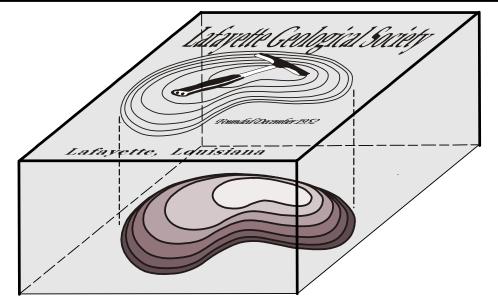
## Lafayette Geological Society

# **BULLETIN**

Volume 58, No. 7

March 2014



Joint LGS and AADE Luncheon Meeting Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Lafayette Petroleum Club Cost: \$20

#### **Luncheon Presentation**

An Engineering Look at the Cause of the 2010 Macondo Blowout

J. A. (John) Turley Marathon (retired) and Author (present)

Visit the LGS website at: lafayettegeologicalsociety.org

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Jerry Yunker, Craig Glassinger, Bill Finley, Kelly Poret, Joey Grimball, and David Sturlese. Not Pictured: Samantha Leone, James Willis, and John Boggs.

LGS Luncheon Meeting Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Lafayette Petroleum Club Cost: \$20

# An Engineering Look at the Cause of the 2010 Macondo Blowout

J. A. (John) Turley Marathon (retired) and Author (present)

### **President's Column**



Greetings.

Now that Mardi Gras has passed, and hopefully the last of the ice storms for this winter, we turn our attention to warmer weather and outdoor pursuits. Warmer weather brings a couple of LGS related outdoor activities—our annual LGS Golf Tournament and at least one field trip.

LGS is arranging a field trip to northern New Mexico in May of this year. The trip cost will be  $$650 \pm (depending on the number of participants)$  for transporta-

tion in New Mexico, some meals and lodging. Transport to and from Albuquerque is the participant's responsibility. Trip details are located on the LGS website: http://lafayettegeologicalsociety.org/wp/?page\_id=397.

LGS needs to provide Barry a headcount of participants shortly so arrangements can be made in New Mexico for transport, food, and lodging. Final trip payment will be due in mid-April 2014. Please let Tim Duex know if you'd like to participate. His email is: twd7693@louisiana.edu.

The LGS Golf Tournament is scheduled for the Wetlands Golf Course here in Lafayette on Friday, April 11. Activities begin at 11:00 AM with registration and driving range practice, lunch starting at 11:30 followed by a shotgun start at 1:00 PM. Tim Bennett and his crew do a great job with the Golf Tournament and can always use an extra hand both before and during the actual event. If you can help Tim in any way please contact him at 337-291-2720 Ext. 106 or via email at tim@orbitenergy.com. We are also looking for Tournament sponsors as individual hole sponsors, closest to the hole and longest drive sponsors, ditty bag sponsors, or Contributors at various levels which will include tee box sign(s) depending on the level. Details regarding the Golf Tournament and sponsor and contributor opportunities are on the "News and Information section of the LGS website: http://lafayettegeologicalsociety.org/wp/?cat=9.

Indoors this month our **monthly lunch meeting** at the Petroleum Club on March 19 will feature a presentation by Dr. John Turley entitled "An Engineering Look at the Causes of the 2010 Macondo Blowout." This is a joint meeting with the Lafayette Chapter of the AADE (American Association of Drilling Engineers) and will likely be well attended. I was present at an earlier version of this last October and was impressed with the no nonsense "just the facts" style of the presentation. I think you will have a much clearer understanding of the engineering events associated with this event after the presentation. **Thanks to Halliburton for sponsoring** the student lunches at the meeting.

**Solicitation of 2014-15 LGS officer candidates** is ongoing and voting for those officers for the 2014-15 LGS year is approaching. We need a slate of candidates for President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an

(continued on page 19)

#### LGS CORNERSTONE MEMBERSHIP

LGS wishes to thank its Cornerstone Members for their annual financial support of speaker programs, continuing education, UL-Lafayette scholarships, social functions, and community services.

