library Subscribers (GSW & DataPages)	349	422	486	541	583	647	747	836	1368	1145	1031	1041	1078	1083
Member Subscribers	2762	2584	2633	2705	2386	2168	1901	1672	1702	1254	1311	1179	969	826
PALAIOS														
Individual Library Subscribers	312	278	247	221	199	181	167	134	133	102	114	98	68	86
Aggregate Library Subscribers (GSW & BioOne)	1217	1269	1420	1647	1774	1878	1978	2129	2339	2169	2060	2039	2039	2014
Member Subscribers	1353	1243	1384	1498	1339	1281	1013	1060	931	724	698	713	557	478
Online Book Archive 1														
Individual Library Subscribers	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	16	13	14	34	13	21	16	22
Member Subscribers	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	650	880	1030	999	692	726	720	570	490



Student Members

- Professional Members

Society Awards



James Lee Wilson Award For Excellence in Sedimentary Geology Research by a Young Scientist Lida Xing

Lida Xing established China's first dinosaur website and unified Chinese scientific names of almost all known dinosaurs when he was merely a high school student. After getting his Master degree from University of Alberta, Canada in 2012, he began his paleontological researches, including complete investigations of over a hundred of China's Tetrapoda track sites. In the same year, he held the first International dinosaur tracks symposium in China and invited excellent colleagues from 13 countries. In 2016, he got his second PHD degree from China University of Geosciences (Beijing) and started his teaching career there. As an explorer of National Geographic Society, he discovered the world's first bird and dinosaur inclusions in amber during his PHD program. He has won quite a lot important rewards, including 2015 Li Siguang Outstanding Student Award, the highest honor for geology students in China, 2015 Top Ten Geological Progresses Award by the Geological Society of China, and 2016 Top Ten Progresses by the Paleontological Society of China, 16th Youth Geological Science and Thechnology Award in 2017 ("Silver Hammer Award"). Since 2005, he has documented by more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, one of which was rewarded as China's best paper of the year 2016 by Cell Press. Most of his papers focus on China's Tetrapoda tracks. He and his colleague (eg Martin G. Lockley) have reconstructed the evolution system of the Tetrapoda trackmakers around China, providing significant insights into the Mesozoic ecology of terrestrial animals in China. Since

2013, he has been taking the lead in the studies of vertebrate inclusions in China, built up world's largest collection of vertebrate inclusions (about one thousand specimens), and described world's first bird, dinosaurs, and snake inclusions from amber. The cover story of *Science* (2019, May 24th), "Troubled treasure", reported his team and achievements. He also gives a lot of lectures to undergraduates, postgraduate, doctoral students as an associate professor. Social activities like introducing dinosaurs to children is also part of his job. All these accomplishments have won great reputation for him in China.

Citation: Lida Xing is one of the best young paleontologists and geologists in China. He is studying Mesozoic Tetrapoda tracks in China by combining morphology, sedimentology, ethology, and photogrammetry, trying to enhance their global comparative value. Reconstruction of vertebrate inclusions in Cretaceous amber by synchrotron radiation, micro CT scans, and XRF has broken new ground in studies of Cretaceous vertebrates in Southeast Asian. With continuous researches and fruitful international cooperation, much more information can be expected from him in the coming decades.

Reply from Lida Xing

As we discussed in the Email, it is a great honor to accept James Lee Wilson Award. Thank you again. I am especially appreciative of those who recommended me and of you for the time and effort you have put into this year's award process. This reward is an excellent morale-booster and will encourage me to continue advancing my research. In the past 20 years, with wide spread of infrastructure construction, China has exposed a large number of new outcrops. Me and my international counterparts luckily documented thousands of vertebrate footprints in the process, presenting the world more China's dinosaur fauna. Burmese amber is also very charming. While advancing scientific research, I am also deeply concerned about the ethical issues of these specimens, and have always been trying to make a perfect balance between further research and acquisition of the specimens as I am eager to make more positive contributions to the Sedimentary Geology and Paleontology. I also would like to express my gratitude to following scholars for their tremendous help. My master supervisor Prof. Philip J. Currie, he is the greatest theropod researcher I have ever met. Prof. Xing Xu, one of the most important contributors in the field of feathered dinosaurs, he never stopped helping me with scientific study and popular science since my high school. Prof. Martin G. Lockley, and Prof. Jianping Zhang, incomparable ichnologists, we would not reconstruct the new China's dinosaur footprint map without their marvelous help. Again, thank you very much.

Society Awards



William R. Dickinson Medal For Excellence in Sedimentary Geology by a Mid-Career Scientist, Carmala N. Garzione

Carmala N. Garzione is the recipient of the Society for Sedimentary Geology's 2020 William R. Dickinson Medal in recognition of her contributions to the understanding of how and when high elevation develops in continental plateaus and how it controls local environments as well as global atmospheric and climatic effects. Carmie is best known for her pioneering work in the application of oxygen isotope geochemistry to determining paleoelevation of sedimentary basins. Carmie received her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland, and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Arizona. For her M.S. project at Arizona she used Nd isotope geochemistry to determine the provenance of foreland basin deposits in the Canadian Western Interior foreland basin. For her Ph.D. Carmie targeted Thakkhola graben in north-central Nepal, a Miocene rift that cuts across the high Himalaya. Although her initial agenda focused on basin analysis-which in this case would have been interesting enough--Carmie quickly recognized the potential of Thakkhola basin for reconstructing Himalayan paleoaltimetry using oxygen isotopes from paleosol and lacustrine carbonates. In order to develop the approach, she first had to document the modern isotopic lapse rate in surface waters from the northern Indian plains to the high Himalaya; then she had to collect and analyze appropriate samples from the basin within a chronostratigraphic and sedimentologic context. The outcome established the standard to which all subsequent studies of Asian paleoelevations must refer and sparked a geochemical stampede to do similar work in all

of the world's great orogenic belts. Almost as soon as she defended her dissertation. Carmie was hired as an Assistant Professor by the University of Rochester. Over the next ten years Carmie piled success upon success, receiving a research fellowship at the University of Colorado (2003-4), the Donath Medal in 2007 from the Geological Society of America, and the Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists from the New York Academy of Sciences in 2009. Succumbing to her obvious potential for leadership, Carmie chaired the department from 2010-2016; she was promoted to Professor in 2013 and in 2016 she was named the Helen F. and Fred H. Gowen Professor at Rochester. Scientific leadership became increasingly important for Carmie, first as Director of the Center for Energy and Environment at the University of Rochester, and most recently as she accepted the post of Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs at Rochester Institute of Technology. On top of all these efforts are numerous advisory and panel duties for university and governmental institutions, and ongoing mentorship of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

