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# MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY *eBulletin*



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~ PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER ~

Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

Congratulations to Charlie Williams, the latest member to be inducted into Honorary Membership of the Mississippi Geological Society. I should have pointed out at the presentation that Charlie, who is the longtime chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee, did not nominate himself. The nomination came from a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors without his knowledge. His induction is well deserved and long overdue.

Also congratulations to the Boland Scholarship recipients who are listed on page 6 and photographed with their professors. All of this years winners are planning careers in the energy industry as geophysicists.

Other well deserved awards were given to Jo Everett, Lindsey Stewart, Steve Walkinshaw, and Karl Kaufmann for longstanding exemplary service to the society.

Our speaker for the April meeting will be our own very brave Ken Ruckstuhl. Ken will speak on the controversial subject of Global Warming. We've asked the club not to serve tomatoes for this meeting.

'till next month, bs

The latest telephone poll taken by the office of the Governor of Mississippi asked whether people who live in Mississippi think illegal immigration is a serious problem.

A) 55% of respondents answered: "Yes, it is a serious problem."

B) 45% of respondents answered: "No es una problema serio."

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## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club
January 11, 2007	Nick Tew, Ala Geol Survey	River Hills
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas Shale Reservoirs	River Hills
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship , Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills
April 12, 2007	Ken Ruckstuh – The Global Warming Controversy	River Hills
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club

### How Low Can You Go?

**This year's contest on low resistivity production from the Eutaw and Cotton Valley Formations is finally over. This hotly contested and sometimes brutal battle had to be decided by a team of consultants from Ryder Scott, Netherland Sewell, Cawley Gellespie, and S. A. Holdich.**

**The winner of the Cotton Valley contest is Harry Spooner with the Spooner #1 Soterra in section 12, 1N-11E, Waldrup Field in Jasper County, Mississippi.**

**The winner of the Eutaw contest is Steve Walkinshaw with the Carter #3 Rex Alman in Section 4, 10N-3W, Gilbertown Field, Choctaw County, Alabama.**

**Prizes will be awarded at the Spring Fling and the examples will be posted to the website.**

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007



## The Global Warming Controversy

The hype and fear associated with the global warming issue has become a driving force behind many aspects of our daily life and work. Government officials at all levels are making decisions that affect business, environmental controls, international treaties, taxes, political campaigns, and social policies based on "global warming". The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has just released the 2007 update of its "Physical Science Basis Summary for Policy Makers"

Amid the hype, news agencies are using the issue to create headlines designed to cause alarm (and boost ratings). Yet, is the science sound? Is there consensus that human activities are causing global climate change? Is there an underlying agenda? What if the doom-sayers are right? What if they are wrong?

These are all questions that we as geoscientists are likely asking ourselves. Yet, anyone who tries to figure out the answers may quickly become overwhelmed with the flood of information available on the internet or elsewhere in print. Because of all the hype and distortion, it is difficult to get down to a simple evaluation of the scientific facts.

This presentation attempts to provide a reasoned and balanced evaluation of the issue from a geologist's perspective. The presenter believes that geologists are uniquely qualified to understand and lead the debate on the global climate change issue, and it is our duty as earth science professionals to be involved in advancing the public understanding of the issue.

Ken Ruckstuhl is a graduate of LSU and is a registered professional geologist. He works in the Jackson office of Environmental Management Services, Inc. He has worked in the environmental consulting field for 25 years. He serves on the Advisory Committee to the Board

### 2007 CARBONATE FIELD TRIP

#### SOUTHERN BAHAMAS

In late May (17-22) 2007, Lawrence R. Baria, with the assistance of Drs. Rick Major and Ezat Heydari, will be leading another carbonate field trip to the Out Islands of the southern Bahamas. Participants will examine fringing reefs, patch reefs, oolite shoals, tidal flats, eolian dunes, beaches, supratidal, intertidal and subtidal stromatolites and many other styles of recent depositional environments and carbonate facies.

Certainly on a trip of this nature, spouses will also be invited to go along. While the participants are out swimming, wading and hiking each day, the spouses can enjoy beautiful pink sand beaches, island tours and laid back Out Island hospitality.

The anticipated cost of this six day trip including round trip airfare from Jackson to Great Exuma, Bahamas, hotel, meals, 3 days of boat rentals and land transportation will be \$2,000.00 per participant, based on double occupancy.