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# MARCH LUNCHEON PRESENTATION (to be held jointly with AADE)

"An Engineering Look at the Cause of the 2010 Macondo Blowout"

J. A. (John) Turley
Marathon (retired) and Author (present)



#### Summary

In Turley's presentation, he will review:

- Wellbore mechanics prior to temporary abandonment;
- The temporary-abandonment procedure—simulating, testing, confirming security, installing barriers, displacing the riser, pulling BOPs, and releasing the rig; and
- Post-blowout forensics—the formation of a fluid leak, testing for leaks, exacerbating the unseen leak, annular communication, changing test protocols, multitasking complications, declaring the well secure, causing the well to flow, and allowing the well to flow unseen until too late.

Thanks to Halliburton for sponsoring student attendees at the March luncheon meeting.

#### **Biography**

John Turley's résumé includes Phillips Petroleum, Fluor Ocean Services, Tenneco Oil, Marietta College (professor, petroleum engineering), and twenty-five years with Marathon Oil, as Gulf Coast drilling manager, U.K. operations manager, manager of worldwide drilling, and VP of engineering & technology. His academics include petroleum engineering (Colorado School of Mines), ocean engineering (U of Miami), and executive education at Harvard. Following BP's April 2010 blowout, Turley studied well data and investigative reports, ignored fingerpointing and hearsay evidence, and assessed the cause of the blowout from engineering and management perspectives. Turley speaks to energy companies, universities, professional societies, and civic groups on the topic. His simple mantra: Only if we understand and care about the cause of one of the most lethal, manmade, environmental disasters in U.S. history, will we know why it should not have happened and why it should never happen again.

More information about Turley, his research, and his book, *THE SIMPLE TRUTH: BP's Macondo Blowout*, can be found in his website: JohnTurleyWriter.com



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#### LGS Geoscience Article Series

#### "Causes Now in Operation"

#### Randy Bissell\* with Emily Bissell

On December 21, 2012, my daughter Emily and I were on the way to work when I abruptly stopped my truck and pulled alongside the seawall to give her a lesson on one of the fundamental concepts of geology. (As you also may recall, this was to be the last day of the planet's existence. I thusly felt that tender moments like this were called for.)

In 1830, Charles Lyell wrote his famous book PRINCIPLES OF GE-OLOGY, BEING AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE FORMER CHANGES OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE, BY REFERENCE TO CAUSES NOW IN OPERATION to explain his observations by phenomena observed in the modern world. Today, we call this concept "uniformitarianism" and it undergirds our understanding of geological process. No geologist (I know) drives through the countryside without considering how things were formed. Going to the beach, floating a river, or looking out an airplane window provides the geologist insight into how the landscapes of the ancient ages evolved —how the pages of geologic history are slowly imprinted and bound into the chapters of time.

On December 21, 2012, the concept of uniformitarianism was rumbling around in my head. I had given a "stratigraphy" lecture on it earlier in the week during the intercession Field Course at Texas A&M at Kingsville. In presenting to the students, I tried to tie the classic concept of uniformitarianism to the modern views on sequence stratigraphy. What caught my eye on the way to work provided that perfect tie—I wish all those students were with me.

A common phrase related to uniformitarianism is that "the present is the key to the past." Fifteen years ago, when I worked as a "sequence stratigrapher" at Exxon, we used to joke that the "present is the key to the highstand!" The slow rise in sea level over the past 10,000 years results in a coastal geomorphology dominated by back-stepping shorelines with flooded estuaries and bays. Looking at seismic stratigraphy worldwide, it seemed that all the cool stuff happened when sea level was falling.

On December 21, 2012, sea level fell...at least a little bit. As I drove north on Shoreline Drive, I noticed that the bay was unusually low.

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<sup>\*</sup>Randy Bissell is a geologist with Headington Oil in Corpus Christi, Texas. Emily Bissell is a student at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, majoring in geology and art. Essay originally published in *CCGS Bulletin*.

