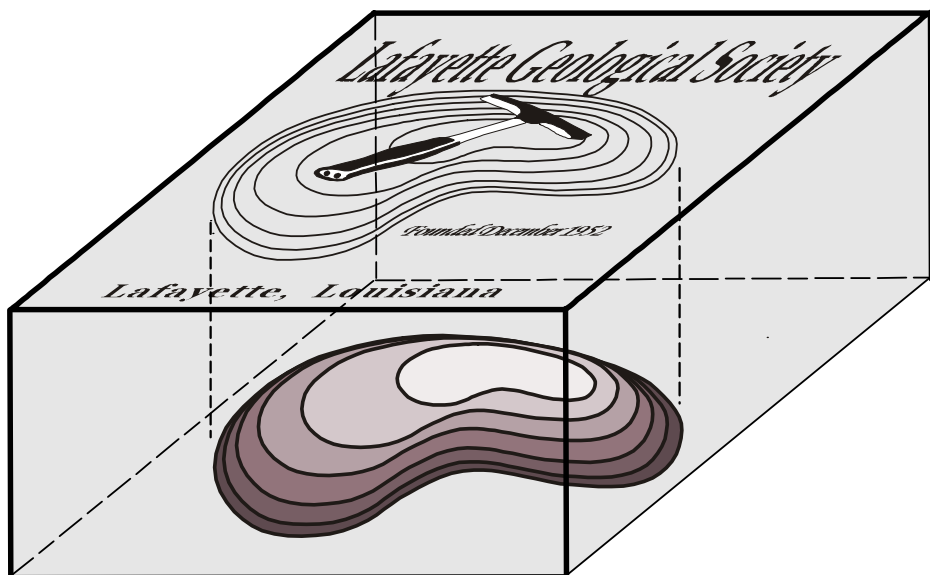


# *Lafayette Geological Society* **BULLETIN**

Volume 60, No. 3

November 2015



**LGS Luncheon Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2015**  
**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**  
**Lafayette Petroleum Club**  
**Cost: \$20**

## **Luncheon Presentation**

**“Influence of Asymmetric Rifting on the Opening and  
Petroleum Systems of the South Atlantic”**

***Patrick Loureiro, Caribbean Basins Tectonics and Hydrocarbons  
(CBTH) Project, University of Houston, Texas***

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**LGS Luncheon Meeting  
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**“Influence of Asymmetric Rifting on the  
Opening and Petroleum Systems of the  
South Atlantic”**

***Patrick Loureiro,  
Caribbean Basins Tectonics and  
Hydrocarbons (CBTH) Project,  
University of Houston, Texas***

# President's Column

If you want to know the news and announcements, check the website ([www.lafayettegeologicalsociety.org](http://www.lafayettegeologicalsociety.org)) and/or come to the meeting. But for now I'm gonna soapbox it.

I continue to be amazed—no, perplexed—by the general lack of understanding about how this country and our freedoms work. The way I see it, everyone has an opinion and in the United States we also have the right to freely express it. But that also means we have the obligation to listen to other opinions whether we agree with them or not. Respecting others' opinions and discussion through debate is how we progress scientifically and philosophically. Dissenting opinions are not discredited by name calling. I am not “unpatriotic” because I disagree with your politics, nor am I a “denier” because I disagree with your science.

Okay, I showed my hand with the denier term, so let's take a quick look at “global warming.” If we suppose for a minute that the cause is actually anthropogenic, which means caused by humans (note the term used is humans, not corporations), then why aren't we addressing the problem by attacking the cause? Of course we know the answer—humans in general don't have any money. But if you truly believe it's our problem then what are YOU doing to fix it?

When the housing collapse occurred in late 2007, the economy went into recession the following year. During this recession, I observed not only reduced traffic on the highways, but everyone driving was going the speed limit or slower. As a result our CO<sub>2</sub> output in 2008 was reduced back to 2000 levels. It doesn't take a genius to figure out this cause-and-effect. However, as the economy improved, I observed individual automobiles (and a lot of these are SUVs and pickup trucks) began returning to old habits of speeding and more reckless behavior as a consequence. But the 18 wheelers did not, although seven years later some are starting to. I now estimate about 90% or more of automobiles are speeding, while less than 10% of the big rig trucks are doing so. I haven't seen reports on our CO<sub>2</sub> output, but I suspect it has climbed and is continuing to increase.

