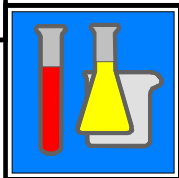




THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY



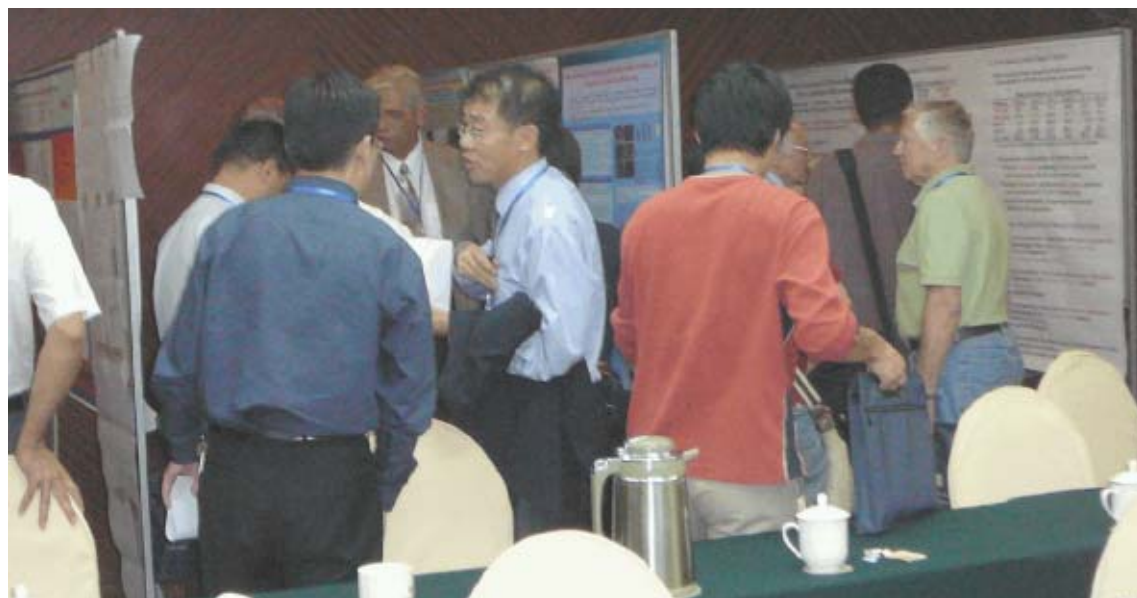
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 23, No. 3

September, 2006

ISSN 0743-3816

***News
from
the 2006
Beijing
Meeting***



**Plan now to attend the 24th Annual TSOP Meeting,
with ICCP and CSCOP, August 19-25, 2007**

Victoria, BC, Canada See pages 7- 9

**24th Annual TSOP Meeting,
with ICCP and CSCOP, August 19-25, 2007
Victoria, BC, Canada
see pages 7 - 9**

**Abstracts are due by
April 15, 2007
see Call for Papers on page 7**

Technical Sessions Include:

- Unconventional Petroleum Systems
- Advances in Organic Petrology,
Organic and Inorganic Geochemistry

Planned Schedule Includes:

Sunday, August 19, 2007
Ice Breaker and Council Meetings
Monday August 20:
ICCP Plenary Session and Commission Meetings
Council Meetings
Tuesday, August 21:
ICCP Commission Meetings
Council Meetings
Wednesday, August 22:
TSOP Technical Sessions and Posters
TSOP Business Lunch
Council Meetings
Thursday, August 23:
CSCOP - TSOP Technical Sessions and Posters
Evening Conference Dinner
Friday, August 24:
ICCP Plenary Session and Commission Meetings
Saturday, August 25:
Field Trip

NEXT YEAR:

**Oviedo, Spain
September 22 - 28, 2008
Joint ICCP-TSOP Meeting**

The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, other meetings, and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, this quarterly Newsletter, a membership directory, annual meeting program and abstracts, and special publications.

Members may elect not to receive the printed Newsletter by marking their dues forms or by contacting the Editor. This choice may also be reversed at any time, or specific printed Newsletters may be requested.

Members are eligible for **discounted subscriptions** to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Paleobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at www.tsop.org. You will then be billed by Elsevier. Contact Paul Hackley <phackley@usgs.gov> if you do not receive a bill or have any other problems with a subscription. For the best prices on subscriptions to **AGI's Geotimes**, see their web site at www.geotimes.org/current

TSOP is a Member Society of AGI and an AAPG Associated Society.

The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter

ISSN 0743-3816
published quarterly

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DEAD- Dec. Issue: Jan. 10, 2007
LINES: March Issue: March 5, 2007

Writers, Photographers and Associate Editors Needed!

GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Color illustrations may be possible in some issues.

Please do not embed **graphics** or **photos** in word processor files. You can provide photos or other graphics as slides or prints (which will be returned after being scanned) or as digital files (300 dpi preferred) via email or on cd or dvd. Low resolution images are discouraged as they cannot be reproduced well in print. Text is preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

Contact the **Editor:**

Rachel Walker
Pearson Coal Petrography
15998 US 23
Catlettsburg, Kentucky
USA 41129
ph. 606-931-0506
e-mail: rwalker@coalpetrography.com

(temporary Editor for this issue: David C. Glick)

Address Changes

Please report any changes in address or contact information to:

Paul Hackley, TSOP Membership Chair
U.S. Geological Survey
956 National Center
Reston, VA 20192 USA
e-mail: phackley@usgs.gov

Society Membership

The TSOP Newsletter (ISSN-0743-3816) is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see:

<http://www.tsop.org>

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is: The Society for Organic Petrology, c/o American Geological Institute, 4220 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302-1520 USA

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Cover photos of Beijing Meeting, clockwise from top: Poster Session; Meeting Convenor Prof. Kuili Jin addresses the conference; Datong coal-water mixture plant; Peter Warwick passes the TSOP Presidency to Jeff Quick. Photos by Colin Ward.

TSOP Dues Form Enclosed please pay upon receipt

For those whose paid membership expires at the end of 2006, a personalized dues notice is enclosed with this issue. Please verify your contact information, enter the rate and years being paid (note that a discounted rate of US\$ 100 for 5 years is available) and return the payment to Mike Avery. Our usual deadline is December 31; your temporary editor apologizes for the delays in this issue and, in particular, the dues forms. Newsletter issues will be back on schedule soon. Please pay now if you have received a dues form.

Members may elect not to receive the printed copy of the Newsletter by marking the box on the dues form. Portable Document Format (PDF) newsletter versions will be available for downloading from the TSOP web site:

<http://www.tsop.org/news1.htm>

President's Page

from Jeff Quick

Dear TSOP members,

Three cheers to outgoing president Peter Warwick and council whose hard work during the last year left TSOP in great shape! I am also pleased to report the success of our 23rd annual meeting in Beijing, China. Such success is not accidental, but due to the dedication and effort of the local organizing committee. So we also must thank the students, scientists, and faculty from the China University of Mining and Technology who contributed to such a successful meeting. Thank you all!

How do we measure a meeting's success? You can read elsewhere in this newsletter the tallies of participants, presentations, and abstracts from our Beijing meeting – all are useful, and impressive, metrics. But I think success is better measured by intangibles such as the enthusiasm heard in voices at our technical sessions, or the excitement of a new idea that lingers long after the meeting – all were abundant at the meeting. Equally important, our last meeting continued the TSOP traditions of collegiality and technical excellence.

If you are like me, then attending our annual meeting is one of the best parts of TSOP membership. No other meeting brings together people who share a passion for understanding the origin, occurrence, and technological behavior of organic matter in rocks. However, until recently, many members have not had the same opportunities to attend annual meetings that I have had. Fortunately, this is changing! As our membership grows beyond its North American origins we will have more meetings closer to more members in places like Sydney and Beijing. Even as we return to North America next year to gather in Victoria British Columbia, we look forward to our first-ever European meeting in Oviedo Spain in 2008.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting. Until then, best wishes and remember to invite your friends who also think about fossil organic matter to join us!

Jeff Quick
TSOP President (06-07)

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Officers and Committee Chairs are reminded to provide their records to Ken Kuehn, **TSOP Archivist**. Please contact Ken at kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu for further information.

Spackman Awards

from Suzanne Russell, Research Committee Chair

A total of seven applications for the 2006 Spackman Award for graduate student research were received. There were four applicants who are MS students and three applicants who are PhD students. Council had directed the Research Committee to choose one awardee from the MS applicants and one from the PhD applicants provided the quality of the applications allowed this.

The successful applicants are Rachael Von Mann, MS candidate and Tenille Mares, PhD applicant. Rachael is from the University of Kentucky, Lexington; her research topic is "Influence of primary productivity on organic matter preservation in the middle Ordovician Decorah Formation and the Late Ordovician Maquoketa Group of eastern Iowa". Tenille is from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Her research topic is "Geological and geochemical controls on fracture and pore systems in relation to gas flow regimes in the Huntly Basin".

