

# Junior GEOPHYSICISTS Forum

It is that time again! Time to let you know all about the last event. On Wednesday May 10, 2006, approximately 200 geophysicists and student geophysicists met in the ball room of Quincy's on 7th Ave for the 3rd Junior Geophysicists Forum (JGF). Once again, it was a great success.

Taking into consideration all of the feed back from the first two JGF events, we did our best to make the third event even better by making a few changes. The most significant change was the venue—we decided to move to the ballroom at Quincy's. The first two JGF events were held at Ceili's and the staff there did a marvelous job. But unfortunately we outgrew the venue and needed a better sound system. The new venue provided more space, allowing people to spread out and mingle more freely. Furthermore, the venue contained more seating allowing people to engage in relaxed conversations. The sound system was also better than at previous events since it seemed everyone could hear the speakers better.

The feedback from the last JGF was clear—we need more food! Thanks to our generous sponsors, you might say we “upgraded or super-sized” the food this time around. We added beef on a bun, a make-it-yourself taco bar, cheese and fruit platters, veggie platters, and some chicken wings. The food was great and it is safe to say, no one left hungry.

To start the evening we asked the juniors and students to come a few minutes earlier than the experienced geophysicists. During this time period, we had a quest speaker talk for a few minutes. Ron Larson of Apache Canada Ltd. was kind enough to come out and talk briefly about his experience with his first industry job and the value of networking. Ron explained that he has had many 'first' jobs over his career, including his first job as an interpreter at an E&P company. Others included his first job marketing, his first job at a processing company (but not as a processor), and his first job as an interpreter in a consulting company. Ron stated that the moral of his story was “your resume does very little for you, but your network does A LOT, and that means the best part of a career and the part that aids in any transition, is the people you meet (especially the ones you don't irritate!). Also, patience is a virtue. And, the network is not uni-directional”. Ron also advised the group that “if they found a good mentor, stick to them like glue.” He used John Boyd of Boyd Petrosearch as an example. Ron interviewed with John Boyd in the mid eighties when jobs for geophysicists were few and far between. John advised Ron to “hang in there, we need young guys like you.” Ten years later, John hired Ron to work at Boyd Petrosearch. Leaving on a humorous note, Ron's final comment was “...as a more senior person I'm reminding the more junior people that I'll be calling them in a few years when my kids are all out of the house and I really want that three-day-a-week consulting gig.” The JGF committee would like to thank Ron Larson for being our guest speaker. You did an awesome job Ron!

After Ron addressed the juniors and students, the experienced geophysicists had arrived. Doug Colvin (Talisman Energy Inc.) of the JGF committee welcomed the geophysicists on behalf of the JGF committee and the sponsors. A lot of time and effort went into planning this event and definitely would not be possible without the sponsorship received. We would really like to thank **Encana Corporation, Burlington Resources, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., Husky Energy Inc., Pennwest Energy Trust, Petro-Canada Oil and Gas, Suncor Energy and Talisman Energy Inc.** for sponsoring the JGF. Many thanks to Oscar Lapid of Quincy's and the great staff that helped ensure that everything went smoothly.

Doug also thanked the Co-Chairs of the JGF, Carmen Swalwell and Mark Noble. Without their vision and efforts there would not have been a JGF. Special thanks also went to the Outreach



Ron Larson, Apache Canada Ltd. – Guest Speaker.



Email: [jgf@cseg.ca](mailto:jgf@cseg.ca)  
Web: [www.cseg.ca](http://www.cseg.ca)



Continued on Page 74

## Junior Geophysicist Forum

Continued from Page 73

Committee of the CSEG and Laurie Ross for helping to facilitate the networking during the event. Thanks to Penny Colton for the pictures. Oh, we also had the best coat check person you could ask for—Don Daub. Thanks for the help Don!

In order to facilitate networking the JGF committee planned an Icebreaker game. Leslie Carlyle-Ebert spearheaded the planning of the Icebreaker game. Leslie was unable to join us for the JGF, but Marzena and Jolene were able to take over. Their efforts paid off! The Icebreaker game was a success and networking was the name of the game. The JGF committee and other volunteers wore leis so the juniors and students could spot them in the crowd if they needed any help meeting people. Keeping with the spirit of the night the object of the icebreaker game was to find out what some of the experienced geophysicist's first jobs were. The real prize for the juniors and students was to make new friends or contacts along with receiving some valuable career advice. If that was not enough of a prize, we decided to give away six – \$50 gas cards to the junior or student who finished the game card and submitted it into a draw.

