Message from the President

Dear Members, and Friends of the LPS;

Many thanks to Maciej Kozlowski, ably assisted by Graham Davis, for presenting "An Integrated Formation Evaluation Approach to Characterize a Turbidite Fan Complex – A Case Study from the Falkland Islands" at our July evening meeting. And thanks to all those members who attended on hot July evening in London when there was football and tennis on the telly.

Our next evening meeting is scheduled for 4th September, where SPWLA Distinguished Speaker, Dr. Steve Cuddy will be presenting "Using Fractals to Determine a Reservoir’s Hydrocarbon Distribution"

Our next seminar is themed "Seismic Rock Physics", on 27th September. We have a near full agenda of exciting talks, but you still have time to submit a last-minute abstract.

The LPS was proud to support the third Petrophysics Summer School hosted by the University of Leicester at the beginning of July. Building on the success of the previous summer schools, this year’s course brought together 21 participants from 5 countries (by institution; 10 by nationality) from as far away as the Philippines. Over two-thirds of the 2018 cohort were women, which was a significant increase on the previous 2 years in which women made up less than half of the groups. Similar to other years, the participant group comprised of mainly graduate students (PhD and Masters) but also included a number of post-docs, an undergraduate and a more senior scientist, all of who had little or no experience with petrophysics. The six-day course combined lectures, practicals, software training, and site visits to Weatherford and the British Geological Survey Core Store, to provide a solid introduction to the fundamentals and applications of petrophysics.

Just prior to PETEX, the AAPG, EAGE, PESGB and SPE will be hosting The Young Professionals Summit; a new event on 26th November 2018 comprising of a day conference and an evening reception. The YP Summit aims to tackle critical issues faced within the industry. Given the recent turmoil the industry has faced they are keen to focus this inaugural Young Professionals Summit on the oil industry of the future, what is changing and how that will impact the way the YPs work. Please search "young professionals summit and evening reception" for details.

The LPS Newsletter will be having a break in August, so I would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable Summer.

Mike Millar - LPS President
Upcoming Events

Tuesday 4th September 2018
6:30pm-7:30pm
“Using Fractals to Determine a Reservoir’s Hydrocarbon Distribution”

Presented by

Steve Cuddy, Baker Hughes

Tues 4th September 6:30pm—7:30pm

The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly

- Free Entry -

http://lps.org.uk/events

Thursday 27th Sept 2018
9:00am –5:00 pm

“Seismic Rock Physics”

One Day Seminar
Seismic Rock Physics

Thurs 27th September 2018
The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

Call for Abstracts

Submission Date: by 15th August 2018

On Thursday 27th September the London Petrophysical Society will be holding a one-day seminar entitled “Seismic Rock Physics” at the Geological Society, Burlington House, London. The day will consist of a series of themed talks, on the integration between petrophysics and geophysics each lasting around 30 minutes with five minutes for questions.

We are looking for talks on geophysics and petrophysics integration, for example: case studies of fluid substitution; 4D seismic feasibility studies; rock physics and geomechanics studies; well ties; derivation of chi angles from log data etc.

This is a Call for Abstracts for presentations from Oil & Gas Companies, Service Companies, Independent Consultants, Academia and other interested parties, on topics related to seismic rock physics and the integration between geophysics and petrophysics.

The seminar is intended for general interest (as opposed to sales or marketing). We request that the talks are kept at a scientific level, with the use of generic rather than trade names.

Abstracts should be up to 300 words/one page of A4 and may include one or two illustrations, submitted in Word Document format.

Please send your abstracts to Dawn Houliston, Email: dhouliston@ercequipoise.com, or any member of the LPS Committee, by the 15th August. You can also contact Mike Millar if you have any questions, suggestions or to express interest in presenting.

£150 for delegates (Speakers exempt)
(LPS is not VAT registered)

Students can register for free
Includes lunch and post-seminar wine and savouries.
Doors open at 9am.

For more info or to register for this event please visit www.lps.org.uk/events/
When I was elected the 2017-2018 SPWLA Vice President of Technology (VPT) I was very excited because of the unique opportunity to have a leadership role organizing the Annual Symposium technical program for the first time. To that end, I had been part of the technology committee (TC) for the last four years. However, little did I know of the amount of work and responsibility that encompasses the VPT position within the SPWLA board, it is perhaps the busiest one (with all due respect to the President position). In the following lines I explain some of the fundamental duties of the VPT, how the abstract selection works, and some abstracts and paper statistics previous and during the 2018 Symposium held in London.