All of her awards and promotions followed from Carmie's energetic scientific work. Having opened the path to paleoaltimetry in Tibet and the high Himalaya, Carmie turned her sights toward the Altiplano in Bolivia. There she documented a remarkably abrupt record of elevation gain during late Miocene time, so abrupt that standard tectonic processes alone, such as crustal shortening, were not likely to be the culprit. With her coworkers, Carmie proposed that large masses of lower crust and lithosphere had been gravitationally removed beneath the Altiplano, a bold claim that placed her at center stage in debates about how orogenic plateaus attain high elevation. This work resulted in a series of co-authored papers that introduced clumped isotopic methods in paleothermometry/altimetry applications. About the same time Carmie rejuvenated her work in Tibet, getting involved in and eventually spearheading large, multidisciplinary projects designed to test hypotheses about how high topography in central Asia has affected global climate. The power of Carmie's work stems from its combination of geochemical approaches with standard methods in basin analysis and sedimentary provenance analysis, keeping alive and well the methods and kernels of wisdom that were originated by Bill Dickinson himself.

Citation: In recognition of Carmala Garzione's pioneering work in developing stable isotope methods for determination of paleoelevation, her contributions to orogenic history and paleoclimate by leveraging the stratigraphic record, and her energetic leadership and service to the geosciences community.

Society Awards

Reply from Carmala Garzione

First, I want to thank the Society for Sedimentary Geology for this award. Bill Dickinson is one of my intellectual heroes, and so it is a true honor to receive this award in his name.

Bill's early work defining the physical processes that form sedimentary basins in different tectonic settings changed the nature of sedimentary basin research, sparking interdisciplinary research that addresses fundamental questions about Earth systems interactions. Bill's approach to science inspired me and many others to use climate records in sedimentary basins to probe tectonic processes at depth and has fueled decades of research on the interactions between climate and tectonics.

My 11-year old daughter, Alma, brought home a school assignment recently with fill in the blank statements. One of the statements read: The luckiest moment in my life was ... and she filled in ... when I was born. I don't think that I or anyone can really top that as a lucky moment in one's life. Seriously though, I often think of all of the lucky moments and good fortune in my career and all of the people who supported me along the way. I was so lucky to have graduated from the University of Maryland during the early growth of their geochemistry program and to have gone to the University of Arizona for graduate school where I was able to build my expertise in geochemistry, tectonics, and sedimentology with mentors like Peter DeCelles, Jon Patchett, Jay Quade, and David Dettman. I went through my PhD with an amazing group of fellow graduate students at Arizona that challenged each other to think big and think outside of the box. After moving to the University of Rochester, I realized how fortunate I was to be in an institution that supported research. The small department encouraged me to branch out and work

with collaborators at other universities. I was fortunate to connect with other interdisciplinary geoscientists early in my career. The ability to work in large interdisciplinary teams really pushed me to learn well beyond the limits of my training to connect with atmospheric sciences, biology, and oceanography. Peter Molnar has been a career-long mentor and friend to me and has always encouraged me (and other scientists) to take the risks that potentially lead to big rewards. This approach has led to thrilling work in much more diverse research directions than I could have imagined early in my career. I have also been very fortunate to have excellent graduate students and postdocs who have been eager to learn new things. Their work and ideas have taught me so much more than I could have learned on my own. In these most recent months, I feel grateful to be working with an outstanding leadership team at the Rochester Institute of Technology as we navigate the new world of higher education during a global pandemic.

I am grateful to have a career in academia that has afforded so much opportunity for exploration and discovery. We're living in a time where we can reach remote unexplored places to carry out field work, where new methods and technologies have allowed us to rapidly expand research opportunities and connect different disciplines to explore the interaction between Earth systems. It is an incredibly fun time to be a geoscientist. I believe that it is what Bill Dickinson envisioned early in his career.

Lastly, I am grateful for my family and want to thank them for their love and support. Being a woman in a field intensive discipline has required sacrifices at home at times, and my husband, Doug, has been incredibly supportive in enabling me to pursue the full breadth of opportunities in my career.

Thank you for this award.

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Honorary Membership For contributions to the science and SEPM Norman Rosen

The Gulf Coast Section SEPM is unique among professional societies as it is a regional AND an international society. During Norm's tenure, the GCSSEPM and its Foundation: (a) participated in the GCAGS Annual Convention (with the GCSSEPM luncheon), (b) provided financial support for student research and researchers, (c) established the Doris Curtis Medal for contributions in sedimentary geology with emphasis on the Gulf Basin, and (d) reinvigorated the Annual Perkins-Rosen Research Conference. This conference is routinely one of the highlights of the year for applied researchers globally.

The Annual Research Conference was started and thrived under Bob Perkins' leadership (SEPM HM 1998). After Bob's unexpected death in April 1999, Norm stepped into Bob's position and assumed leadership during yet another industry downturn. Since then, the GCSSEPM Foundation has hosted seventeen RC's (now named appropriately in Bob's and Norm's honor), all of high quality and mostly well attended. The digital publications associated with the RC, which Norm is responsible for co-editing and producing, continue to be extensively used, and contain many substantial papers that are routinely cited in the literature. The RC routinely attracts people from 10-15 countries who attend because of its technical content and its atmosphere that allows scientists to interact freely. Norm is the primary reason for this success. With his executive vision, insistence on high standards, and thousands of hours of volunteer work, Norm has worked extensively to maintain its international reputation.

GCSSEPM has continued to thrive because of the selfless dedication and leadership of Norm Rosen. Norm has kept a local Section and its Foundation vibrant and meaningful during the continued downsizing of our profession during the past four decades. In particular, the annual Perkins-Rosen conference fills a unique niche in our profession for publishing high-quality science in a timely fashion. 100,000 thanks, Norm!

Biographer: Paul Weimer

Citation: For his dedicated service and innovative leadership as the Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Section SEPM Foundation from 1999 to 2016, the SEPM is awarding Honorary membership to Dr. Norman Rosen.

