



Geo-soundings

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2007

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WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of Geosoundings for 2007 which clearly shows by its contents that all members of the Department have geared up for another busy year. Semester 1 teaching is well underway and as the numbers below indicate, there have been improvements in this year's enrolments. We are also very happy to report on the successful awards and prizes that have been bestowed on staff and students during the last quarter. In addition, this issue highlights some of the interesting research programs that staffs are currently involved with. We hope that you enjoy the contents of this edition of **Geosoundings** and we look forward to keeping you informed of our activities throughout 2007.

ENROLMENTS 2007

TOTAL ENROLMENTS FOR 2007 ARE:

BSc (Geophysics) Undergraduate and Honours	76 + 6
BSc (Geophysics)/BSc (Computer Science)	7
BSc (Geology/Geophysics)	28
Graduate Diploma	0
Postgraduate Diploma	0
MSc (Geophysics) – Coursework	1
MSc (Geophysics) – Research	2
PHD	21

2006 GRADUATES WERE:

Doctor of Philosophy

Said Amiri Besheli Bahman Bayat
Anousha Hashemi

Master of Science (Geophysics) by Coursework

Shahid Ur Rehman

Postgraduate Diploma in Geophysics

Mohammad A K AlHussain

BSc (Geophysics) Honours

Lee Davey	Owen Davis
Matthew Dielesen	Russell Eade
Megan Halbert	Marshall Hood
Stephen Irvine	Kabilan Krishnamurthy
Erik Kristiansen	David Mackay
Alexander Maekivi	Jennie Powell
Jacob Smith	Paul Wellington

BSc (Geophysics)

Alexander Castiglione	Emma-Lee Dellar
Matthew Little	Stephen Malajczuk
Rick McCarthy	Sean Phillips
Matthew Saul	Christopher Semeniuk
Cornelious K Tshitlho	Alexander Ursulic

AWARDS/PRIZES/SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

Adjunct Professor John McDonald has been offered a position on the **Australian Research Council (ARC) College of Experts**. This is a tremendous appointment which brings recognition to Curtin and acknowledges Professor McDonald's research scholarship and national leadership in his field.

Dr Gracjan Lambert has been awarded his PhD, entitled "*Application of numerical modeling to problems of seismic wave propagation in stratified fluid-saturated porous rocks*". Gracjan has recently accepted a position with Total UK within their Geoscience Research Centre in Aberdeen.

Mrs Dina Makarynska, who has been working as a Research Associate, assisting Prof Boris Gurevich with the CRGC management, has been awarded an **APA Scholarship** to undertake a **PhD in Geophysics**. Dina will officially commence her PhD on a full time basis at the end of March 2007. Dina will continue to work for the CRGC for 1 day/week for the next 12 months.

Mr. Owen Davis completed his spectacular tertiary education record with yet another **Nomination to the VC List** at the end of Semester 2 2006. Owen completed his Honours Degree with First Class Honours and has secured a position with Woodside Energy Ltd.

Mr. Matthew Little has been awarded the **Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia Ltd (WA Branch) (PESA) Best Third Year Prize**. This award is to the student who has shown the most potential in petroleum-related subjects and who is likely to pursue a career in the petroleum industry. Matthew will be presented with this award at the PESA Technical Luncheon meeting on the 19th April.

Mr. Paul Wellington has been awarded the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia Ltd (WA Branch) (PESA) Elwood Horstman Prize. The prize is awarded to the best Honours graduate studying in a field related to petroleum exploration. Paul will be presented with this award at the PESA Technical Luncheon meeting on the 19th April.

2007 KEGS OFFICE BEARERS (MEMBER OF THE SEG STUDENT SECTION)

Following a meeting of the Geophysics student body, elections were held in March to elect the 2007 KEGS Committee. The results are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Hayley Anderson

VICE-PRESIDENT: Steven Saul

SECRETARY: Dara Mullins

TREASURER: Richard Presser

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Matthew Little

Matthew Saul

Andrew Pethick

FACULTY ADVISOR:

Prof Brian Evans Phone: +618 9266 7092

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KOREAN STUDENTS VISIT

During January and February 2007, the Department delivered a short course in geophysical methods to a group of Korean students. The tuition offered to these students while in Australia included field exercises, company visits and lectures. We especially wish to thank **Mike Enright** of Rio Tinto, **Barrett Cameron** of UTS and **Matt Lamont** of Down Under GeoSolutions for their time and tours of their facilities. Lecturers were **Mr. Dominic Howman**, **Dr. Michael Sykes** and **Dr. Anton Kepic**.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Wandler, Aaron, **Evans, Brian J.**, Link.C. 2007. *AVO as a fluid indicator: A physical modelling study*. Geophysics 72 (1): C9-C17

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Dr Milovan Urosevic has been honoured with an invitation to speak at the following meetings in 2007:

- AGU Meeting 22-25 May in Acapulco, Mexico topic: "Seismic signature of fractured rocks",
- Exploration 2007 9-12 September (Toronto, Canada) topic: "Seismic exploration in hard rock environments".

Prof Boris Gurevich has been invited to present papers at the following workshops later this year:

- Rock Physics Workshop in Beijing, June 2007.
- Fractured Reservoir SEG/EAGE Joint Research Workshop in Italy, September 2007.

CENTRE OF HIGH DEFINITION GEOPHYSICS

New equipment trials: We have been trialling a rock breaker as a seismic source recently. In addition a weight drop in the form of a concrete breaker has been purchased. Initial results seem encouraging and the source will be used in the 3D work being undertaken at Otway Basin.

Several staff members and associates will be undertaking field trials in the Otway Basin, just out of Warrnambool in Victoria during the second half of March 2007. This work is associated with the CO₂CRC sequestration program.



Don Sherlock testing the Rock Breaker

VISITING ACADEMIC

Dr. Michael Rybakov is visiting us from Israel and commenced with us on 19th March and will be here until the 28th July 2007. Dr Rybakov is a leading world expert in the application of potential field methods to crustal and regional studies and will share with us his expertise in applying these methods to crustal and environmental problems. He will also share with us his knowledge of algorithms for processing/inversion of potential field data. In addition he may be called upon to give some lectures on the tectonic history of the Mediterranean region as obtained from geophysical data.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
GEOSCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS 69TH
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION,**

London – June 11-14

CAREERS AND EDUCATION EXPO,
Burswood Dome, June 22-24