Please watch the TSOP web site and this Newsletter for information on applying for the 2007 awards. H

TSOP PEOPLE

This section will provide Directory corrections and updates and news from and about members. As new members join, they are invited to provide information about themselves and their work. Continuing members are invited to do the same. Following are such notes from new and rejoining members. - Editor

Tennille Mares

I graduated from the University of New South Wales, Australia in 2003 with a first class honours degree majoring in geology. Although I took a lot of sedimentary/ coal courses during this time I only started working on coal and coal bed methane when I commenced my PhD, supervised by Dr Tim Moore, at the University of Canterbury in 2005. My thesis is entitled 'Geological and geochemical controls on fracture and pore systems in relation to gas flow regimes in the Huntly Coal Basin'.

Tennille Mares
Department of Geological Sciences
University of Canterbury
Private Bag 4800
Christchurch
New Zealand

Tem36@student.canterbury.ac.nz

H

Rachel Walker named TSOP Editor

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year to all! My name is Rachel Walker and I have been elected to be Editor of the newsletter starting with the January issue of 2007. I'm an expat Aussie and relatively recent PhD graduate (April 2005), currently working as a coal petrographer for Pearson Coal Petrography in Kentucky. I'm looking for submissions of all sorts for the January 2007 and future issues of the newsletter. Meeting reports and reviews, book or equipment reviews, short technical articles about geology or tips for the laboratory, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons or works of fiction. Photographs and other graphics are welcome, although color may not be possible in all cases. Deadlines for submissions are January 10th for the Jan. issue and March 5 for the March issue. My contact info for all submissions and any questions is

Rachel Walker
Pearson Coal Petrography
15998 US 23
Catlettsburg, Kentucky
USA 41129

ph. 606-931-0506

email: rwalker@coalpetrography.com H

Exiting Editor's Epistle

It has been an honor to serve with so many outstanding colleagues among the TSOP membership and Council, a greatly satisfying endeavor to edit 18 issues of the TSOP Newsletter, and a liberal education in Murphy's Law to print them on finicky old color laser printers in a corner of my living room. The latter may fade from my memory, but the former two will happily remain.

My TSOP energies will now change focus as I address our somewhat neglected web site, and other projects with less stringent schedules than the Newsletter. On the topic of schedules, I do apologize to all for the lateness of this issue, but I'm pleased to report that the schedule will be in good hands with incoming Editor Rachel Walker.

I'll close with the common refrain of volunteer editors, including, I believe, every prior TSOP Editor: "This is *your* newsletter." You can make the most of it by supporting Rachel Walker as you have supported me, by sharing your knowledge and accounts of your activities in newsletter contributions.

Thank you,

Dave Glick H

The John Castaño Honorary Membership Award – Solicitation for Nominees Deadline: January 30, 2007

You are invited to nominate the scientist of your choice for the John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, The Society for Organic Petrology's highest honor. The award acknowledges distinction in a scientific discipline of significance to the Society, in recognition of contributions in research, service to TSOP, or education. The John Castaño Honorary Membership conveys life membership to the Society. It is named in honor of John Castaño, one of our most active Houston-based founding members. John served as inaugural Vice-President, and later President of TSOP. He was an organizer of three TSOP meetings in the Houston area, and was made an Honorary Member in 1995. John served TSOP in many capacities until his death in 1997; a memorial article was published in the June, 1997, issue of the TSOP Newsletter.

If you would like to suggest a candidate for the 2007 Castaño Honorary Membership Award, please submit a letter of recommendation and a brief vita of the nominee to Jingle Ruppert (USGS, MS 956, National Center, Reston, VA 20192, lruppert@usgs.gov) by **January 30, 2007**. It is suggested that supporting letters of recommendation from colleagues and other scientists accompany the package. Emphasis should be placed on the significance of the nominee's work. Please cite some of the most important *specific* accomplishments (for example, the way in which cited research advanced our field) which exemplify the reasons why the nominee deserves the award.

Nominations are reviewed by the Castaño Award Committee and results are announced at the Annual meeting. The selection process is confidential and nominees do not have to be former or current TSOP members.

The committee evaluates research, service and education impact on the following criteria:

Research contributions include work that demonstrates a high degree of originality and serves to advance the science of organic petrology or related disciplines. Nominees must possess a sustained international record of professional publication and achievement.

Nominees recommended on the basis of their service must demonstrate significant contributions to TSOP in a leadership role. Their service must have enabled the Society to stimulate interest and promote innovative research in coal geology. Contributions include educational activities, administrative duties, or the development of the Society.

