

University of Calgary's GUSS at SEG 2009, Houston

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The Undergraduate geophysics students at the University of Calgary recently attended the SEG 2009 Annual Meeting and International Exposition in Houston, Texas. This experience was organized to allow any students interested in being exposed to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists an opportunity to travel to such an event. It has also been recognized that technical conferences play a key role in the professional development of all geophysicists' careers in hopes of a well rounded education.

This year's conference was an educational, motivating and unforgettable experience for all of the students that were able to attend. The SEG 2009 Organization Committee of the University of Calgary's Geoscience Department, supported by the Geophysical Undergraduate Student Society (GUSS), were responsible for the trip management and the fundraising at an event that sent eight senior geophysics students to represent the University of Calgary in Houston. The principle organizers of this event were Chris Steinhoff and Matthew Ng.

At this year's SEG Annual Meeting we were able to participate in many geophysical talks on recent advances in technologies and ideas allowing for an excellent supplement to our education. Attending talks on the progression of

Geophysics such as the characterization of shale gas formations, and modern methods in applying anisotropic correction goes beyond our regular curriculum, and stimulates us to strive for excellence in our field. Many opportunities to meet key industry professionals were present in this unique environment and it aided in opening our eyes to the greater international geophysics realm, as well as giving us a feel for the international scope of what we will be part of as Geophysicists.

We are truly grateful to be part of this elite community and are thankful for those that aided us in our endeavours. Additional financial assistance was provided by the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Sigma Explorations Inc., Shell Canada and its support of the Shell Experiential Energy Learning (SEEL) Program, which is administered by the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy, and the University of Calgary Students Union. That assistance made this memorable trip possible for all of us, and was truly appreciated in these difficult economic times. We hope that it will be recognized that this type of opportunity is essential in the development of the newly exposed work force and hope that fortunate students in the future will get the same opportunities to represent Canada and their respective Universities. *R*