A detailed daily schedule of the proposed field trip can be obtained by calling Larry Baria at (601) 932-0002. Participation will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up as early as possible.

A deposit of \$800.00 will be due on April 17, 2007, to guarantee air charters and rooms.



## '06 - '07 Boland Scholarship Awards

From left to right:

Gail Russell -USM,

Greg Easson -UM,

Lance Wilson -USM,

Jon Sumrall -MS St,

Darrell Schmitz -MS St,

Daniel Rice -Millsaps,

Stan Galicki -Millsaps,

Jamie Harris -Millsaps,

Shannon Wilson - UM (not shown)

## 2006-2007 BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Mississippi Geological Society awarded its annual L. F. Boland Scholarship to four students at the March 8th meeting. This group makes a total of 108 students to be honored by the Society for outstanding achievements in the geosciences since the awards began in 1980. Each student was awarded \$1,000 plus an elaborate framed certificate denoting their achievement.

**Shannon Wilson, University of Mississippi.** Shannon is from Fairfax Station, Virginia and is a junior at Ole Miss with a 3.6 GPA. After graduating next year with a B.S. major in geological engineering and a minor in mathematics, she plans to seek a M.S. degree preparatory for a career in the petroleum industry. Shannon is the current captain of the varsity rifle team at Ole Miss and she has earned several honors in collegiate and Olympic matches, both in competitions at home and abroad.

**Daniel Rice, Millsaps College.** Daniel is from Kimberly, Alabama and is a senior majoring in geology/geophysics with a physics minor at Millsaps. He maintains a 3.73 GPA in his major coursework. Daniel has been accepted into the Master's program at the University of Kansas where he intends to concentrate on geophysical studies for a career in the petroleum industry. He is a three-year letterman on Millsaps' golf team and is this year's captain.

**Lance Wilson, University of Southern Mississippi.** Lance is from Meridian, Mississippi and a Senior at USM with a 3.9 GPA in his major coursework. He will graduate with a B.S. degree in geology from USM and then enter graduate school for his M.S. degree. After that, he plans to seek a career in the petroleum industry, possibly as a geophysicist. Lance has a taste for the oil business already having worked a year on an offshore drilling rig.

**Jon Sumrall, Mississippi State University.** Jon is from Biloxi, Mississippi and a senior at Mississippi State with a 4.0 GPA in his major coursework. He will graduate this summer with a B.S. in geology after which he plans to enter graduate school for his M.S. degree. He is also looking toward a career in the petroleum industry, possibly as a geophysicist since that is his favorite area of study.

Honorary Membership Presentation  
By Dudley J. Hughes

Charles H. Williams, Jr.

I'm going to start by telling how I first met Charlie -

In the summer of 1953, I came to Jackson working as a geologist for Union Producing Company. Our office was in the old Deposit Guaranty Bank Building downtown. All of the big oil companies had offices in Mississippi with lots of employees. Union Producing had seven geologists. At that time, there were 200 geologists in the Mississippi Geological Society.

There was a pretty young girl working in the geological department of Union Producing Company by the name of Vivian Shortridge. The geologists teased her a lot...especially about her boyfriend who was majoring in geology at Millsaps College. We warned her to watch out for him - you can't trust those boys from Millsaps.

She brought him to the office one day, and we met Charlie. He turned out to be a nice guy after all. He received his BS degree in geology at Millsaps in 1955, and he and Vivian were married the same year.

They moved to Texas where he entered the graduate school at Texas University, but he was called into military service a year later in 1956. He served two years on active duty - mostly in Germany with the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry.

After being released from active duty in 1958, Charlie was hired as a geologist by Monsanto, in their Lion Oil Division and was stationed in Albuquerque, NM. His first job was surface mapping in northern Arizona in the Black Mesa Basin. This included the Navajo and Hope Indian Reservations.

His work led the company to participate in one of the earliest oil discoveries in Arizona. He was the first geologist to delineate a new productive Gallop Sand trend in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico.

In 1959, Monsanto transferred him to Midland, Texas, for a four-year period working in the Permian Basin.

While there, Charlie mapped a prospect which led his company to drill an Abo Reef oil discovery. He received a letter of thanks from the company President for his geology work which led to the discovery.