During the last few years, I've had the occasion to travel to Baton Rouge, which includes the section over the basin where speed is reduced to 60 mph. My car had an instant read gas mileage capability so I was able to get estimates for fuel economy for long stretches at 70 mph versus 60 mph. The results were quite amazing as I recorded a 10–20% increase in gas mileage at this lower speed versus the higher. The variation is mostly due to changes in temperature and humidity during this period. But let's assume our average fuel economy could increase by 15% nationwide. This would translate into a savings of over 10 million barrels of oil per day.

On a personal level, if we take a 70 mile trip, the time difference between making this trip at 60 mph versus 70 mph is only 10 minutes. But a 15% decrease in fuel usage at the slower speed results in saving about a half a gallon of gasoline (more if you drive a gas guzzler). This savings translates to about \$1.25, for 10 minutes of your time, or an hourly rate of \$7.50. But this would be after-tax dollars, so we are really talking about \$10 per hour, or at least minimum wage. If we include the cost of our military presence abroad to supposedly insure access to hydrocarbon supplies, those savings are closer to \$40 per hour. Maybe your time is worth more than that, but it is not for a lot of people driving on the highway today. If we understood how expensive it was, maybe we would stop trying to extort funds from oil companies. After all, if it's our problem why aren't we looking for real solutions.



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## **NOVEMBER LUNCHEON PRESENTATION**

### **Influence of Asymmetric Rifting on the Opening and Petroleum Systems of the South Atlantic**

**Patrick Loureiro, Caribbean Basins Tectonics and Hydrocarbons (CBTH) Project, University of Houston, Texas**



#### **Abstract**

A recent model by Brune et al. (2014) explained the asymmetrical, conjugate margins of the South Atlantic as the result of passive rift migration with sequential normal faulting during early continental breakup. The onset of continental rifting in the South Atlantic began in the Valanginian about 138 Ma flood basalts—originating from the eruption of the Tristan Da Cunha plume on both conjugate margins—have been dated between 138–128 Ma and indicating a transition from passive rifting controlled by plate motions to active rifting controlled by a mantle plume. Using 5 2D gravity transects ranging from 200–1000 km in length, we identify variations in crustal thickness and depth to Moho for conjugate margins in Brazil and Angola. Low pass filters applied to a regional satellite derived gravity grid reveal now inactive, sequential normal faults. The modeled gravity transects refine the extent of hyperextended continental crust and allow for the identification of hanging-wall/footwall relationships. For the Santos-Namibe conjugate margin, we propose that the Santos Basin is the footwall block of an asymmetrical rift system spanning a 200-km-wide zone and that the Namibe Basin is the hanging-wall block with a 125-km-wide rift. For the Campos-Benguela conjugate margin 400 km to the north, we propose the Campos Basin is the hanging-wall block with a 150-km-wide rift zone. Well data shows that a thicker carbonate sag basin (135–325 m) and overly-

ing salt basin (up to 2 km) are associated with the footwall blocks of Kwanza and Santos while thinner carbonate sag basins (15–75 m) and overlying salt (up to 1.5 km) are associated with hanging-wall blocks in accord with model predictions for early opening. Based on these correlations I predict more potential for larger discoveries in thicker sags/carbonate reservoirs associated with footwalls underlying Santos and the Benguela/Kwanza basins

## **Biography**

Patrick is a Ph.D. student who joined CBTH in August of 2013. He graduated with his B.S. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin in 2011. His master's thesis, entitled "Cenozoic basin evolution of the Virgin Islands Basin and Anegada Passage, northeastern Caribbean," constrained the tectonic origins of the Virgin Islands Basin, located between Puerto Rico and St. Croix, using seismic data from the basin, the Anegada Passage, and the Muertos Trough. He completed his M.S. degree in August of 2014 and began his Ph.D. study on the conjugate margins of West Africa and Brazil. This project will focus on margin characterization and carbonate sedimentology, and attempt to identify the tectonic controls on the development of presalt, lacustrine carbonates from the basin scale to the isotopic scale. Patrick was a member of the 2013 UH AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Team, which placed third in the Gulf Coast region and was a summer intern with the BP Brazil team in the summer of 2013.