Reply from Norman Rosen

I would like to thank Paul Weimer for his kind words and for the nominating committee for considering me for this award. I am truly honored, and admittedly surprised, to be receiving this award from SEPM. It pleases me as I perceive that it is recognition by SEPM the value of the GCSSEPM Foundation conference to the science of geology and to the organization. I became involved with the conference because Bob Perkins was one my teachers and with time proved to be a supportive friend. I did not want his legacy to end so quickly. As I took over his duties after his untimely death, I realized (prodded by Paul Weimer) that the good the conference could do exceeded the boundaries of the Gulf Coast. We needed a meeting where important concepts applicable worldwide could be discussed in detail, far from the maddening crowd. Apparently others thought the same, as at one time we had section members ranging from Tasmania north to Brunei, east to California, Michigan, New Jersey, and a good part of Europe.

In becoming a geologist, I have had a number of people who have been truly supportive of me and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them publically: Clarence Durham and John Ferm at Louisiana State; C. S. Khoo at Tenneco Oil; Barry Cohn and Dan Balsinger at Sohio/BP.

Despite what you may hear, it takes more than one person to run a conference. There is a large group of people who have helped me and deserve acknowledgement.

I have been aided and abetted by some hardworking trustees, most notably Mike Nault who started working behind the scenes with Bob and gave me his full support and encouragement.

There would be no conferences if it were not for technical chairmen. As Paul Post once remarked, being a technical chairman is almost as much fun as herding cats. But without these people agreeing to get papers by outstanding

Society Awards

researchers, who had faith in our conference and were willing to submit some truly outstanding papers, I would not be getting this award. I will always be thankful for their hard work.

And since 1999, there is another person who has given me her complete support in getting a first rate product out in a ridiculously short period of time: Gail Bergan. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

My wife and I are geologists who happened to have worked in the petroleum industry. Between us, we have been through 15 reduction in forces, reorganizations, or as we like to call them, layoffs. But all in all, the profession in general has been good to us and these events never dampened our love of geology or the idea that it is good to give back. On this basis, we thank you very much for the honor.

By the way, if you have not done so already, please register and attend our next conference. Better yet, write a paper and give a talk!

Society Awards



Francis P. Shepard Medal For Sustained Excellence in Marine Geology Miriam Katz

Miriam (Mimi) Katz is a Professor in the Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and holds degrees from St. Lawrence Univ. (B.S.), Univ. of South Carolina (M.S.), and Rutgers Univ. (Ph.D.). Prior to joining the RPI faculty in 2007, she worked at LDEO and then Rutgers Univ. for 25 years as a research scientist. She participated in six IODP cruises and one LDEO cruise.

Mimi's research focuses on reconstructing changes in ocean circulation, marine environments, sea level, and climate through time. She integrates marine microfossils, geochemistry, sedimentology, and seismic stratigraphy to do these reconstructions, which encompass normal climate and ocean variability through geologic time, long-term sealevel change, and rapid, extreme climate events and climate transitions. Her research contributions include increasing our understanding of the Paleocene-Eocene thermal maximum, the middle Eocene-early Oligocene climate transition, Cenozoic benthic foraminifera, carbon isotope stratigraphy, and the geological context of phytoplankton evolution.

Mimi has been involved with SEPM since 2002. She sat on the Board of Directors of the North American Micropaleontological Section (NAMS) of SEPM from 2002-2005 (including a year as president), was an SEPM Student Mentor, organized two NAMS Marine Micropaleontological Research Group Meetings, and served on the organizing committees for two NAMSsponsored international meetings. Mimi currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research, and is on GSA's joint technical program committee. Her outreach efforts encompass secondary school students, science teachers, and community groups.

The Shepard Medal is an honor that follows Mimi's previous awards and honors: GSA Fellow (2016); W. Storrs Cole Memorial Research Award for Micropaleontology (GSA 2014); Ocean Leadership Distinguished Lecturer (2012-2013); Honorary Degree, Doctor of Science (St. Lawrence University, 2009); and Doris M. Curtis Outstanding Woman in Science Award (GSA 2002).

Citation: For the scientific rigor with which she has served the fields of micropaleontology, paleoceanography, deep time, global cyclicity from a microscopic to global scale. Her prolific research and significant community outreach are extensive and accessible, providing tremendous benefit to the scientific community and general public.

Reply from Miriam Katz

It is an honor to be the recipient of the 2020 Francis P. Shepard Medal for Marine Geology.

I did what anyone would do upon receiving this exciting news – I went home and told my Dad, Sam Katz, who is a retired Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) geophysics professor, and therefore understands the significance of this award. My parents met at Columbia where my father was a grad student of Maurice Ewing. My mother was Ewing's secretary, until she insisted that her degrees in physics and math, and experience as a radar specialist as a Wave in WWII, would be of better use in research than at the typewriter.

I read the Shepard Medal award description to my father, followed by the list of past recipients. Being a geologist, I started at the bottom of the list and worked my way up to the most recent. One of the early awardees was Bruce Heezen, who was at Lamont at the same time as my parents (in fact, it seems that my father is the last living "original Lamonter"). My jaw dropped as I continued reading the list and I wondered - how is it that my name will be added to this list of luminaries?

How indeed? As with so many of us, my parents and teachers sparked my interest in science and nature at an early age. I was fascinated by the fluorescent mineral exhibit at the RPI geology museum. My brothers and I used to stare at my father's seismograph drum outside his office, waiting for an earthquake to happen. Mr. Moyer's 9th grade Earth Science field trips were educational, insanely fun, and just a bit dangerous.

Then came college and graduate school, with advisors who inspired and motivated me – Mark Erikson and Charlotte Mehrtens (St. Lawrence University), Bob Thunell

Society Awards

(University of South Carolina), and Ken Miller (Rutgers University). Stimulating discussions with my peers were an invaluable facet of my student years.

Retracing my parents' footsteps, I also worked at Lamont prior to eventually landing at RPI in my father's former department. Along the way I participated in many International Ocean Discovery Program cruises, building a crucial network of colleagues without whom my research would have been impossible. My current career phase has allowed me to add a rewarding facet to my professional life - mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students, along with community outreach.

How did I arrive here, the recipient of the 2020 Shepard Medal? My parents, teachers, advisors, colleagues, students, and those who nominated me - a continuum of community brought me here. Today is a snapshot of my current place along this continuum, and I am grateful to each person who has been a part of my journey.