Nominees recommended for education must demonstrate a high degree of dedication and significant impact as a teacher of organic petrology or related disciplines. H

COMPLIMENTARY TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COAL GEOLOGY*

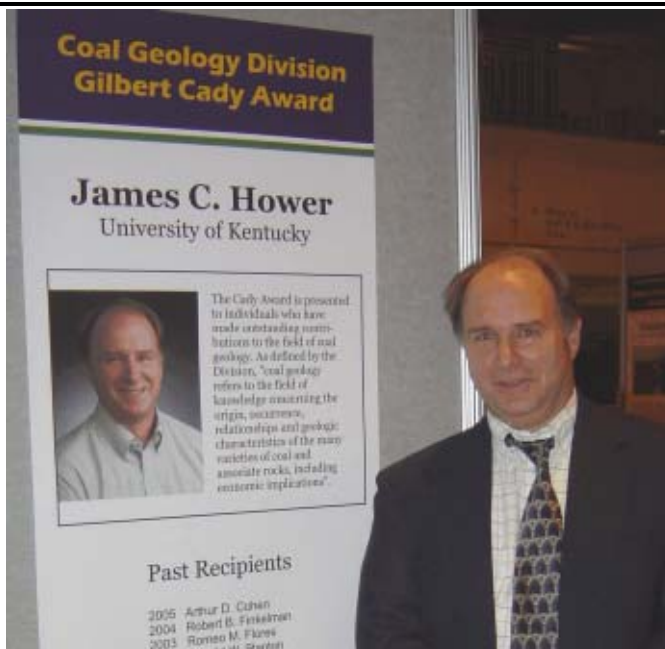
By Bob Finkelman

The TSOP Council has approved a proposal to promote coal science at universities around the world that do not have the resources to acquire essential current coal science publications, such as the *International Journal of Coal Geology*. To help address this situation TSOP has created a fund to underwrite the cost of a two-year subscription to the journal for deserving TSOP members. The first recipient was Prof. Marko Ercegovic of the University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia and the second recipient was Prof. Barbara Kwiecinska of the University of Science and Technology, Krakow, Poland.

The recipients are obligated to share the journal with his/her students and colleagues and to encourage the students, faculty, and colleagues from the country and the region to contribute appropriate articles to the journal.

Any TSOP member in good standing interested in submitting an application for the Journal should send a one-page letter describing how they would use this opportunity to promote TSOP and coal science in their school and in their country. The proposal should be accompanied with a letter confirming that a subscription to the journal would cause financial hardship. The letters should be sent to Robert B. Finkelman, Department of Geosciences, P.O. Box 830688, MS F021, Richardson, TX 75083-0688, U.S.A. by **JANUARY 31, 2007**.

H



Hower Receives Cady Award

Jim Hower is the recipient of the 2006 Gilbert H. Cady Award, presented by the Coal Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA). He received the award at the society's recent annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. This esteemed award is the highest in the field of coal geology.

The award and fund were established in 1971 in honor of Dr. Cady, who was an outstanding coal geologist. It is presented annually, for meritorious work in coal geology. After receiving his bachelors degree in 1973, Jim received his MS degree in from Ohio State in 1975 and, subsequently, his PhD from Penn State three years later. In 1978, he came to the University of Kentucky's Center for Applied Energy Research as a senior scientist and petrographer, where he has worked since. In addition, he is an adjunct professor in UK's Department of Earth and Environmental Science. He also serves as editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Coal Geology.H



Jim Hower (right) sampling the 24-inch (61 cm) Blue Gem coal seam in Kentucky for his research in the 1980s.

The Joint Meeting of CSCOP, TSOP & ICCP August 19 - 25, 2007 Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

CALL FOR PAPERS: Submit Abstracts for Technical Oral and Poster Presentations by April 15, 2007 to:

Dr. Hamed Sanei
Geological Survey of Canada
3303 33rd St NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2L 2A7

Send all abstracts via e-mail: hsanei@nrcan.gc.ca

Abstracts must be 200-300 words maximum, sent as Microsoft Word or text files, no figures and no special formatting required. In e-mail: Please state preference of Session (see pages 8-9), Poster, Oral, or either Oral/ Poster.

Registration, Conference Dinner Fees:

Full Registration includes ice-breaker, TSOP Business Luncheon and coffee breaks.

Members: Cdn \$ 275.00 (must be paid in cash at meeting upon registration)

Non-members: Cdn \$ 300.00

Students: Cdn \$ 25.00

Guests: Cdn \$ 50.00

One-day registration: Cdn \$ 200.00

Conference Dinner: Cdn \$ 65.00

Field Trip to Salt Spring Island:

Look for updated information on web sites www.tsop.org and <http://geocities.com/victoriainconference2007>

For Hotels and University Accommodation Reservations:

1. Queen Victoria Hotel and Suites:



655 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8V 2P9

TEL: 250-386-1312 FAX: 250-386-0687

Website: www.QVHOTEL.COM

Special Rates are ~ Cdn \$ 150.00 single, room only, plus taxes

Delegates must make their own reservations.