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#### Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Mar. 19, 2014 LGS and AADE: Joint Lafayette Geological Society and American Association of Drilling Engineers luncheon meeting, 11:00 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette John Turley, Marathon (retired) and Author (present), will present "An Engineering Look at the Cause of the 2010 Macondo Blowout." Please see page 4 for more details.
- Mar. 28, 2014 NOGS: New Orleans Geological Society Spring Social, 5:00–8:00 pm at the Old Rail Brewery, 639 Girod St., Mandeville, Louisiana Please visit http://www.nogs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NOGS-Spring-Social.pdf for more information.
- **Apr., 2014 API:** Teche Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette As of press time, no scheduled events are listed on their website www.api-teche.org.
- **Apr., 2014 SPE:** Society of Petroleum Engineers Evangeline Section, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette No scheduled events as of press time. Please visit <a href="http://www.spe-laf.org/site.php">http://www.spe-laf.org/site.php</a> for more information, as the meeting date approaches.
- **Apr. 6-9, 2014 AAPG:** American Association of Petroleum Geologists Annual Convention and Exposition at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas For more information, please visist <a href="http://aapg.org/houston2014">http://aapg.org/houston2014</a>.
- **Apr. 8, 2014 SWLGS:** Southwest Louisiana Geophysical Society, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette Speaker and topic not available as of press time. Please visit <a href="http://www.swlgs.org/wpress/">http://www.swlgs.org/wpress/</a> for updated information as the meeting date approaches.
- **Apr. 9, 2014 SIPES:** Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette Speaker and topic not available as of press time.
- **Apr. 10, 2014 SPWLA:** Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette Speaker and topic not available as of press time. Please visit <a href="http://www.spwla.org/chapter/lafayette">http://www.spwla.org/chapter/lafayette</a> as the meeting date approaches for more information.
- **Apr. 10, 2014 SGS:** Southeastern Geophysical Society Short Course on "3D Seismic Attributes for Prospect Identification and Reservoir Characterization" at the One Shell Square Auditorium, 701 Poydras St., New Orleans Dr. Kurt Marfurt, University of Oklahoma, Norman, will conduct the training program. Please visit <a href="http://sgs-neworleans.org/">http://sgs-neworleans.org/</a> for more information.
- **Apr. 10, 2014 SGS/NOGS/SPE-Delta:** Joint Southeastern Geological Society / New Orleans Geological Society / Society of Petroleum Engineers Delta Section luncheon meeting, 11:30 at the One Shell Square Auditorium, 701 Poydras St., New Orleans Dr. Kurt Marfurt, University of Oklahoma, Norman, will

present "Seismic Clustering Uncloistered—Application to Resource Plays." For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.nogs.org/calendar">http://www.nogs.org/calendar</a>.

**Apr. 11, 2014** — **BRGS:** Baton Rouge Geological Society, 11:30 am at Mike Anderson Seafood Restaurant, 1031 W. Lee Drive, Baton, Rouge, Louisiana — Speaker and topic not available as of press time. For more information, please visit www.brgs-la.org for more information as the meeting date approaches.

Apr. 15, 2014 — NOGS: New Orleans Geological Society Short Course on "Petroleum Geology for Non-Geologists," 8:30 am–3:30 pm at the One Shell Square Auditorium, 701 Poydras St., New Orleans — Instructors will be Duncan Goldthwaite, consulting geologist, Bob Branson, consulting geologist, and Bruce Robertson, consulting geologist and geology professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.nogs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Non-Geologists-Course-Proof.pdf">http://www.nogs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Non-Geologists-Course-Proof.pdf</a>.

**Apr. 16, 2014** — **LGS:** Lafayette Geological Society luncheon meeting, 11:00 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette — As of press time, speaker and topic to be announced. Please visit www.lafayettegeologicalsociety.org for more information as the meeting date approaches.

Apr. 16, 2014 — BRGS and LGS: Baton Rouge Geological Society and Louisiana Geological Survey 4th Annual Louisiana Subsidence and Land Loss Symposia, with focus on Coastal Protection at the Dalton Woods Auditorium, Energy, Coast & Environment Bldg., LSU Campus, Baton Rouge — For more information: dcarlson@lsu.edu or www.brgs-la.org.