Society Awards



Raymond C. Moore Medal For Sustained Excellence in Paleontology Mary L. Droser

Mary L. Droser, a native of New Jersey, received her B.S. from the University of Rochester and M.A. from Binghamton University, finishing her education with a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 1987. After two years as an Assistant Professor at Oberlin College Mary moved in 1989 to the University of California, Riverside, where she has been a Professor since 1996. As a graduate student attempting to better understand the early evolution of bioturbation Mary developed the ichnofabric index method, and this was published in 1986 as a methods paper in Journal of Sedimentary Petrology. This has since become one of the most widely-used methods to semi-quantitatively record the amount of bioturbation evident in sedimentary rocks from throughout the Phanerozoic. Subsequently, Mary expanded her studies towards a particular emphasis on understanding the Ediacara Biota, the record of the earliest macroscopic animals on Earth. Over the past 20 years, with colleagues, she has been excavating extensive bedding planes of the Ediacara Member of the Rawnsley Quartzite at Nilpena near the Flinders Ranges of South Australia. Along with this ground-breaking research on Ediacaran-Cambrian life, Mary has also published important papers on the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE), the end-Devonian mass extinction, and the uncoupling of ecological from taxonomic effects of the Big 5 Phanerozoic mass extinctions. These compliment an overall career of research that has very productively and creatively explored the evolution of life on Earth. Along with this wonderful research career Mary has contributed greatly to the development of her department at UCR, and to the national

and international community. She has been department chair, and recently co-organized the 2019 North American Paleontological Convention, held at UCR. Of particular note, she has been an exceptional mentor of Ph.D. students, with graduates as faculty at many outstanding institutions of higher learning.

Citation: Few have done as much fundamental research on early animal life during the Precambrian-Cambrian transition as has Mary Droser. This is coupled with a broad variety of very significant research on major events in life's history in the subsequent Phanerozoic. She has had an unusually large impact upon our profession, and we can expect that she will be a major contributor for many years to come.

Reply from Mary L. Droser

I feel very honored to receive the 2020 Moore Medal. I am grateful to Dave Bottjer, SEPM and those who participated in my nomination. I am the luckiest person I know – I love my job – I still can't believe that I make a living by being a paleontologist. And what has made it so fun and rewarding are of course the people with whom I have worked and those who have supported me along the way.

I am here because of my students. I have had and have such an amazing group of students over the years – they are so much smarter than I am, they keep me on my toes and enrich my life with humor, pop culture and great science. Many former students I count amongst my closest friends. And I have to say that any success I have had as an advisor comes from the fact that Dave Bottjer was my advisor. He is such an incredible role model.

I am lucky to be at UC Riverside, I love UCR and I am in a wonderful and stimulating department with great colleagues.

I have worked with a number of fantastic people over the years – among them, Richard Fortey, Peter Sheehan and of course Jim Gehling – my very long time colleague.

As many of you know, I have worked in Australia for the past two decades. Nilpena Station, now a National Park is an extremely significant fossil locality and I am privileged to be working there. What is equally amazing to the spectacular and unique Ediacara fossil record there is the South Australian effort to conserve and preserve these fossils and also to make them accessible to the public. I am so grateful to my very close friend, Mary Lou Simpson for her tireless work to preserve these fossils. I am also grateful to the South Australia government, premier Steve Marshall, Minister David Spiers and Project manager Jason Irving - for recognizing the global importance of the fossils and putting time, energy and a great deal of money to secure the site as a new National Park, to go for World

Society Awards

Heritage and to develop a new Ediacara AV experience at the site. This government not only understands the importance of science but celebrates and invests in it – even if the fossils are over half a billion years old.

Jane and Ross Fargher and their boys, Lachy and Eddie are our Australia family. I have spent now, years living on their cattle station. I haven't been much help with the cows but we have only accomplished what we have because of them. - whether its meals, bottles of wine or homemade craft beer, a few laughs or help with a really heavy rock. They have facilitated field work from the beginning.

Finally, I would like to thank my family. They are my village. My parents took me to a Lamont Doherty open house when I was ten securing my interest in geology and paleontology. My mom has spent months in the field with me in the western US and Australia taking care of my kids from when they were in diapers. She is my most ardent supporter and I would not be here were it not for her. Every one of my siblings and in-laws have been in the field with me – some for many trips. They have been lured into the romance of the west or the outback only to find that it is not like Jurassic Park but they have nonetheless continued to come with me.

I have a number of nieces and nephews who have spent time in the field with me – many for the original purpose of helping to take care of my kids but then getting involved in research or doing artistic renderings for me. Some coming to Australia for 6-8 field seasons to help with excavation and other hard work.

My husband, Nigel Hughes is a wonderful partner in crime and he consistently makes me laugh. He keeps things in perspective and is a good sounding board with wise council. He also brings me coffee in bed every morning to start my day.

Finally I am very grateful to our two kids, Emmy and Ian – who have spent much of their lives accompanying me in the field when Nigel is in Southeast Asia. Emmy at 3 weeks old and Ian who has spent every birthday in the outback. They never complain and they work so hard. Our kids – who are now becoming scientists of their own – though not paleontologists, are just so much fun and they make me so incredibly proud. They are my best experiment.

Thanks again to SEPM for this wonderful honor.

Society Awards



Francis J. Pettijohn Medal For Sustained Excellence in Sedimentology Gail M. Ashley

DA Massachusetts native, Dr. Gail Ashley earned her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Massachusetts, moved west for her PhD from the University of British Columbia and ultimately returned east to the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Rutgers University. Gail recently retired from Rutgers, where she served as a professor for an illustrious 42 years, the first 23 of those as the department's sole tenured female faculty member and thus was the only woman to serve in any number of service and mentoring roles. During her time at Rutgers, Gail mentored nearly 40 graduate students, published over 100 papers, and edited six volumes.

Gail's research explores and elucidates the spectacular world of the Quaternary— the bipolar icehouse that birthed the human lineage. More specifically, she uses earth surface processes (sedimentology, hydrology, geomorphology) to interpret paleoenvironments and paleoclimate of the Plio-Pleistocene, and— as a field-based geologist— has ranged literally across the globe, from pole to equator to pole. Oh, and New Jersey.

Her PhD research at the University of British Columbia pulled her into the realm of tidal fluid mechanics and sediment transport in a field-based study of the Fraser River-Pitt River-Pitt Lake system. Early work with bedforms led to deep dives on coastal zone sedimentology and fluid dynamics research in collaboration with John Southard, once again leading to a number of highly cited publications, including Gail's 1990 work on classification of large-scale bedforms, now cited over 1200 times.

