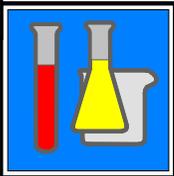




**THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY**



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 29, No. 3

September, 2012

ISSN 0743-3816

## 29<sup>th</sup> TSOP ANNUAL MEETING & 64<sup>th</sup> ICCP Meeting September 15 – 24, 2012 Beijing, China



State Key Laboratory of Coal Resources & Safe Mining, Jinsuo Lignite Coal, Stone Forest, Yunnan Province. Photos from meeting website:

[www.iccp-tso2012.org](http://www.iccp-tso2012.org)



## 30<sup>th</sup> TSOP ANNUAL MEETING & 65<sup>th</sup> ICCP Meeting August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Sosnowiec, Poland

**Stay tuned for more details!**

**TSOP 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
& 64<sup>th</sup> ICCP Meeting**  
September 15-24, 2012  
Beijing, China

[www.iccp-tsop2012.org](http://www.iccp-tsop2012.org)

Abstract were due by July 15, 2012 via email at [tsopiccp2012@gmail.com](mailto:tsopiccp2012@gmail.com) or [daishifeng@gmail.com](mailto:daishifeng@gmail.com)

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**Organizing Committee:**

**Chairs:** Profs. Jianyong Qiao & Suping Peng

**Executive Chairs:** Profs. Shifeng Dai & Kuili Jin

**Co-Chairs:** Yaodong Jiang, Yucheng Chai,  
Jinxing Dai, Tieguang Wang,  
Zhijun Jin, Yupeng Yao,  
Yu Liu, Yuzhuang Sun,  
Mingquan Zhang, Dahua Li,  
Yuegang Tang, Hongmei Wang,  
Daiyong Cao, Jian Li.

**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 and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, a quarterly Newsletter, 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. Members are eligible for discounted subscriptions to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org). Contact Paul Hackley [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto: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](http://www.geotimes.org/current)

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

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**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. Photos, graphs and other illustrations are welcomed. Low-resolution images are discouraged, as they cannot be reproduced well in print. Articles are preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

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**Address Changes**

Please report any changes in address or contact information to: Paul Hackley, TSOP Membership Chair,  
[phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)

Members can update their own information by logging into the secure TSOP website:  
[www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/](http://www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/)

The TSOP Newsletter 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:

[www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org)

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is:

The Society for Organic Petrology,  
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4220 King St., Alexandria,  
VA 22302-1520 USA

**CONTENTS**

President's Letter..... 4  
Correction..... 4  
Chevron Industrial Sustainer Donation..... 5  
Spackman Award Announcement ..... 5  
Ralph Gray Award 2012 ..... 6  
Dal Swaine Award 2012 ..... 6  
Employment Opportunity ..... 6  
Calendar of Events..... 7  
Logo Flashback! ..... 8



**Newsletter Submission Deadlines**

December Issue: December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
March Issue: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
June Issue: June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
September Issue: September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## President's Letter

Dear TSOP members,

From September 15-24 we will hold the second TSOP meeting in China and if the first one was a success, I am sure that this one will also be spectacular. With dedication and effort the local organizing committee of Shifeng Dai and his team are doing a very good and thorough job in planning for a most stimulating meeting.

As usual, the TSOP meeting will also provide an opportunity to acknowledge the work and efforts of the people who have contributed, in different ways, to the Society and to the science it represents.

These include Colin Ward as the recipient of the 2012 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award which is the highest honor of the TSOP; Rachel Walker and Bill Huggett, nominees for the Distinguished Service Award in appreciation of their dedication and work for the Society over the years; and Rita Susilawati as the recipient of the William Spackman Award (Graduate Student Research Grant).

The 2012 Ralph Gray Award for the best refereed paper in coal and organic petrology published in 2011 is for the work entitled "*Coal facies in a Cenozoic paralic lignite bed, Krabi Basin, southern Thailand: Changing peat-forming conditions related to relative sea-level controlled water table variations*" authored by H. Petersen and B. Ratanasthien and published in the International Journal of Coal Geology (vol. 87, 2011).

And the 2012 Dal Swaine Award for the best referred paper in inorganic or organic geochemistry and/or mineralogy of coal or hydrocarbon source rocks, goes to for the work "*Alkane and PAH biomarkers as tracers of terrigenous organic carbon in Arctic Ocean sediments*" authored by M. B. Yunker, R. W. Macdonald, L. R. Snowdon and B. R. Fowler and published in the Organic Geochemistry (vol.42, 2011)

My sincere congratulations to all the awardees and my thanks also to the members and chairs of the respective committees for their work and dedication.

This year we also held elections and Bill Huggett, our Ballot Committee Chair, has informed us that Magdalena Misz-Kennan, from Poland, has been elected as our new TSOP Councilor for the 2012-2014 term in substitution of Shifeng Dai. Welcome Magda and many thanks, Shifeng, for your work in that position.

According to Bill, the number of votes was just about normal: 74 total votes were received (~31%). Looking back over the past 8 years, the average turnout has been 72 votes, almost one third of the TSOP members. I would like to encourage people to participate by voting in the TSOP election processes, because is the best way to actively contribute to the management of our Society.