Monsanto next transferred him to Oklahoma City in 1963 where he worked in the Anadarko Basin where he had discoveries in the Red Fork Formation.

Despite his eight year success as an oil finder with Monsanto, Charlie and Vivian were homesick for Mississippi. When he received an offer in 1966 to become a Staff Geologist with the Mississippi Geological Survey, he resigned from Monsanto and moved back to Mississippi.

With the Mississippi Geological Survey, his geology included mapping mineral resources in the state along with oil. Also, Charlie became the author of several geological publications including:

- o Subsurface Structure of Claiborne County, Mississippi, and
- o Geology and Mineral Resources of George County, Mississippi.

But his most popular publication was a N-S Cross-Section of Mississippi showing the subsurface layers of the Black Warrior Basin and the Mississippi Salt Basic as how they related to oil and gas.



Charlie and Marvin Oxley privately published an executive color-coded map setting out the producing reservoirs in all the Wilcox Fields in Mississippi which was very popular.

After three years with the Mississippi Geological Survey, he resigned in 1969 to become Exploration Manager for Champex exploring for Wilcox oil in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Charlie's greatest contribution to Mississippi petroleum industry began just one year later. He left Champex to become President of Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association, Mississippi-Alabama Division (this is now the US Oil & Gas Association).

His responsibility was mainly representing the industry's positions in the legislative sessions of Alabama, Mississippi and in Washington, D.C.

During his watch, the industry fared very well legislatively in both states and many bills sponsored by the industry were enacted. These included a workable Fieldwide Unitization Statute and a Force Pooling statute.

His biggest challenge came in 1981. Newly elected Governor William Winter announced his intention to fund his campaign promises for education solely with an increase in severance taxes on oil and gas. The 1982 legislative special session was called for the specific purpose to enact the tax increase.

Governor Winter proposed a 50% increase in oil and gas severance tax.

Charlie organized all segments of the industry including -- major oil companies, independents, oil service companies, refineries, marketers, geologists, geophysicists, engineers, land men, attorneys, accountants, land and royalty owners to oppose the legislation.

The oil industry was pitted against a very popular governor who was supported by the media. The Governor aroused the public with the slogan, "Oil against education in Mississippi." Many hearings were held - even I had to testify once.

The conflict drew nationwide attention and resulted with Charlie appearing on national television on 20-20 to defend the oil and gas producer's position.

The funding brawl plagued the legislature for two years before the severance tax issue was finally settled in favor of the oil companies with no increase. From that time in 1982 to present, severance taxes paid by the industry in Mississippi has amounted to \$1 billion, 100 million dollars. With the Governor's proposed increase, this would have taken an additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  billion dollars out of the pockets of oil and gas producers resulting in less wells being drilled for the benefit of the state. Incidentally, Billy Mounger in his book - Amidst the Fray - wrote a poem named "Williams the Conqueror" which tells of this episode written as if Charlie and Governor Winter were two knights charging each other with lances. The final verse reads:

Now hear you thus that we all concur,  
That Sir William-of-Winter is an awful cur,  
However, our champion, we do prefer,  
Sir Charles-of-Williams the Conqueror!

In December 1986, after 16 years of service, Charlie left the Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association to join Vaughey & Vaughey as General Manager where he serves today. Vaughey & Vaughey included legendary oil men Emmett and Bill Vaughey and Blackie Blackburn in Denver, all of whom have passed on.

Vaughey & Vaughey has production in nine states and Canada, which is managed by Charlie for the families. He also established several successful partnerships to explore for oil and gas and to purchase producing properties.

Charlie remains active in petroleum organizations. He was President of the Capital City Club in 1979 and Chairman of the U.S. Oil & Gas Association for Mississippi and Alabama from 1997-1998. He serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the U.S. Oil & Gas Association in Washington, D.C. and for the Mississippi-Alabama Division.

A 40-year member of the Mississippi Geological Society, Charlie served as President from 1983-1984. He was the editor of the Mississippi Geological Survey's publication on the Wilcox Fields of Southwest Mississippi. He served as Convention Chairman for the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies in 1975.

Charlie has been a 50-year member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and now has Emeritus member status. In 1967 and 1968, Charlie chaired the Geology and Engineering Section of the Mississippi Academy of Science. With the Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, he was the Mississippi Representative in 1981, and he currently serves as the Mississippi Associate Representative and is a member of the Energy Resources Committee.