Akin to a snowbird tracking the Sun's trajectory, Gail

shifted from a polar to equatorial focus with her more recent research in freshwater wetlands of the East African Rift Valley. Here, she blends techniques and collaborations that span disciplines of both geosciences and archeology to illuminate how environment and climate have shaped and guided human evolution and paleodiasporas. This work inspired her to introduce the concept and indeed coin the term "Critical Zone" (BROES Report, 2001).

While maintaining her impressive and wide-ranging research efforts, Gail also assumed a number of leadership and service roles in the broader geoscience community, amongst sedimentary geologists, and in support of women in geoscience. She served as President of SEPM, GSA, and AGI, demonstrating time and again that a woman *can* be president. She's chaired, co-chaired, and participated in numerous blue-ribbon panels and National Research Council committees, given a number of keynote presentations, and garnered multiple awards (e.g. Fellow of GSA, the U.S. Navy's Antarctic Service Medal (1991), the Association of Women Geoscientists' Outstanding Educator Award (2002), the PNAS Cozzarelli Prize (2012), and GSA's Laurence L. Sloss Award (2012)).

After a career spent advocating for and mentoring women in geoscience, Gail has once again paved the way by shattering the glass case surrounding the Pettijohn Medal. This simply reinforces Gail's other virtues: grace, patience, and perseverance.

Citation: For her tireless, rigorous, and enduring contributions to analysis and interpretation of sedimentary systems ranging from glacial to shallow marine to wetlands, her groundbreaking research informing the interconnectedness of human evolution and environments, and for serving as an inspiring maverick for current and future generations of geoscientists, Dr. Gail Ashley embodies excellence in sedimentology.

Reply from Gail M. Ashley

Thank you SEPM. I feel truly honored to receive this recognition from the sedimentological community that has been an important part of my professional life since I was a student.

Sedimentology has been the common thread linking my teaching and research. I was fortunate to grow up next door to Marshall Schalk, a professor at Smith College; he gave me my first book on geology when I was 14. Marshall worked on arctic beaches in Point Barrow, Alaska. I was captivated by his stories and amazed to learn that research on arctic beaches was actually considered "work" and could be a career choice- especially for a girl in the 1950's.

Although my first interest was geomorphology, I quickly learned that sedimentology was key to the understanding

Society Awards

the origin of most landforms and understanding earth surface processes, in general. When I began graduate school, there were essentially no female scientist role models. But, I was fortunate to have many supportive male colleagues (the late Bob Gilbert, the late Jon Boothroyd, the late John Shaw, as well as Mike Church, John Southard, Norm Smith and Tom Hamilton, to name just a few) who gave me encouragement, built my confidence and taught me by example, the importance of detailed field observations and the need for meticulous collection of data.

I have also been fortunate to have worked with smart students (39 of my own advisees and number that I have "adopted" and numerous undergraduates). Their curiosity and energy have kept me young. I am proud that nearly all have gone on to make their own careers as geologists for government, NGOs, oil companies, environmental companies, as well as Professors with their own students.

I have been lucky to be able to do field work in remote areas and to be terrified by a calving glacier and witness the magic of a dust devil. I have been able to see the sun set over the Serengeti in Africa and see it **not** set over the Brooks Range in Alaska. Sedimentology is the corner stone of my recent passion studying modern and ancient groundwater-fed springs and wetlands. And I am not done exploring yet. At the instigation of my husband, Jerry Delaney, I have started to look at sedimentology of Critical Zones on rocky planets.

My research starts in the field and I think, as the first female awardee, that being field-based would have pleased Francis J. Pettijohn. One of his favorite sayings was "only outcrops keep geologists honest". The discipline of sedimentology has changed a lot since Pettijohn's day. Technology has been a game changer; technology in the field and technology in the lab. But, in spite of the preponderance of dazzling "widgets" and black boxes, as in Pettijohn's day, field work is still crucial to good science.

My research would not have been possible without both male colleagues; Robin Renaut, Steve Driese, Dan Deocampo, Clay Magill, Mark Cuthbert, Bernie Owen and Willie Warren and women colleagues Carol de Wet, Michelle Goman, Doris Barboni, and Vicky Hover.

I particularly want to thank Lynn Soreghan who spearheaded my nomination for this award, the SEPM medal selection committee, and all of you who wrote letters. This honor comes at the perfect time to ease my challenging transition from academia to retirement. While it seems incongruous that I received a medal for doing something I love doing.

Society Awards



William F. Twenhofel Medal For a Career of Outstanding Contributions in Sedimentary Geology Philip Allen

The goals of sedimentary geology are at its nuts and bolts to reconstruct ancient surface processes and landscapes from bed to basin scale. Armed with this knowledge one can decipher the controls that govern the Earth surface system through its journey in deep time. One person stands out in our field as someone who truly has been our intellectual guide to addressing these far-reaching goals, and who has inspired a more quantitative, systems-based approach to analysing sedimentary rocks. That person is Philip Allen.

Philip's research over 40 years has spanned across a capacious array of research problems ranging from the depositional mechanics of hummocky cross stratification to the quantitative analysis of sedimentary basins. Not only has Philip been at the vanguard of, indeed inspired, many areas of sedimentary geology, he has also made seminal contributions to the community, especially very many students, through his erudite and scholarly textbooks: *Basin Analysis* (written with his brother John Allen) and *Earth Surface Processes*.

Philip commenced his research career at Cambridge, where under the supervision of Peter Friend he worked on Devonian alluvial fan and lacustrine sediments in Shetland – the Orcadian Basin. A postdoctoral fellowship in Berne, Switzerland, initiated a particularly fruitful line of enquiry into the stratigraphic and mechanical evolution of foreland basins in collisional orogens, with a focus on the Alpine foreland basin. Philip, together with collaborators and students, showed through careful field observation and numerical modelling how the stratigraphy recorded the flexural evolution of such basins. The new approach coupled knowledge of the sedimentary evolution of a basin to the orogen geodynamics. This seems commonplace now but at the time was simply revolutionary to our field. That large-scale facies successions and unconformities could be simulated in computer models and be explained through geodynamic processes in the Alpine orogen ushered in a powerful way of viewing the stratigraphic record anew.

Intrigued by the hydrological implications of the 'Snowball Earth' hypothesis, Philip switched his attention to the Neoproterozoic record of global glaciations. Using rigorous field observations primarily in Oman, Philip and his group placed critical constraints on the character and duration of the glaciations using geochemical and sedimentological tools, and argued for a slushball model rather than a solid snowball. Moreover, with Paul Hoffman, he applied quantitative models of wave ripple formation to show that giant wave ripples in these deposits implied extreme wave and wind conditions in Neoproterozoic oceans.