A few days ago we also were informed that due to Joe Curiale's significant efforts, Chevron has made a substantial donation in support of the goals and activities of TSOP. My sincere thanks to both Chevron and to Joe Curiale.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at the 2012 ICCP/ TSOP Meeting there. I firmly believe that all of us will find this meeting rewarding from the scientific, professional and social viewpoints.

Best regards,  
Isabel Suárez-Ruiz  
TSOP President

\*\*\*\*\*

## Correction

I would like to make a correction to the list of Spackman Award Applicants listed in the June Newsletter. Adebanji Kayode Adegoke, a PhD student at the University of Malaya, was accidentally omitted from the list published in June. His research subject is 'Source rock evaluation and petroleum system modeling of Chad (Borno) Basin, northeastern Nigeria'. Apologies to Mr Adegoke for the omission.

### Chevron Industrial Sustainer Donation

We are pleased to inform you that Chevron has made a generous donation of one thousand dollars in support of TSOP and its goal to foster leading edge research in organic petrology and related sciences. We sincerely thank Chevron for providing this assistance so that our Society can continue to meet its goals with programs like the Spackman Award for student research grants.

Special thanks to our member Joe Curiale for his significant efforts in obtaining this gift and for his general ongoing support and involvement in TSOP. Also, many thanks to Peter Warwick for acting as 'Assistant Treasurer' so that this transaction could be accomplished without the headaches of the payment crossing the US-Canada border. We are indebted to Sharon Swanson for her determined effort in gaining TSOP the status to provide US tax receipts to our donors.

The Chevron donation gives us a perfect opportunity to remind all of our members to look for opportunities to promote TSOP as a scientific Society worthy of their support. We encourage all of you to approach the leadership of your institutions with requests for financial and in-kind support for TSOP.

Mike Avery, Treasurer



\*\*\*\*\*

### TSOP Research Committee

#### Spackman Award, 2012

A total of eight applications were received for the Spackman Awards in 2012. All the applications were of high quality, the Committee had a difficult task in reaching a decision.

After assessment of the applications by an independent panel of senior TSOP members, an award of \$1,000 has been given to the following student:

**Ms Rita Susilawati**, PhD student at the University of Queensland, Australia

**Project:** Controls on microbial methane generation in selected low-rank Indonesian coals.

#### Summary of Project:

This study will investigate the characteristics of selected Indonesian low rank coals and their relationship to the occurrence of natural gas, in particular the propensity for biogenic gas generation. A review of recent enrichment studies on coal has shown that no works to date have investigated the effect of different types of coal as a substrate for this process. The study will examine the characteristics of natural gas and investigate the possibility of culturing indigenous methanogenic archaea in the laboratory using Indonesian coals of different type and rank, and also other media, as a substrate. This will test the hypothesis that coal type has a profound influence on microbial gas generation. If valid, a conceptual model for the identification of microbial methane prone coals can then be developed using coal type and rank as a predictor. The results will improve the current understanding of coal seam gas genesis in low rank coals, assist in developing conceptual exploration targets for biogenic methane, and explore the suitability of Indonesian coals for future natural gas regeneration.

The preliminary results of the study show that Indonesian CBM resources are at least in part of biogenic origin, and have confirmed the presence of viable coal-to-methane consortia in Indonesia coal formation water. Isotope and inoculation data indicate active hydrogenotrophic (CO<sub>2</sub> reduction) and acetoclastic (acetate) pathways in the production of biogenic methane from Indonesian coal. On-going studies are testing and comparing different rank and type suites of Indonesian coals and investigating the bioavailability of their constituents.

Thanks are expressed to all the applicants for the Award, and to the members of the assessment panel.

Colin R. Ward  
Chair, TSOP Research Committee  
August 27, 2012

\*\*\*\*\*

### Gray Best Paper Award 2012

The Ralph Gray Award is for the best paper published in coal or dispersed organics in the past year. The committee selecting the best published paper for 2011 is Jim Hower (chair), Shifeng Dai, Ozgen Karacan, and Ralf Littke. In accordance with the operating procedures, the chair will step down at the end of this cycle. Dai and Karacan have equal seniority on the committee, so they will decide on the 2013 and 2014 chairs.

The Gray and Swaine chairs collaborated in the selection of the abstracts and their committee destinations. For the Gray committee, we decided that a few series of papers by, more or less, the same set of co-authors should be considered as a package. For this reason, the committee read eight papers: three stand-alone papers and two suites of two and three papers, respectively. We will leave it to future committees and councils to resolve and codify this procedure.

"Coal facies in a Cenozoic paralic lignite bed, Krabi Basin, southern Thailand: Changing peat-forming conditions related to relative sea-level controlled watertable variations" by H.I. Petersen and B. Ratanasthien published in International Journal of Coal Geology (volume 87, pages 2-12) was awarded the 2012 Ralph Gray Best Paper Award.