NOTE: This downtown hotel is the pick-up and drop-off point for daily morning and evening transportation to and from University of Victoria. It is about 20-25 minutes from the conference forum.

2. University of Victoria, Conference and Campus Housing:



Contact Reservation clerk: housing@uvic.ca

Center Manager: Ruth Hall, TEL: 250-721-8657

Single Bed and Breakfast: Cdn \$ 47.75

Twin / shared: Cdn \$ 57.75

Cluster of four: Cdn \$ 185.00

3. Additional recommended hotels, motels, in downtown Victoria:

A. Helms Inn



600 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8V 2P8

Toll Free: 1-800-665-4356; TEL: 250-385-5767; FAX: 250-385-2221

E-mail: info@helmsinn.com Website: www.helmsinn.com

100% Smoke free rooms

B. Shamrock Suites on the Park

675 Superior Street, Victoria, B.c., Canada V8V 1V1;

Toll Free: 1-800-294-5544; TEL: 250-385-8768; FAX: 250-385-1837

Website: <http://www.shamrocksuites.com>

These two are within 200 meters of the pick-up and drop-off point at Queen Victoria Hotel, for daily morning and evening transportation to and from University of Victoria.

THE JOINT MEETING OF

August 19

MEETING

Sunday August 19	Monday August 20	Tuesday August 21	Wednesday August 22
ICCP, TSOP, and CSCOP Council Meetings	ICCP Plenary session ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	<u>TSOP Technical Session I</u> Unconventional Petroleum Systems: Organic Petrology, Organic Geochemistry Integrated with Geology Chairs: Drs. Marc Bustin, Lavern Stasiuk
Ice Breaker & Council Meetings	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH & TSOP business meeting <u>TSOP Technical Session I</u> Cont'd
ICCP and TSOP Council Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings ICCP and TSOP Council Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings ICCP and TSOP Council Meetings	Unconventional Petroleum Systems: Organic Petrology, Organic Geochemistry Integrated with Geology Chairs: TBA Posters: General Organic Petrology and Geochemistry ICCP and TSOP Council Meetings

CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Http://geocities.com/victoriaconference2007/](http://geocities.com/victoriaconference2007/)


Technical program contact: Hamed Sanei (hsanei@nrcan.gc.ca)
General Inquiries: Andrew Beaton (Andrew.Beaton@gov.ab.ca)
Registration: Julito Reyes (jreyes@nrcan.gc.ca)
Field Trip Information: Judith Potter (jpp@sitogeo.com)

OF CSCOP, TSOP & ICCP

-25, 2007

University of Victoria
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

SCHEDULE

Thursday August 23	Friday August 24	Saturday August 25
<p><u>CSCOP-TSOP Technical Session II</u> <u>Tribute to Dr. Fari Goodarzi</u></p> <p>Advances in Organic Petrology, Organic and Inorganic Geochemistry:</p> <p>Coal, Oil shales, Source Rocks; Paleo- and Recent-Environments and -Climates</p> <p>Chairs: TBA LUNCH</p> <p><u>CSCOP-TSOP Technical Session II</u> <u>Tribute to Dr. Fari Goodarzi</u></p> <p>Advances in Organic Petrology, Organic and Inorganic Geochemistry: Coal, Oil shales, Source Rocks; Paleo- and Recent-Environments and -Climates</p> <p>Chairs: TBA</p> <p><u>Posters:</u> General Organic Petrology and Geochemistry</p> <p><u>Evening Conference Dinner</u> Church and State Wineries and Vineyards</p>	<p>ICCP Commission Meetings</p> <p>LUNCH</p> <p>ICCP Commission Meetings</p> <p>ICCP Plenary session</p>	<p><u>Field Trip:</u> Geology and Environs of Victoria to Salt Spring Island, British Columbia.</p> <p><u>Leaders:</u> Dr. Peter Mustard and Dr. James McEachern Simon Fraser University</p> 



Canadian Society for Coal Science
and Organic Petrology



TSOP
The Society for Organic Petrology



TSOP 2006 - Beijing Meeting Report

by Colin Ward

The 2006 TSOP meeting in Beijing was a tremendously successful affair, with over 100 members and potential members from 14 different countries coming together in one of the world's great cities for three days of comprehensive technical sessions, a short course, and two well-run field trips. Proceedings commenced on Friday, September 15 with a pre-meeting field trip to the western part of the Beijing Basin, taking in the world-class exhibits at the newly-opened Geological Museum of China, another museum focused on glacial deposits, and outcrops of Permo-Carboniferous and Jurassic strata showing a range of sedimentary features (see photograph on page 16). The day was rounded off with an informal banquet dinner (the first of many in different places) at a restaurant around the corner from the conference hotel.