In the 3rd arc of his career, Philip initiated a systematic investigation of 'sediment routing' systems as the key to understanding the dynamics of erosional and depositional landscapes through geological time. With uncommon focus, Philip led astute scrutiny of the mechanics of sediment transfer across landscapes in particular exploring the controls on grain size variations in ancient sedimentary systems and examining how tectonic and climatic signals are preserved in the stratigraphic record. This work has been encapsulated recently in a masterly book, Sediment Routing Systems, that beautifully sets out Philip's vision and analytic approach to quantitatively characterising the sedimentary rock record. Indeed, Philip's use of language and his eye for poetry have infused our professional literature with an artistic quality that is a key to enjoyment of scientific writing.

Finally, perhaps Philip's most valuable contribution has been the cohort of students and young researchers who learned so much from him and went to apply what he taught to propel the frontiers of sedimentary geology and surface process science across Europe. Whilst active in widely disparate fields, we all share Philip's holistic and highly original approach to our science: an approach that blends exploration of a mechanistic understanding of the Earth surface system grounded through rigorous field observation. A cursory glance at any of the journals that encompass sedimentary geology today will readily show that this approach is now ingrained within our field.

Biographer: Sanjeev Gupta (Imperial College London)

Citation: In recognition for his seminal and enduring contributions to sedimentary basin analysis and the

Society Awards

quantitative investigation of the links between Earth surface processes and the preserved sedimentary archive. An inspiring educator, mentor and colleague, who has through his erudition and clarity of writing influenced generations of students and professionals in sedimentary geology.

Reply from Philip Allen

It is a great honour to receive the Twenhofel Medal. I regret that ill-health prevents me from taking part in person in the video ceremony. I wish to assure you, however, of how very grateful I am for the award, partly as recognition for a career spent in sedimentology and sedimentary geology, and partly as a testament to the very many students, researchers and colleagues with whom I have had the pleasure of interacting over the years.

I find it especially rewarding to be associated with the award of a medal from a society that has been so preeminent in furthering the understanding of sediments and sedimentary rocks for almost a century. William Twenhofel was a broad-thinking Earth scientist who started as a paleontologist, but who later moved into the study of paleoenvironments and sedimentation. He is perhaps best known for his monumental book *Treatise on Sedimentation*, first published in 1926. I admire the way that Twenhofel was unafraid of leaving comfort zones behind and striking out into new territory. I admire his close, good-humoured engagement with colleagues, and with those he inspired through his teaching.

And I admire his dedication to the writing of highly influential books that captured his evolving geological philosophy for posterity.

I thoroughly enjoyed a career that saw me work in several outstanding universities, learning far more from my new colleagues and students than I gave back in return. I have found sedimentary geology to be a tremendously captivating subject to study, and one that invited diverse approaches and cross-disciplinarity. Coping with illness has dominated the last decade or so, and I am currently in palliative care. Yet what memories I have. How rewarding it has all been. And how affirming it is to be awarded the Twenhofel Medal from this great society.

Society Awards

2020 Outstanding Papers in the Journal of Sedimentary Research

O. Remus Lazar, Kevin M. Bohacs, Joe H. S. Macquaker, Juergen Schieber, Timothy M. Demko, B. Sageman

2015, Capturing Key Attributes of Fine-Grained Sedimentary Rocks in Outcrops, Cores, and Thin Sections: Nomenclature and Description Guidelines JSR 85 (3): 230–246

Erica P. Suosaari, R. Pamela Reid, Amanda M. Oehlert, Phillip E. Playford, Carl K. Steffensen, Miriam S. Andres, Gregory V. Suosaari, Gary R. Milano, Gregor P. Eberli

2019, Stromatolite Provinces of Hamelin Pool: Physiographic Controls on Stromatolites and Associated Lithofacies JSR 89 (3): 207–226

2020 Outstanding Paper in Palaios

Rebecca C. Terry, Jesse A. Laney, and Samuel H. Hay-Roe 2018, Quantifying the Digestive Fingerprints of Predators on the Bone of their Prey Using Scanning Electron Microscopy PALAIOS (2018) 33 (11): 487–497

2020 Outstanding Paper in Palaios Honorable Mentions

Caitlin M. Boblitt, Roy E. Plotnick, Fabien Kenig, and D'Arcy Meyer-Dombard

2018, Determining Taphonomic Controls and Rate of Decay in Cave Environments using Microcosms PALAIOS (2018) 33 (4): 141–153

> Brandt M. Gibson, James D. Schiffbauer, and Simon A. F. Darroch

2018, Ediacaran-style Decay Experiments using Mollusks and Sea Anemones PALAIOS (2018) 33 (5): 185–203 The Sedimentary Record, v. 18, n. 4, Appendix A

Audited Financial Report – 2019

HoganTaylor...*

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Council SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) (a notfor-profit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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 involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its eash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Hogen Taylor UP

Tulsa, Oklahoma August 25, 2020

www.hogantaylor.com

SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		
Revenues, Gains and Other Support		
Dues	\$ 95.625	\$ 104.915
Publications	222.667	301.715
Journal of Sedimentary Research - subscriptions.	,,	,
rovalties and other	480,799	607.384
Palaios - subscriptions, royalties and other	153,712	158,700
Continuing education	48,952	29,975
Meetings, conferences and field trips	138,504	122,003
Membership activities	15,928	3,318
Grant award from SEPM Foundation, Inc.		66,902
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	410,849	(349,538)
Investment income	126,002	159,640
Total revenues, gains and other support	1,693,038	1,205,014
Expenses		
Program expenses:		
Publishing costs - Journal of Sedimentary Research	189,365	176,441
Publishing costs - Palaios	129,630	112,712
Publications	215,538	225,839
Continuing education	16,834	8,358
Meetings, conferences and field trips	108,476	116,285
Membership activities	276,301	276,467
Grant award to SEPM Foundation, Inc.	111,015	57,918
General and administrative	322,741	348,528
Total expenses	1,369,900	1,322,548
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	323,138	(117,534)
Net assets, beginning of year	4,225,566	4,343,100

SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 627,623	\$ 713,469
Certificates of deposit	625,187	575,000
Accounts receivable	157	15,010
Receivable from affiliate	14,331	111,055
Inventory	134,186	85,729
Prepaid expenses	53,944	48,588
Total current assets	1,455,428	1,548,857
Furniture and equipment, net	30,334	33,524
Investments	3,500,097	3,021,046
Total assets	\$ 4,985,859	\$ 4,603,423
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 58,065	\$ 41,383
Deferred income	379,090	336,478
Total current liabilities	437,155	377,86
Net assets without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	2,855,129	2,953,563
Board designated	1,693,575	1,271,999
Total net assets without donor restrictions	4,548,704	4,225,566
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 4,985,859	\$ 4,603,423

See notes to financial statements.