The six winners were:

1. Pamela Bucher (Shell summer student, U of Manitoba)
2. Aditya Pattanaik (Shell, Geophysicist IT)
3. Kane Shannon (Matrix Geoservices)
4. David Cho (University of Calgary)
5. Zhinhong Cao (CREWES, University of Calgary)
6. Zoron Rodriguez (Talisman summer student, U of Calgary)

We wanted to share some of the feedback we received after the May 10, 2006 JGF. We would like to thank all the people that took the time to send an email to let us know what you thought..

*"Great! Good to see where everyone started in the industry and the paths they took. Lots of possibilities" – Paige Shelling – Queen's University*

*Great job on the JGF last night! Great fun and I was very, very impressed w/ how many seniors' came out and hopefully had a good time as well. I was talking to Marzena about it this morning – she mentioned that for future events there could be questions and prizes for the seniors. In whatever weight my opinion has, I heartily agree with her suggestion. – Paul Hausmanais – Geo-X*



The winners of the gas card draw with Marzena Feuchtwanger, Jolene Goring and Doug Colvin.

*"I commend the CSEG for initiating this JGF; it is one of the few occasions that I have come across in my professional career where people of both sides, i.e. "juniors" as well as the "seniors" make a distinct and sincere effort to inform each other of their aspirations and experiences alike. There are absolutely no barriers due to rank or stature in the industry and that creates this very open minded, level playing field for all of us. Great work!" Andreas Cordsen – GEDCO*

*"This was my first JGF. From all the stories I heard about the previous JGFs I was reluctant to go to this one, hence the late RSVP! Nothing was particularly wrong with the first ones but I didn't know anyone who went to them really well. I guess they just keep getting bigger and bigger as word spreads about them." "I think that it's a great idea to integrate the young/new geophysicist with people who have more experience in a relaxed space. It also seemed like you knew most of the people who had 5 years or more of experience. You felt very comfortable throwing someone into a group of young people just standing around. When you're new, it's hard to get the nerve to approach some of the more experienced geophysicist. It was nice having you there to do the introductions. People have to realize that the majority of students feel shy or awkward approaching people with experience. It was great that you broke that barrier." – Susan Giang – University of Calgary*

*"I was impressed by the networking skills of the students. It was very easy to meet and acquaint myself with several junior geophysicists and geophysical students. I found their youthful enthusiasm contagious and I look forward to next year." – Rob Vestrum – Thrust Belt Imaging*

*"The JGF provided me with introductions to senior geophysicists I had not previously met, and, subsequently, I have engaged freely in conversation with many of them at unrelated geophysical events. This is a great forum for junior geophysicists to meet others in the industry in an informal setting and to provide a bridge to the geophysical generation gap." – Rachel Newrick*

*"I thought the JGF in May was an excellent function – nice venue, lots of room to chat, good food and drink. Ron Larson did a great job as a speaker. I know for sure of a young woman who got a good job as a result of the event (and her abilities of course). I applaud the senior people who attend to help the younger folks get involved in the CSEG community" – Perry Kotkas – CSEG President, 2000*

*"I thought that the Junior Geophysicists Forum was excellent. I had a good time seeing some of the 'Juniors' that I have worked with in past summer student positions as well as colleagues from school. Also, I found it interesting meeting some of the 'Veteran' geophysicists and although I thought the game was quite cheesy, it was a great way to enter conversations with the more established geophysicists. Thanks and I look forward to the next CSEG function." – Rob Willson – Encana*

*"My name is Sarah (Yajun) Zhang from the University of Alberta. I participated in the Junior Geophysicists Forum yesterday. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to you and the committee members to organize this very meaningful forum to help people like me to get to know more people. I used to be very shy and it gets to be very difficult for me to find a job. This forum provides me an excellent opportunity in this aspect to overcome my weakness." – Sarah (Yanjun) Zhang – University of Alberta*

Continued on Page 75

## Junior Geophysicist Forum

Continued from Page 74

The next JGF will be held on **Tuesday November 7, 2006**. We will keep you updated as we get closer to the date and we look forward to seeing you at the next forum! Any questions, comments or feedback, contact us at [jgf@cseg.ca](mailto:jgf@cseg.ca)

For more information look for our previous articles in the April 2006 (pages 76-77) and September 2005 (page 44) issues of the RECORDER. **R**



An overview of the crowd during Doug's welcoming remarks.



Some of the crowd listening to Ron Larson's remarks.



Time to relax and visit with new contacts and get in touch with some old ones.



The buffet.



Check in desk with Mark Noble, Jolene Goring, Kelley Classen and Don Daub.

**R** Your organizing committee, Jeff Gautreau (GEDCO), Kelley Classen (University of Calgary), Doug Colvin (Talisman Energy Inc.), Marzena Feuchtwanger (Geo-X, A Division of Divestco), Jolene Goring (Real Resources), Carmen Swalwell (GSI/Precision Seismic Processing), Mark Noble (GX Technology).  
Missing: Leslie Carlyle-Ebert (PennWest Petroleum).