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### Dal Swaine Award 2012

The Dal Swaine Award is awarded yearly to the best refereed paper in inorganic or organic geochemistry and/or mineralogy of coal that was published in the previous calendar year. The Dal Swaine Best Paper Committee has completed its evaluation of eligible 2011 papers, and wishes to

announce the following paper as the Dal Swaine Best Paper 2012:

"Alkane and PAH biomarkers as tracers of terrigenous organic carbon in Arctic Ocean sediments" by Mark B Yunker, Robie W Macdonald, Lloyd R Snowdon, Brian R Fowler. Published in Organic Geochemistry, volume 42, pages 1109-1146.

The Yunker et al. paper was chosen after two rounds of deliberation starting with over 100 abstracts satisfying the Swaine Award criteria. I would like to commend and thank Jingle, Maria and Thomas for their efforts on the Swaine Committee in 2012.

And finally, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to Chair this Committee this year.

Joe Curiale (chair through end-2012)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Employment Opportunity

Core Laboratories is looking for a geologist or geochemist to run its new Rock-Eval 6 pyrolysis instrument. The ideal candidate should have a MS degree in Geology plus a few years of experience in using the instrument in oil and gas applications studies and interpreting the data. Other requirements include troubleshooting, preparing technical reports, and giving presentations to and liaising with external clients. The position is based in Houston and the suitable candidate could start immediately. Appropriate training will be provided.

Please send a detailed CV outlining education and experience to:

Thomas Gentzis, PhD  
Senior Staff Geologist/Organic Petrologist  
Core Laboratories  
Houston Advanced Technology Center  
6316 Windfern Road  
Houston, TX 77040  
USA

Tel: [713-328-2556](tel:713-328-2556)  
Email: [thomas.gentzis@corelanb.com](mailto:thomas.gentzis@corelanb.com)  
[www.corelab.com](http://www.corelab.com)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Check [www.tsop.org/cal.htm](http://www.tsop.org/cal.htm) for more info!

### 2012

#### September:

**15-24<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** ICCP and TSOP meetings, Beijing, China. [www.iccp-tsop2012.org/](http://www.iccp-tsop2012.org/) ICCP meeting 15-19<sup>th</sup> Sept. (registration starts 14<sup>th</sup> Sept); Yunnan field trip 20-22<sup>nd</sup> Sept; TSOP meeting 23-24<sup>th</sup> Sept. These three segments have separate registration fees so that participants may choose to go to one or both meetings and the field trip to suit their own professional and scientific requirements. TSOP registration fees are discounted before 15 July, 2012. Abstract deadline: 15 July 2012.

#### October:

**15-18<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. [www.engineering.pitt.edu/pcc/](http://www.engineering.pitt.edu/pcc/) Focus on environmental emissions issues and technologies surrounding the continued use of coal.

#### November:

**4-7<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA: Geosciences: Investing in the Future. [www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/)



### 2013

#### April:

**22-25<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** World of Coal Ash, Lexington, Kentucky, USA. [www.worldofcoalash.org](http://www.worldofcoalash.org) Organized by the American Coal Ash Association and University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research. Conference topics include: regulatory initiatives, new and emerging technologies, case studies, applications and more. Deadline for the Call for Papers is **1 November, 2012**.

#### May:

**19-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013:** AAPG 2013 Annual Convention & Exhibition, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA. [www.aapg.org](http://www.aapg.org)

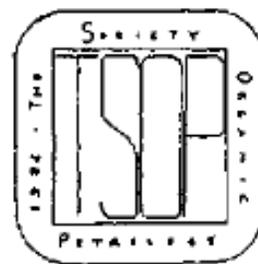
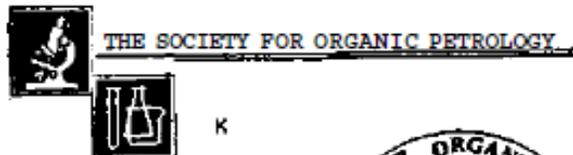
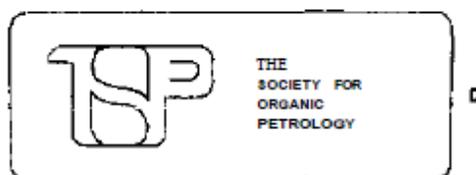
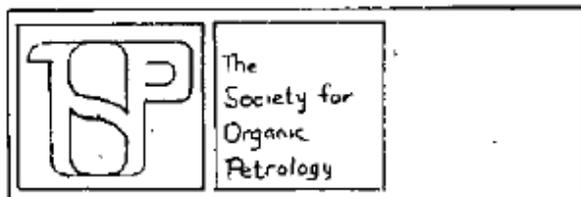
#### August:

**August 31<sup>st</sup> - September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** **TSOP meeting, Sosnowiec, Poland**, will be hosted by the Faculty of Earth Sciences at the University of Silesia. After the ICCP meeting, there will be field trips on August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> for both TSOP and ICCP attendees, followed by three days of TSOP technical sessions on September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned to [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org) for more details.





A  
**NEWSLETTER**



**Logo Flashback! How many TSOP Members remember the original logo contest, run October 1985? Quite the range of designs (spot the winner!). Apologies for image quality, these are screenshots scans of the original newsletter.**