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SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 323,138	\$ (117,534)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	6,697	7,023
Net realized and unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(410,849)	349,538
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	14,859	93,555
Receivable from affiliate	96,724	108,226
Inventory	(48,457)	4
Prepaid expenses	(5,356)	(19,854)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	16,682	(43,255)
Deferred income	42,612	(53,755)
Net cash provided by operating activities	36,050	323,948
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(3,507)	(18,291)
Purchase of investments and certificates of deposit	(533,871)	(1,029,159)
Proceeds from sales of investments	415,482	231,040
Net cash used in investing activities	(121,896)	(816,410)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(85,846)	(492,462)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	713,469	1,205,931
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 627,623	\$ 713,469

See notes to financial statements.

See notes to financial statements.

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Audited Financial Report – 2019

SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2019 and 2018

Note 1 - Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of operations

The Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (the Society) originally was an unincorporated technical division of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and became a legally separate entity in 1987. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the net assets will be donated to charitable, scientific or educational institutions; no assets shall invert to the benefit of any member. In 1989, the Society changed its name to SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology).

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 intermationally.

Basis of presentation

The financial statements of the Society have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and, accordingly, reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The financial statement presentation is in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities, which requires the presentation of two classes of net assets – net assets with donor restrictions and net assets without donor restrictions.

Descriptions of the two net asset categories and the types of transactions off-setting each category are as follows:

Without donor restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations and are available for use at the discretion of the Board of Directors (the Board) and/or management for general operating purposes. The governing board has designated, from net assets without donor restrictions, net assets for board designated purposes. Board designated net assets are subject to selfimposed limits by action the Board of Directors. Board designated net assets are subject to selffuture programs, investment, contingencies, purchase or construction of property and equipment, or other uses.

With donor restrictions – Net assets subject to donor-imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature and may or will be met by expenditures or actions of the Society, or by the passage of time. The Society reports gifts of cash and other assets as revenue with donor restrictions if received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor

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Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the accounting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Adoption of new accounting pronouncement

The Society adopted ASU 2018-08, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Clarifying the Scope and the Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made. The amendments in this ASU clarify and improve current guidance about whether a transfer of assets (or the reduction, settlement, or cancellation of liabilities) is a contribution or exchange transaction and provide additional guidance on determining whether a contribution is conditional or unconditional. The Society adopted the new standard effective January 1, 2019, using the modified prospective method. Adoption of this standard had no impact on beginning net assets for 2019.

New accounting pronouncements yet to be adopted

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), requiring an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The updated standard will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in accordance with U.S. GAAP when it becomes effective and permits the use of either a full retrospective or retrospective with cumulative effect transition method. The FASB has since issued several additional amendments to this guidance. In July 2015, the FASB approved a one-year deferral of the effective date of the new standard. In June 2020, the FASB issued ASU No. 2020-05, which delayed the effective date of Topic 606 until January 1, 2020. The Society has not yet evaluated the impact this standard will have on its financial statements and related disclosures.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*, which seeks to increase transparency and comparability among organizations by recognizing lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet and by disclosing key information about leasing arrangements. Consistent with current U.S. GAAP, the recognition, measurement, and presentation of expenses and cash flows arising from a lease by a lesse will depend primarily on its classification as a finance or an operating lease (i.e., the classification criteria for distinguishing between finance leases and operating leases are substantially similar to the classification criteria for distinguishing between capital leases and operating leases is to be recognized on the balance sheet, ASU No. 2016-02 will require both operating and finance leases to be recognized on the balance sheet. Additionally, the ASU will require disclosures to help financial statement users better understand the amount, timing, and uncertainty of cash flows arising from a leases and ability equal to the present value or its future minimum lease payments on the statement of financial position and include additional disclosures to the financial alstatements. Jon 3000, the FASB issued ASU No. 2020-05 which delayed the effective date of ASU No. 2016-02 until January 1, 2022.

restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends, or purpose restriction is accomplished, the net assets are reclassified as net assets without donor restriction and reported in the statements of activities as released from restrictions. The Society has no net assets with donor restrictions as of December 31, 2019 or 2018.

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.

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 included in inventory.

Special publications are valued at cost (specific identification) in the year of publication and the 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.

Furniture and equipment

Furniture and equipment are valued at cost. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over useful lives of three to seven years.

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. Publications, continuing education and membership activities are recognized as revenue when the publication is delivered, and the service is provided.

Contributions

Contributions, including unconditional promises to give, are recognized as revenue in the appropriate category of net assets in the period received. Unconditional promises to give are recorded net of an allowance for estimated uncollectible receivables. This estimate is based on such factors as prior collections history, type of contribution and the nature of the fund-raising activity. Donor-restricted contributions are classified as net assets without donor restriction if the restrictions are satisfied in the same reporting period in which the contribution was received.

Pledges receivable are charged off when deemed uncollectible by management

Income taxes

The Society is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) and has been determined not to be a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the Code. As a result, as long as the Society maintains its tax exemption, it will not be subject to income taxes.

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Note 2 - Financial Assets and Liquidity Resources

The Society's financial assets available within one year of the statement of financial position date for general expenditures as of December 31, are as follows:

		2019	2018
Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	627,623	\$ 713,469
Accounts receivable		157	15,016
Certificates of deposits		625,187	575,000
Investments		3,500,097	3,021,046
Total financial assets available within one year		4,753,064	4,324,531
Less:			
Amounts unavailable for general expenditures within one year due to:			
Board designated funds		(1,693,575)	(1,271,999)
Total financial assets available to management			
for general expenditure within one year	S	3,059,489	\$ 3,052,532

The Society structures its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations come due.

The Society regularly monitors the availability of resources required to meet its operating and capital needs. Although the Society does not intend to spend its Board designated funds, amounts could be made available with approval from the Board if necessary.