A short course on the petrology and geochemistry of coal and non-marine source rocks was presented at the China University of Mining and Technology by Chen-Lin Chou, Deyi Ren, Kuili Jin, Shifeng Dai, and Yuegang Tang on Saturday, September 16. This was followed by a well-attended icebreaker reception in the conference hotel, giving those who had not participated in the earlier activities an opportunity to catch up, and the old hands a chance to become better acquainted with the many people who had not been to a TSOP meeting before. An excellent range of liquid and solid refreshment was also provided to help proceedings along.



Night view of the Xi Jiao Hotel meeting site. C. Ward photo.

The serious business began on Sunday, with a formal opening of the meeting by Jianyong Qiao, President of the China University of Mining and Technology. This was followed by a plenary technical session, with keynote papers given by Guangming Zhai on the status of Chinese petroleum geology, Shenglin Sun on the prediction and evaluation of Chinese coal resources. These highlighted the great extent of China's fossil fuel deposits, with 15×10^9 tonnes of recoverable oil resources (2×10^9 tonnes of proved status) spread over 576 fields, 14 trillion cubic metres of recoverable gas (2.2 trillion proved) over 182 fields, and $4,500 \times 10^9$ tonnes of coal at depths of less than 2,000 metres. Professor Kuili Jin finished the session with an excellent paper tracing the historical growth of scientific understanding and professional practice in coal and organic petrology in China from the early 20th century, when only a few geologists were involved, to the diverse range of achievements and activities leading up to the present meeting.

The plenary session was followed by the group photograph (a major undertaking considering the number of people present) and the traditional TSOP Business Lunch. At the lunch formal reports were given by outgoing President Peter Warwick (including a report on behalf of Secretary-Treasurer Mike Avery) and Vice-President Wolfgang Kalkreuth. Peter also presented a Distinguished Service Award to Cole Robison, recognising his long-standing contribution as President, Councillor and Annual Meeting organiser (photo at left). The recipients of other TSOP awards, including the John Castaño Award (Neely Bostick) and another Distinguished Service Award (Suzanne Russell) were also announced, with formal presentations foreshadowed at the 2007 meeting in Canada.



Cole Robison receives his Distinguished Service Award plaque from Outgoing President Peter Warwick. C. Ward photo.



Student Travel Award recipients Fredy Arango, Alejandro Restropo and Chiaki Nagaoka, with incoming TSOP President Jeff Quick (third from left). C. Ward photo.



Liugen Zheng, winner of the Best Student Paper Award, and Maria Mastalerz, Committee Chair. C. Ward photo.

Recognition was also given to Fredy Arango, Alejandro Restropo and Chiaki Nagaoka for winning TSOP's Student Travel Awards (photo above). Maria Mastalerz continued a society tradition by making a small presentation to Kuili Jin, as Convener of the 2006 meeting, on behalf of the organizing committee for the previous meeting in Louisville. Wolfgang also gave a report on the activities of ICCP, as part of the reciprocal agreement between the two societies. Peter then passed the chair to Jeff Quick (photo, front cover), who introduced the incoming Council and took over as TSOP President for the remainder of the meeting.

After the lunch the technical papers were presented in two parallel sessions, with organic petrology and thermal maturation being discussed in one well-filled room and source rocks and hydrocarbon generation in the other. Posters were also on display, and extensively discussed at the breaks, in both meeting rooms.

The parallel technical sessions continued throughout the following day. Papers on mineral matter and trace elements in coal were presented during the morning in one stream and on coal-generated hydrocarbons and unconventional natural gas in the other. These were followed respectively by sessions on petrographic and geochemical characterization of coal and on coal-bed methane resources. The program was rounded off with the Conference Dinner, where a magnificent array of dishes was enjoyed in a traditional Chinese banquet style, accompanied by a few words of appreciation from delegates representing each of the countries present.

Technical sessions on Day 3 were devoted to the relation between coal quality and coal utilization in parallel with papers mostly on CO₂ sequestration in coal beds. Everyone then came together for the final technical session on coal combustion and the environment, at which fittingly the final paper, dealing with coal-derived oils from the Hailaer Basin, eastern Mongolia and the Willow Creek coal mine in Utah, was presented by meeting Convener and long-standing TSOP member, Professor Kuili Jin.

Awards for the best student paper and the best student poster were then presented by Student Awards Committee Chair Maria Mastalerz to Liugen Zheng (photo above) for an oral presentation on mercury in Chinese coals, and to Marleny Blanco Gonzales for a poster on palynofacies in Cuba. The furthest travelled award was presented to three members from Colombia, Astrid Blandon, Fredy Arango and Alejandro Restropo (photo below). Although it was



Furthest Traveled Award winners Alejandro Restropo, Astrid Blandon, Fredy Arango. C. Ward photo.