Charlie has served on various civic boards including the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army. He served on the Board of the 100 Club of Jackson and is a charter member and Vice President of the 100 Club of Madison-Ridgeland.

His wife, Vivian has also been busy these 51 years as the mother of four children.

I could probably go on and on, but it is my pleasure to introduce the latest Honorary Member of the Mississippi Geological Society, Charles H. Williams, Jr.

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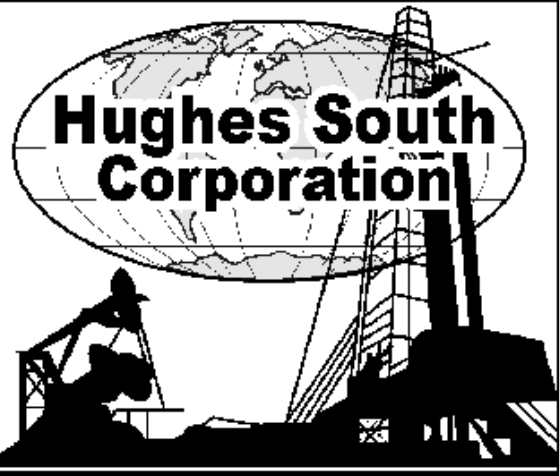
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\*\* honorary members  
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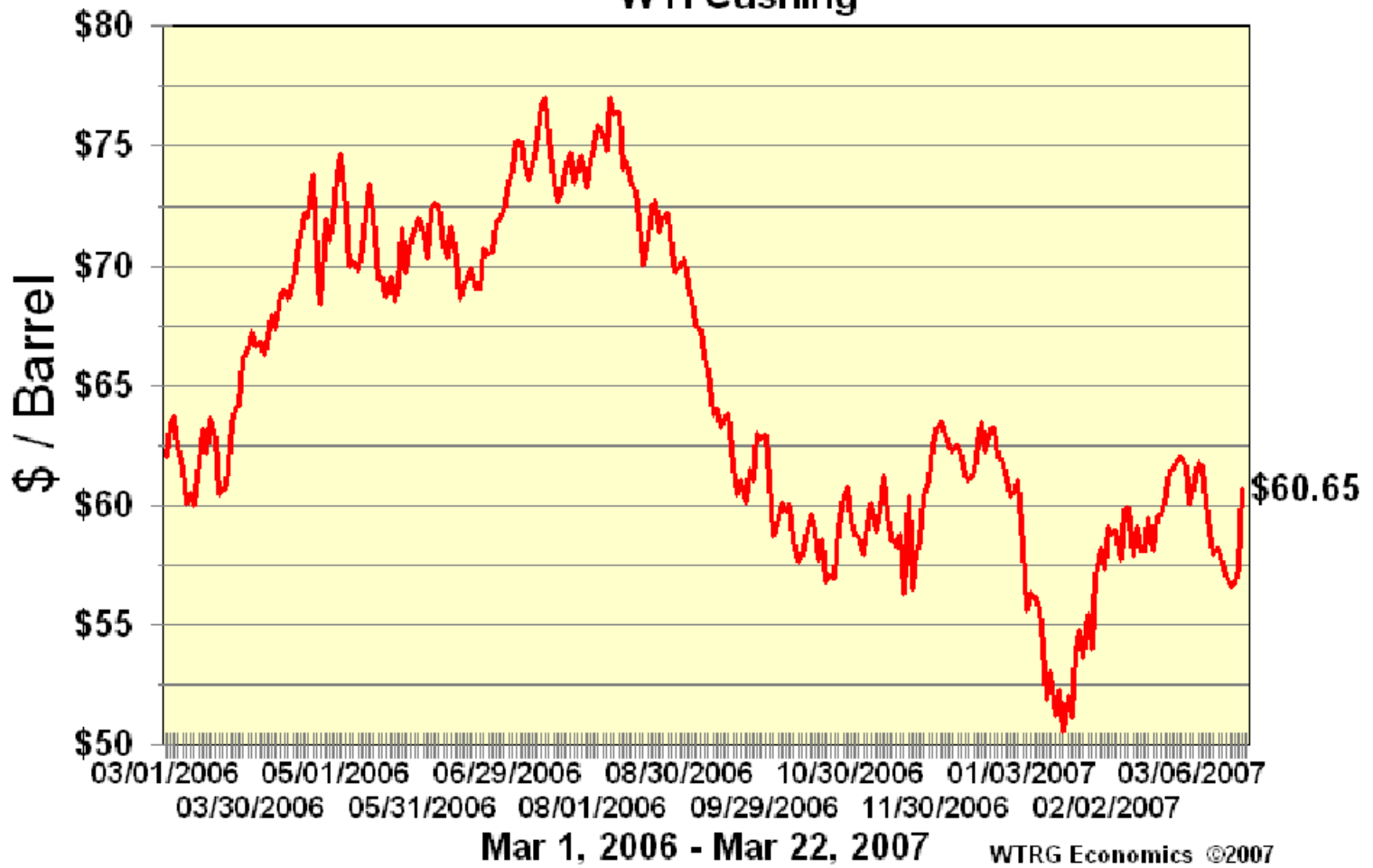
**A young ventriloquist was touring the clubs and stops to entertain at a bar in a small town. He was going through his usual run of stupid blonde jokes, when a big blonde woman in the fourth row stood up on her chair and said:**