Note 3 – Inventory

Inventory consists of the following at December 31:

	2019	2018
Publications Work in process	\$ 130,856 3,330	\$ 79,069 6,660
Total inventory	\$ 134,186	\$ 85,729

Note 4 – Furniture and Equipment

A summary of furniture and equipment at December 31, is as follows:

	2019	2018
Furniture and equipment Less accumulated depreciation	\$ 146,099 (115,765)	\$ 142,592 (109,068)
Total	\$ 30,334	\$ 33,524

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Note 5 - Fair Value Measurement

The fair value measurement standards establish a consistent framework for measuring fair value and a fair value hierarchy based on the observability of inputs used to measure fair value. These inputs are summarized in three broad levels:

- Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. Level 2

Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. Level 3

There were no investment transfers due to changes in the observability of significant inputs between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 assets during the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

The Society's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis consisted of the following:

	Fair Value N	Aeasurements	s as of Decem	ber 31, 2019
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Certificates of deposit Mutual funds	\$ - 3,500,097	\$ 625,187 -	s - -	\$ 625,187 3,500,097
	\$ 3,500,097	\$ 625,187	\$-	\$ 4,125,284
	Fair Value N	Aeasurements	s as of Decem	ber 31, 2018
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Certificates of deposit Mutual funds	\$ - 3,021,046	\$ 575,000	\$ - -	\$ 575,000 3,021,046
	\$ 3.021.046	\$ 575,000	s -	\$ 3,596,046

Investments held at December 31, consist of the following:

	F	listorical Cost	Market (Carrying Amount)
2019			
General investments:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	54,991	\$ 54,991
Growth and capital appreciation funds		932,443	1,084,941
Bond and balanced funds		800,327	867,931
International funds		106,446	113,710
Total general investments		1,894,207	2,121,573

	Historical	Market (Carrying Amount)
New Frontiers Fund:		
Cash and cash equivalents	38,771	38,771
Growth and capital appreciation funds	502,669	837,663
Bond and balanced funds	299,349	317,458
International funds	172,772	184,632
Total New Frontiers Fund	1,013,561	1,378,524
Total investments	\$ 2,907,768	\$ 3,500,097
2018		
General investments:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 53,864	\$ 53,864
Growth and capital appreciation funds	884,825	912,853
Bond and balanced funds	776.369	791,897
International funds	115,465	93,897
Total general investments	1,830,523	1,852,511
New Frontiers Fund:		
Cash and cash equivalents	37,963	37,963
Growth and capital appreciation funds	580,890	791,285
Bond and balanced funds	191,712	190,697
International funds	124,808	148,590
Total New Frontiers Fund	935,373	1,168,535
Total investments	\$ 2,765,896	\$ 3,021,046
Realized and unrealized gains (loss) for the years ended Dece	mber 31, were as follows:	
	2019	2018
Unrealized gains (loss)	\$ 337.317	\$ (417,698
Realized gains	73,532	68,160
-		
	\$ 410,849	\$ (349,538

Note 6 – Deferred Income

Deferred income consists of the following at December 31:

	2019	2018
Dues	\$ 69,286	5 \$ 54,489
Subscriptions	175,175	5 189,904
Publications in process and other	134,629	92,085
	\$ 379,090	\$ 336,478
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Note 7 - Commitments

The Society leases its office under an operating lease having an expiration date of July 2023. Minimum annual rental commitments are as follows:

Year	Amount
2020	\$ 24,111
2021	24,435
2022	24,624
2023	14,364
	\$ 87,534

Rent expense was \$23,976 and \$36,590 for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

Note 8 - Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Net assets without donor restrictions consist of the following at December 31:

	2019	2018
General fund	\$ 2,855,129	\$ 2,953,567
Board designated:		
New Frontier Fund	1,378,524	988,067
Other	315,051	283,932
Total	\$ 4,548,704	\$ 4,225,566

The New Frontier 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.

Note 9 - Related Party Transactions

The Society received \$8,000 for each of the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, from SEPM Foundation, Inc. (an affiliated nonprofit entity) for management fees. The management fees are netted against general and administrative expenses in the statements of activities.

The Society contributed \$111,015 to SEPM Foundation, Inc. (the Foundation) during 2019 for student travel grants and to fund capital projects. The Society contributed \$57,918 to the Foundation during 2018 for Mounity Carbonate conference costs. Additionally, the Foundation contributed \$66,902 to the Society during 2018 to fund capital projects. No such contributions were made by the Foundation during 2019.

The Society had receivables from SEPM Foundation, Inc. of \$14,331 and \$111,055 at December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively, resulting from the Society funding Foundation grants and capital project expenses, net of the Foundation's revenue received by the Society.

Note 10 – Concentrations

Approximately 26% and 50% of revenue in 2019 and 2018, respectively, is royalty income.

The Society maintains accounts and deposits with financial institutions which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Typically, cash balances exceed the FDIC insurance limits.

Note 11 – Functional Expenses

The Society's functional expenses by natural classification for the years ended December 31 are as follows:

2010	Program	General and administrative	Total
Salaries taxes and benefits	\$ 367.073	\$ 192.576	\$ 559.649
Professional fees	\$ 507,075	24,683	24 68
Office expense	10.911	6 550	17.46
Occupancy	-	36,518	36.51
Maintenance and rental	-	7,936	7.93
Travel	17.351	2.333	19.68
Conferences and conventions	67.929	-,	67.92
Insurance		24,469	24,46
Publication	285,303	-	285,30
Educational program	14,382	-	14,38
Grants and awards	111.015		111.01
Membership activities	173,195	-	173,195
Other expenses	-	20,979	20,979
Depreciation		6,697	6,69
Total	\$ 1,047,159	\$ 322,741	\$ 1,369,90
2018			
Salaries, taxes and benefits	\$ 349,230	\$ 195,300	\$ 544,530
Professional fees	-	23,731	23,73
Office expense	16,417	10,632	27,049
Occupancy	-	47,353	47,353
Maintenance and rental	-	13,071	13,07
Travel	26,628	2,999	29,62
Conferences and conventions	74,327	-	74,321
Insurance	-	23,260	23,260
Publication	272,518	-	272,518
Educational program	8,358	-	8,358
Grants and awards	57,918	-	57,918
Membership activities	168,624	-	168,624
Other expenses	-	25,159	25,159
Depreciation		7,023	7,023
Total	\$ 974,020	\$ 348,528	\$ 1,322,548

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