Recent Theme Issues of International Journal of Coal Geology

In 2005, volume 63, issues 1-2, of the International Journal of Coal Geology featured TSOP 2003 - Selected papers presented at the 20th Annual Meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology (Washington DC, 2003). Since then, v. 64, issues 1-2, covered Geologic Hazards in Coal Mining; v. 67, issue 3, was In Memory of Marie-Therese Mackowsky - Selected papers from a symposium held at the 55th Annual Meeting of ICCP (Utrecht, 2003); v. 68, issues 1-2, were selected papers presented at the 56th Annual Meeting of ICCP (Budapest, 2004); and v. 69, issues 1-2, contain A Special Collection in honor of Aureal Cross, including a biography of Dr. Cross by Tom L. Phillips.

H

IMOG 2007 Abstracts due 12 January 2007

by Paul Farrimond
Chair of the Scientific Committee
from the Org-Geochem e-mail list

Abstract submission is now open for the 23rd International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry (9-14 September 2007, Torquay, UK), via the IMOG2007 website: www.imog2007.org/abstract_guide.htm
All details that you will need for the preparation and electronic submission of your abstract(s) can be found on the website.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is Friday 12th January 2007. This deadline is (we believe) later than previous meetings, and will not be extended.

If you wish to receive further updates about the conference, please let us have your contact details by completing an on-line form at www.imog2007.org/further_info.htm

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Organic Carbon-Rich Sediments Session at European Geosciences Union meeting Abstracts due 15 January 2007

by the session organizers
from the Org-Geochem e-mail list

The next European Geosciences Union meeting will take place in Vienna from April 15 to 20, 2007. We are pleased to invite all the scientists interested in organic-carbon-rich sediments to visit the Web page <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007/> and to submit an abstract to the session

CL1 - Organic Carbon-Rich Marine Sediments Past, Present and Future – Oceans and Climate Feedbacks

The aim of our session is to bring together scientists interested in organic-carbon-rich sediments (**black shales, sapropels**) in all the temporal windows of geological history, including those who study paleoceanographic and paleoclimatologic proxies and those who model present and past conditions that can lead to accumulation of organic-rich marine sediments in order to explore the significant biological, geochemical, and physical processes involved in the formation of these peculiar deposits.

You can find more detailed information about this session at http://www.cosis.net/members/meetings/sessions/information.php?p_id=237&s_id=4502

Abstracts are due by **January 15, 2007**, and will be managed electronically through the COSIS system. You can find more information at the web page http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007/how_to_submit_an_abstract.html

Please circulate this message among other interested scientists.

Looking forward to seeing you in Vienna next spring.

Phil Meyers
Tom Wagner
Alessandra Negri
Annalisa Ferretti
Petr Storch

H

World of Coal Ash Conference 2007

May 7-10, 2007

from the organizers' web site

**Covington, Kentucky
Northern Kentucky Convention Center
(the South Side of Cincinnati, OH)**

Organized by the University of Kentucky's Center for Applied Energy Research and the American Coal Ash Association, this conference will encompass all aspects of coal combustion products, as well as gasification byproducts.

Highly successful and widely acclaimed, the first The World of Coal Ash (WOCA) Conference held in 2005 has given impetus to its return in 2007. WOCA is a joint meeting combining separate symposia previously held by the American Coal Ash Association and the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research. WOCA also incorporates 'satellite' meetings sponsored by government and private organizations as well as educational short courses.

WOCA 2007 looks to surpass 2005's 500 participants and 40 vendors by offering both industry new-comers and veterans alike a wide variety of CCB/CCP related topics guaranteed to enhance career and job related requirements. Presentations will encompass not only the utilization of coal ash and flue gas desulfurization materials, but will cover sustainable projects using CCPs, emerging technologies, general ash management (including disposal), mercury related topics, recent research and specific case studies, international activities and regulatory topics from the local, state and federal perspectives.

The schedule includes Satellite events, short course and set-up on Monday; Welcoming Reception on Monday evening; Riverboat Reception on Tuesday evening. Exhibits and concurrent sessions take place Tuesday through Thursday.

Visit the web site for details:

<http://www.worldofcoalash.org> H

Twenty Years Ago in TSOP

from the June, August and November 1986
Newsletters

TSOP's third annual meeting in 1986 was to be the first of many in Kentucky. The meeting, held in Lexington in September, was hosted by Sue Rimmer and Jim Hower. Duncan Murchison was the invited lecturer for the meeting. Two days of technical sessions, attended by 58 people, were followed by a field trip to examine coal and oil shale exposures in eastern Kentucky, with an attendance of 25.

