Bureau Organizes First Annual Industry Day

On April 29, 2008, more than 45 representatives from 30 oil and gas companies attended the Bureau of Economic Geology’s first Industry Day. The event was designed as an informal way for companies to become familiar with petroleum energy research being conducted at the Bureau. Some of the visitors were old friends and supporters, but a substantial number of the guests were less familiar with the Bureau and got a chance to learn about its mission and research in an open-house setting. Posters and talks covered a variety of topics:

- 3D-Seismic and Outcrop Research in Clastic Continental Margins presented (Lesli Wood, Dallas Dunlap, and graduate students Nysha Chaderton, Vishal Maharaj, Tricia Alvarez, Tiffany Hedayati, and Daniel Pinkston).
- Structural/Stratigraphic Architecture and Reservoir Quality in Deep Shelf Gas Play, Western Gulf of Mexico presented (Shirley Dutton).
- High-resolution Seismic Imaging of Stratigraphy and Facies presented (Honglui Zeng).
- Sandstone Trends and Depositional Systems of the Lower Atoka Group (Bend Conglomerate), Fort Worth Basin presented (Tucker Hentz).
- Natural Fractures in Tight-gas Sandstone (Peter Eichhubl).
- Mudstone Lithology and Permeability: Inputs for Basin Modeling (graduate students Derek Sawyer and Julia Schneider).
- Deepwater Gulf of Mexico Slope Stability (graduate student Hilary Strong).
- Scanning Electronic Microscope Demonstration (Dr. John Hooker).

The Bureau hosted its second annual Industry Day on April 15, 2009.

TXESS Revolution Graduates First Cohort

On Feb. 20, 2009, the first cohort of 50 schoolteachers participating in the Texas Earth and Space Science Revolution (TXESS Revolution) program celebrated their accomplishments by presenting posters at the Institute for Geophysics. The TXESS Revolution is a five-year program to train minority-serving Texas teachers who will teach 12th grade Earth and Space Science. (See the 2008 Newsletter for a feature article on the program.)

Six teachers from the first cohort have earned three or more graduate credits in geoscience through an arrangement with the UT Division of Continuing and Innovative Education. Three have received AS-1 seismometers as part of the IRIS Seismograph in Schools Program. One has been selected to represent the United States at the Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshop at the upcoming European Geosciences Union meeting in Vienna, Austria. And one will participate in an IODP expedition to the Canterbury Basin offshore New Zealand later this year.

The second cohort of 55 teachers completed the program later in 2009 and a third cohort started this fall.

Over the summer of 2009 a subset of TXESS Revolution teachers attended a summer institute on petroleum science and technology taught by faculty from the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering. The institute included a one-day visit to Houston for a close-up look at the energy industry. Funding for the TXESS Revolution comes from the National Science Foundation, Shell, and the Jackson School.

Fort Valley Partnership Reaches New Milestone

Fort Valley State University (FVSU) and the Jackson School continued their partnership into its sixth year. The partnership reached a milestone in 2009 when Stanley Stackhouse (M.S., ’09), a member of the first group of FVSU transfer students, completed his master’s degree at the Jackson School. Four new FVSU undergraduates enrolled at the Jackson School this fall.

In addition to recruiting and admitting FVSU transfer students, the Jackson School hosted FVSU’s 11th grade Math, Science, and