**"I've heard just about enough of your denigrating blonde jokes, Jerk! What makes you think you can stereotype women that way? What does a person's physical attributes have to do with their worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in my community, of reaching my full potential as a person ... because you and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes but women at large ... all in the name of humor."**

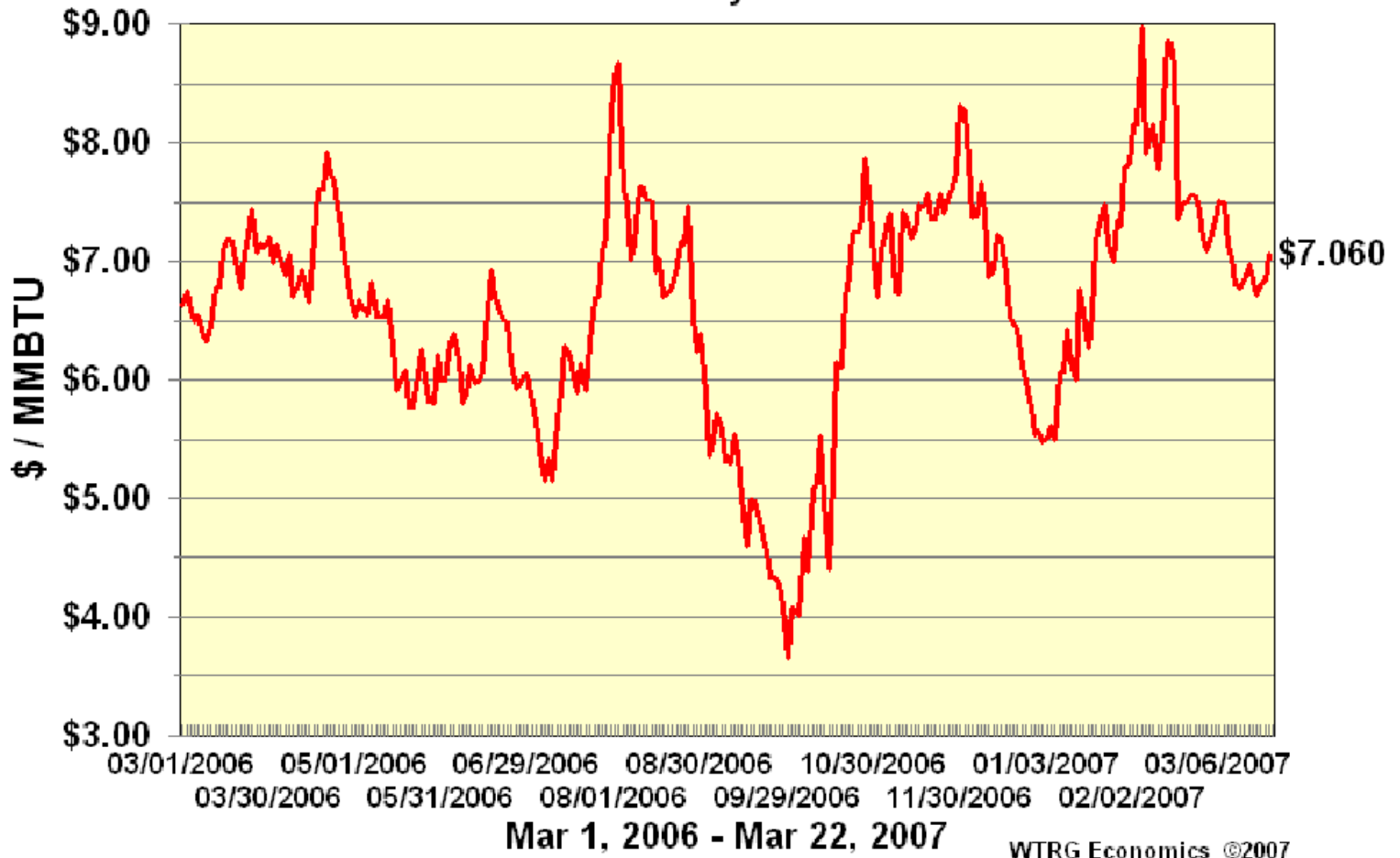
**Flustered, the ventriloquist tried to apologize, when the blonde piped up, and screamed at him,**