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Oct. 28, 2015 — LGS:** Lafayette Geological Society luncheon meeting, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette — Patrick Loureiro, Caribbean Basins Tectonics and Hydrocarbons (CBTH) Project, University of Houston, Texas, will present “Influence of Asymmetric Rifting on the Opening and Petroleum Systems of the South Atlantic.”

**Dec., 2015 — API:** Acadiana Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute — No scheduled events in December as of press time. Please visit [www.apiacadiana.com](http://www.apiacadiana.com) for updates.

**Dec. 7, 2015 — NOGS:** New Orleans Geological Society luncheon meeting, 11:30 am at the Holiday Inn, 330 Loyola Ave., New Orleans — James Hill, Sr., CalTerra Energy, LLC, Camarillo, California, will present “The Status of Unconventional Exploration in Europe.” Please visit <http://www.nogs.org/Content/pdf/events/2015-12-07-Hill-Abst-Bio.pdf> for more information.

**Dec. 8, 2015 — SPE:** Society of Petroleum Engineers Evangeline Section luncheon meeting, 12:00 pm at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette — Brun Hilbert, Exponent Failure Analysis Associates, Inc., Menlo Park, California, will present “Well Design and Integrity: Importance, Risk and Scientific Certainty.” Please visit <http://www.spe-laf.org/site.php?pageID=15&eID=1338> for more information.

**Dec. 8, 2015 — SWLGS:** Southwest Louisiana Geophysical Society luncheon meeting, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette — Speaker and topic not available as of press time. Please visit <http://www.swlgs.org> for updated information as the meeting date approaches.

**Dec. 9, 2015 — SIPES:** Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists Christmas Party, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette — Music by The Wayne "Blue" Burns Band.

**Dec. 10, 2015 — SPWLA:** Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts luncheon meeting, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette — Speaker and topic not available as of press time. Please visit <http://www.spwla.org/chapters/lafayette> as the meeting date approaches for more information.

**Dec. 10, 2015 — SGS:** Southeastern Geophysical Society, 11:30 at the Holiday Inn, 330 Loyola Ave., New Orleans — Dimitri Bevc, Chevron, will present “Full-Waveform Inversion: Challenges, Opportunities, and Impact.”

**Dec. 11, 2015 — BRGS:** Baton Rouge Geological Society luncheon meeting, 11:30 am at Mike Anderson Seafood Restaurant, 1031 W. Lee Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana — Speaker and topic not available as of press time. Please visit <http://www.brgs-la.org/> for more information as the meeting date approaches.

**Dec. 16, 2015 — LGS:** Lafayette Geological Society luncheon meeting, 11:30 am at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette — Speaker and topic not available as of press time. For more information, please visit <http://lafayettegeologicalsociety.org/wp/> as the meeting date approaches.

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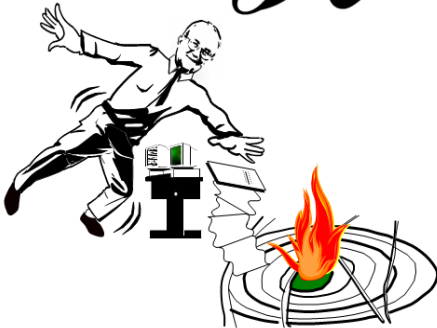
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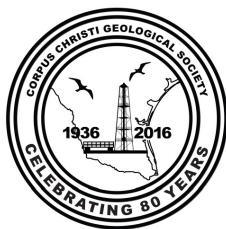
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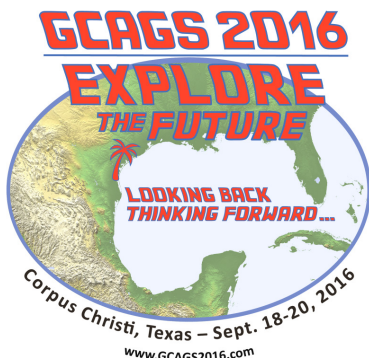
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***Thank you for your participation!***