Several decisions shaping the future of TSOP were made in 1986: all members would receive the abstracts volume from the annual meeting; travel subsidies might be provided for Council members attending the mid-year business meeting; selected papers from the annual meeting would be published in *Organic Geochemistry*; and a contest to decide upon the TSOP logo was undertaken.

TSOP President John Castaño reported in August that the 1987 meeting was being planned for San Francisco, California, to be hosted by Margaret Pytte and Rehana Makada of Chevron USA. TSOP was invited to meet in 1988 in Houston in association with AASP.

Neely Bostick wrote a series of illustrated Notes from the Petrology Laboratory, on Differences in vitrinite reflectance and pyrolysis products possibly connected with differences in vitrinite type; Smoothness and relief of polished sections; and Etching polished coal preparations with a low temperature asher (LTA) to reveal internal structure of vitrinite. Other Notes were written by Charles E. Barker and Mark J. Pawlewicz, on Concentration of dispersed sedimentary organic matter for vitrinite reflectance analysis using a simple crusher and float method, and by Karl Ottenjann, on Calibration of microphotometric systems, and a review of prices and sources of some reflectance standards was presented.

As Chairman of the Research Committee, Alan Davis provided a review (in the November issue) of the topics considered or acted upon by the Committee, which also anticipated much future Committee work.

The June issue contained a list of 61 MS and PhD theses in coal geology, coal and organic petrology and geochemistry. They had been completed at four US universities from 1980 to 1986.

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Calendar of Events 2007

March 25 - 29, 2007: American Chemical Society national meeting, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Fuel Chemistry Division topics include Carbon Sequestration; Clean Coal; Environmental Challenges; Greenhouse Gas Capture; Subbituminous Coal: Structure, Composition & Reaction. Geochemistry Division topics include Data Mining: Extracting Useful Information for Energy Exploration & Production. <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/meetings/84/8436meetings.html>

April 1 - 4, 2007: Understanding Earth Systems - Pursuing the Checkered Flag: AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition, Long Beach, California, USA. Technical themes include *Reservoir Characterization and Modeling* and *Hydrocarbon Systems and Basin Analysis*. Workshops and short courses include a hands-on core workshop, *Deep-Water Reservoirs of California: From Core to Reservoir Characterization, Modeling and Production*. <http://www.aapg.org/longbeach/>

April 17 - 19, 2007: Emerging Plays in Australasia, an international conference convened by the Petroleum Group of the Geological Society, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, UK. Abstracts due by 1 March 2007. http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=Emerging_Plays_in_Australasia

May 7 - 10, 2007: World of Coal Ash, combining the previous international symposia of the ACAA and Kentucky CAER. It will focus on the science, applications and sustainability of coal ash worldwide. See p. 14 and <http://www.worldofcoalah.org/>

July 15 - 20, 2007: Carbon 2007, an International Conference on Carbon. Seattle, Washington, USA. <http://www.carbon2007.org/>

August 19 - 25, 2007: ICCP / TSOP / CSCOP Annual Meeting, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Technical oral and poster sessions, ICCP commission meetings, field trip. See p. 7 - 9.

August 19 - 23, 2007: American Chemical Society national meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Abstract submission begins March, 2007.

September 8 - 12, 2007: American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Meeting, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama. <http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html>

Sept. 9 - 14, 2007: 23rd International Organic Geochemistry Meeting (IMOG07), Riviera Conference Centre, Torquay, Devon, England. Deadline for 2-page abstracts is 12 January 2007. <http://www.imog2007.org/index.htm> and <http://www.eaog.org/meetings/meetings.html>

September 10 - 14, 2007: 24th International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa. One-page abstracts are due March 1, 2007. <http://www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc/2007%20Conference.htm>

October 28 - 31, 2007: Geological Society of America Annual Meeting: Earth Sciences for Society — Beginning of the International Year of Planet Earth. Denver, Colorado, USA. Proposals for Sessions due January 9, 2007. <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2007/>

2008

April 6-10, 2008: American Chemical Society national meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

April 20 - 23, 2008: AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition, San Antonio, Texas, USA

August 17-21, 2008: American Chemical Society national meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

September 22 - 28, 2008: ICCP / TSOP Annual Meeting, Oviedo, Spain.

October 5 - 8, 2008: Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas. <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/>

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Photo Gallery

Beijing meeting field trips



Professor Shao Longyi and others on the pre-meeting field trip. *C. Ward photo.*



Buddha figure at the World Heritage Yungang grottoes, near Datong. *C. Ward photo.*



Pingshuo coal preparation plant. *C Ward photo.*



Antaibao open-cut coal mine. *C. Ward photo, D. Glick digital editing*