**"You stay out of this, Mister. I'm talking to that little creep on your knee"!**

### Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



### Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



**north American Rotary Rig Counts** The U.S. rotary rig count was up 5 rigs to 1,745 for the week of March 23, 2007 and is 11.1 percent higher than last year. The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is down 1 at 281. The number of rigs targeting oil is 26 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.1% percent of total drilling activity. Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 6 at 1,459. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 145 greater than last year's level of 1,314. Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 10.2 percent. Gas exploration is up 11.0 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 8.0 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are 4.4 percent lower. Daily crude oil and natural gas futures and spot prices are available on our site. Canadian rig activity\* was down 163 at 246 for the week of March 23, 2007 and is 393 lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

\*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

				Change		Percent Change	
	03/23/07	03/16/07	03/24/06	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,745	1,740	1,571	5	174	0.3%	11.1%
Offshore	74	76	87	(2)	(13)	-2.6%	-14.9%
Land	1,671	1,664	1,484	7	187	0.4%	12.6%
Inland Waters	27	26	21	1	6	3.8%	28.6%
Oil	281	282	255	(1)	26	-0.4%	10.2%
Percent	16.1%	16.2%	16.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%		
Gas	1,459	1,453	1,314	6	145	0.4%	11.0%
Percent	83.6%	83.5%	83.6%	0.1%	-0.0%		
Directional	394	384	363	10	31	2.6%	8.5%
Horizontal	341	336	250	5	91	1.5%	36.4%
Gulf of Mexico	73	74	82	-1	-9	-1.4%	-11.0%
Gulf Oil	0	0	5	0	-5	n.a.	-100.0%
Percent	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	-6.1%		
Gulf Gas	73	74	77	-1	-4	-1.4%	-5.2%
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	93.9%	0.0%	6.1%		
Canada	246	409	639	(163)	(393)	-39.9%	-61.5%
North America	1,991	2,149	2,210	(158)	(219)	-7.4%	-9.9%



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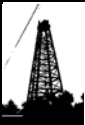
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**MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**P.O. BOX 422, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0422**

**2006-2007**

Membership year is June through May

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Professional Associations, Certifications, & Licenses: \_\_\_\_\_

# MGS ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

September 2006 – May 2007

## I. Bulletin Advertisements:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Full Page Ad (6" x 8")	\$500	\$ _____
1/2 Page Ad (6" x 4")	\$300	\$ _____
1/4 Page Ad (3" x 4")	\$200	\$ _____
Business Card Ad (1 1/2" x 3")	\$100	\$ _____
Professional Listing (1/2" x 3")	\$ 50	\$ _____

## II. Web Page Advertisements (www.missgeo.com):

<u>Type of Web Page Ad</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Front Page Sponsor (Banner Ad – limit of 5)	\$500	\$ _____
Second Page Banner Ad	\$250	\$ _____
Professional Listing/Link	\$100	\$ _____

(Note: Please contact Steve Walkinshaw at (601) 607-3227 or mail@visionexploration.com for details concerning placing your ad on the MGS web site.)

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Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact Lindsey Stewart at (601) 961-5264 or lindsey\_stewart@deq.state.ms.us.



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