Apr. 17, 2014 — BRGS and LGS: Baton Rouge Geological Society and Louisiana Geological Survey 8th Annual Louisiana Groundwater & Water Resources Symposia, with focus on Salt Water Intrusion at the Dalton Woods Auditorium, Energy, Coast & Environment Bldg., LSU Campus, Baton Rouge — For more information: dcarlson@lsu.edu or www.brgs-la.org.



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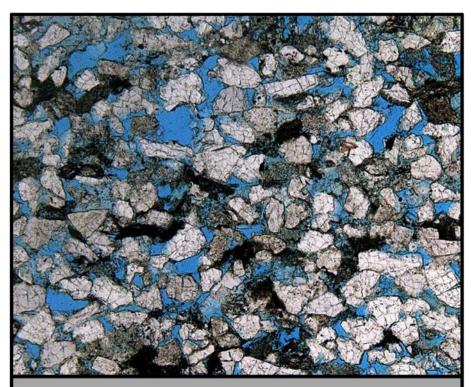
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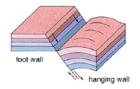
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# The Baton Rouge Geological Society and the Louisiana Geological Survey Announce Two Annual Symposia

Baton Rouge Geological Society & Louisiana Geological Survey

Fourth Annual Louisiana Subsidence & Land Loss Symposia



Focus on Coastal Protection

April 16th 2014

Eighth Annual Louisiana Groundwater & Water Resources Symposia

Focus on Salt Water Intrusion



April 17th 2014

Dalton Woods Auditorium, Energy Coast & Envir. Building Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

For more information send an e-mail to dcarlson@lsu.edu or go to brgs.la.org/

Presentation: Titles due March 10, 2014 Abstracts due April 1, 2014



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# UL-Lafayette AAPG Student Chapter

The members of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's AAPG Student Chapter strive to emulate what the AAPG represents. There is a strong belief in taking one's training into their own hands among the stu-

dents at this university, and we actively seek out additional knowledge in order to enhance our skills. With the reinstatement of the AAPG student chapter program at this university in 2012, our students are now readily able to seek out intriguing and insightful guests, and search for relevant areas to visit for hands-on experiences.

A primary goal for our chapter during the 2014 spring semester is to conduct a field trip to visit the Fayetteville Shale outcroppings, of the Arkoma Basin, located in northern Arkansas. The outcrops are well exposed along Highway 65 near Marshall, AR, and Highway 66 near Oxley, AR. The trip will be open to both students and local industry professionals. The trip will take place in mid-April, lasting 3 or 4 days, based on availability. During the trip, we hope to stay at the Buffalo National River, near Marshall, AR. This site will not only provide an entertaining and interesting place for us to stay, it is also close to the outcrops. The chapter also hopes to provide field guides for each participant. The chance to visit outcrops of a currently producing resource play, such as the Fayetteville Shale, will provide supplemental education for our members beyond the classroom. The ability for our chapter to provide such opportunities is a pivotal aspect of what this organization expects to accomplish. However, the challenges of planning and funding such a trip for a new chapter are clear. Any financial investment that our chapter can receive from the local Lafayette petroleum industry would be greatly appreciated, and is vital if this trip is to take place. Our chapter firmly believes that these types of trips provide invaluable experiences for our members.

—Christopher Murley, UL Lafayette AAPG Student Chapter President

For more information regarding how to make a contribution, please contact our chapter at: aapg@louisiana.edu. Also, visit us at our new website: http://ul-aapg.weebly.com.

#### (continued from page 2)

Adviser that can be presented to the membership by the April 16th lunch meeting.

Consider helping out your Society by serving as an officer for at least 1 term. We have a lot of original thinking people in this group and we'd like to put some of those ideas into action. Contact me or any of the other Officers of the LGS if you will assist your Society. Our contact info is on the LGS website at http://lafayettegeologicalsociety.org/wp/?page\_id=9.

One more upcoming LGS event is the **Dino Dig** or its' descendant version scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, at Broadmoor Elementary school. Julia Battle is coordinating this for LGS and is an opportunity for us to introduce students to geology with a hands-on experience involving paleontology. It takes several volunteers to help Julia make this a good experience for both the teachers and the students so contact Julia to give this project the hand it deserves at: jugie@centurytel.net.