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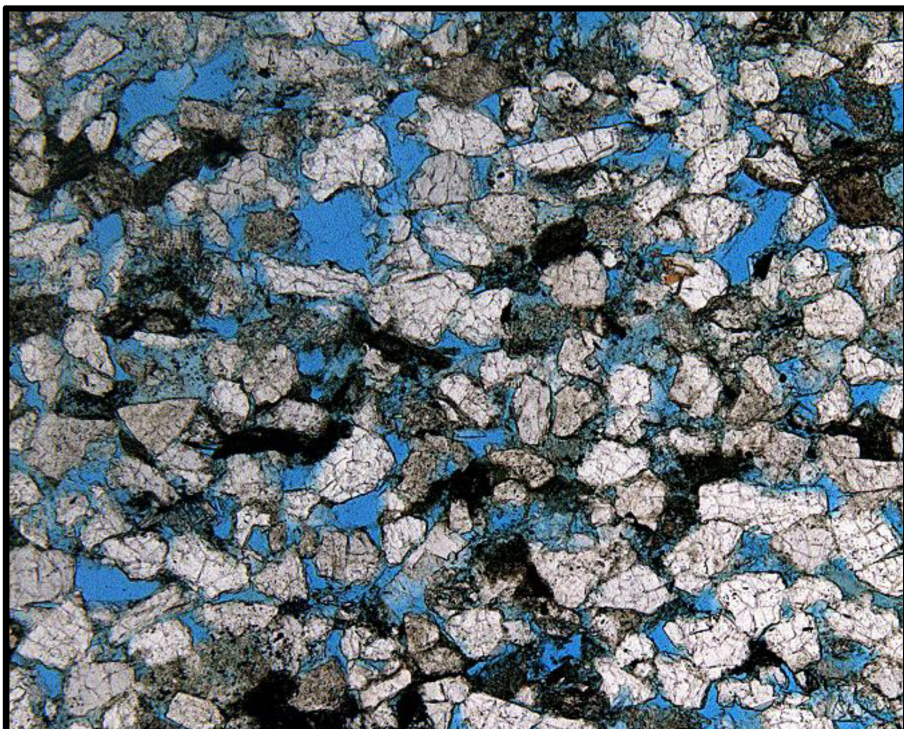
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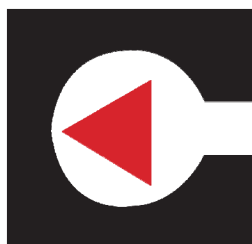
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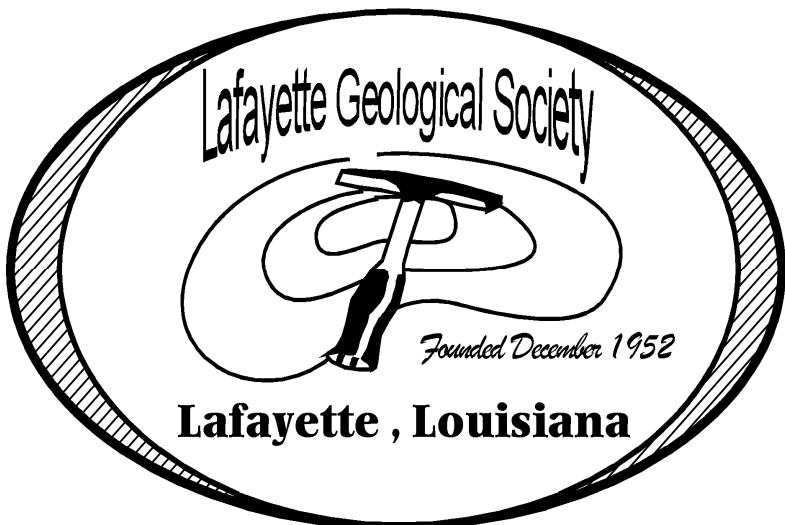
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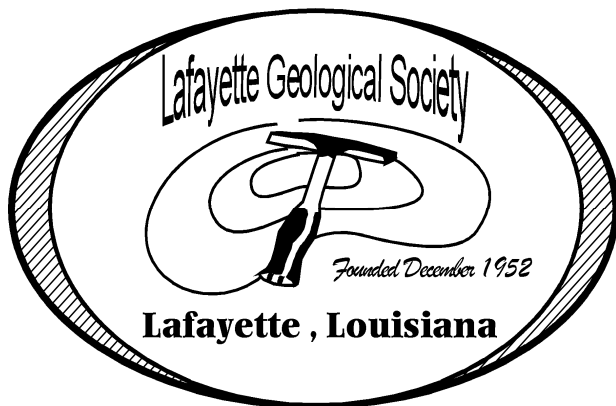
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