See you at our events.

jу



Jon Q=Petersen, President Autie T. Orjias, V. P. /Land Manager Dean Giles, Secretary/Treasurer Joe R. White, Jr., Chief Geologist S. Cody Lenert, Geologist Ryan Q=Petersen, Land Rhonda White, Admn. Assistant

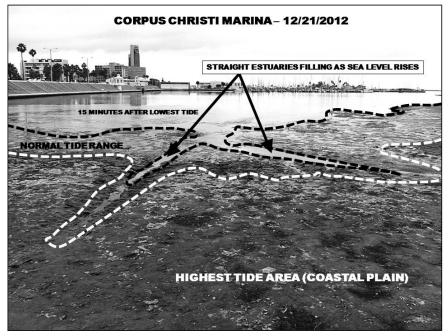
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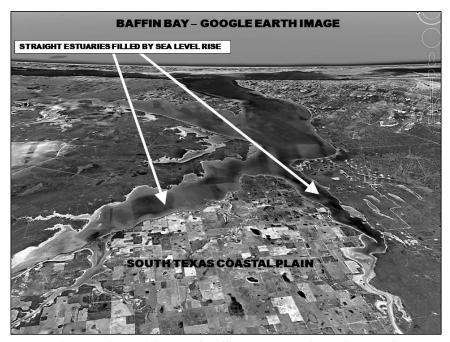
I suppose that the feared alignment of the planets and moon, coupled with a north wind had taken the tide level of the marina down an extra few inches. But those inches were enough to uncover more of the large silt/sand bar that has formed on the backside of the breakwater at the south end of the marina, across from the old Memorial Coliseum site. This "lowstand" exposed the "shelf and upper slope" of the sand bar. I leapt from the truck and dragged my daughter down the steps of the seawall to walk across the largest (and possibly the smelliest) laboratory model of a FSST (falling sea-level/stage systems tract) that I had ever seen.



Corpus Christi Marina on December 21, 2012. Notice how the tide is exceptionally low (actually rising at the time of the photo) exposing the shelf. "Streams" have formed small straight estuaries being inundated as the tide rises.

Exciting things do happen when sea level falls! The lowering of sea level increases the gradient of rivers and streams. Along the coastline, rivers dramatically cut downward and straighten as they rapidly erode the landscape moving sediments into the basin. The retreating sea exposes the muddy shelf and destabilizes the slope sending even more sediment into the abyss. Slope canyons and networks of channels form to transport sediments into the deepest parts of the basin. Landward, streams rapidly erode and dissect the coastal plain. The distinctive fea-

tures of the coastal geomorphology we see today, namely Baffin Bay, Laguna Madre, the Nueces River Valley, and Corpus Christi Bay, are related to the sea relentlessly rising and flooding the eroded landscape formed during the last ice-age lowstand.



Present-day Google Earth image of Baffin Bay, Texas, located south of Corpus Christi. Note how the overall morphology of the coast mimics the small scale marina "model." Straight estuaries are now inundated by the sea. The continued input of coarse sediment, which is lacking in the marina model, has formed the barrier island system.

On December 21, 2012, Emily and I walked across the scale model of a FSST (and ongoing transgression) and I was able to point out the geomorphologic features as they formed. When we got to my office, I brought up a Google Earth image of Baffin Bay to illustrate better how the flooded estuaries look so much like the exposed bar in the marina. We then talked about sequence stratigraphy and the systems tracts related to sea level oscillations. Most importantly, I was able to share how a deeper understanding of slow geologic processes can be found in stopping for an hour to consider thoughtfully the "causes now in operation."

"To see a world in a grain of sand, And a heaven in a wild flower, Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, And eternity in an hour."

—William Blake, circa 1803, "Auguries of Innocence"



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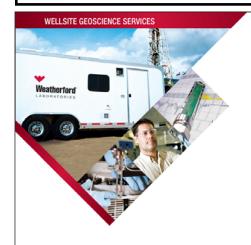
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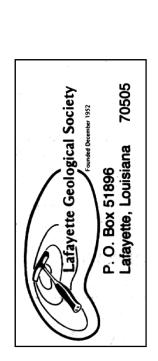
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