The Technology Committee

My first task as VPT was to form a new technology committee (TC) to help with the abstracts selection. I’m proud to have selected such a diverse group of professionals from the industry and academia scattered all over the world. The TC included 35 members located in 10 countries representing all the regions with SPWLA membership. The committee had 25% women representation, a breath of experience with accomplished young professionals and several veterans with 30+ years in the industry and a good mix of operating and service companies and universities. Figure 1 illustrates the geographical work locations of the TC members and Figure 2 their company affiliation and years of experience. Even though the TC members work mostly in North America and Europe their
SPWLA Annual Symposium’s Technical Program: A Team Effort

Author: Jesús M. Salazar

In August 2017 we made the first call for abstract and advertised for a couple of months in Petrophysics, the society’s website, and emails until the process closed in November 6. A total of 450 abstracts were submitted by all kinds of institutions and companies. This showed both an indication that our oil and gas industry was showing signs of recovery, which seems steady (fingers crossed), and that London is a place that attracts people from all over the world. These abstracts were assigned to the TC honoring everyone’s subject matter expertise whenever possible, each TC member had to read at least 172 abstracts. Every abstract was reviewed by at least 11 referees and given a score. The chief criteria for grading were originality (new approach to existing methods and contribution to the advancement of formation evaluation), writing (no grammatical errors and easy to understand, i.e. a well-communicated message), and zero commercialism. We also had ground rules as stated in the SPWLA Director’s manual, such as no reviewing papers from same company, abstracts where the referee is a co-author, or with possible conflict of interest. As you can see, it’s a very transparent process that guarantees a fair chance to everyone who submit an abstract.

On December 6, the TC met in Houston and via tele-conference to finalize the program. I’d like to thank my employer ConocoPhillips for kindling providing the place for the meeting. We selected the top-125 abstracts and sent notices of acceptance and rejection later that month. Based on previous experience we expected a few withdrawals closer to the date of the symposium. At this point, we had an idea of the number of oral auditorium presentations and e-posters we wanted to present but we didn’t dare to set up technical sessions until the papers were submitted.
SPWLA Annual Symposium’s Technical Program: A Team Effort

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Figure 3 shows two charts with the number of abstracts accepted by institution affiliation and world region. Good representation from all over the world and an industry type. Once we sent the abstracts acceptance letters there was a quiet period while authors wrote their manuscripts and the job of the VPT and his assistant was to send reminders about deadlines and to coordinate the organization of the workshops offered during the Symposium. I will not go into details on workshops since the heavy-lifting was done by the instructors and the local organizing committee. The VPT and his TC made sure to select workshops that were of the most interest to the membership based on previous workshops and a survey we send every year.

Figure 3: Abstracts accepted by company type affiliation (left-hand side) and world region (right-hand side). Historical trends of service companies vs. operator remain and issue but we also see more contribution from universities.

Final Paper and Presentation Deadlines

The last week of April was the deadline to submit the manuscripts for the Symposium. Of the 125 initially accepted abstracts, we received 105 papers, for a 16% attrition. A total of 20 papers were withdrawn for different reasons that went from company approval to personal matters. As it’s been our policy in the recent years we don’t replace those papers with lower-ranked ones; instead we select up to 20% more of what would be an ideal number of papers, 100, give it or take. Of the 105 papers received, 51 were selected as oral talks in the main auditorium and 54 as e-posters near the exhibit hall. Whenever an author decided to withdraw a paper initially slated as an auditorium presentation we replaced it with an e-poster within the same category. Figure 4 shows a graph with the relations of abstract submitted against papers received by institution affiliation.
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After all papers were received, TC members were assigned to review 2-5 papers. This was made to ensure that authors followed the format guidelines and avoided commercialism. Typical reasons to return papers to the author are not adhering to format, poor quality figures, or repetitive use of brand names and trademarks. The process is not meant to be a peer-review, that comes later if the authors decide to submit their papers to Petrophysics, which they should, or any other journal. This task was onerous, the TC members had 2 days to perform their reviews and the authors had 4-5 days to return their revised papers, deadlines were tight. At the end of this process the TC had a conference call to finalize the program and agree on sessions chairs and volunteers for the e-poster sessions. The symposium was organized with 11 technical sessions in the main auditorium and 4 e-poster sessions near the exhibit hall. Each technical session was co-chaired by two TC members and each e-poster block had at least four co-chairpersons making sure everything ran smoothly.

Oral and e-poster presentations were due 3 to 4 weeks before the Symposium. I got really busy around this time reviewing 105 presentations to make sure they strictly followed the template. We allowed authors up to one week for revisions. It is the VPT’s discretion to allow updates to auditorium presentations at the conference depending on the conference center AV settings. Some years this is not possible. E-posters cannot be updated at the conference site as they must be compiled altogether to create the e-poster interface.

![Figure 4: Number of abstracts submitted compared to abstracts accepted and paper received by company affiliation; the bottom line shows the percentage of papers received by each type of institution. Accepted abstracts do not include papers withdrawn.](image-url)
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Up to 2 weeks before the start of the Symposium, all final papers were loaded and available in www.onepetro.org and not available to be withdrawn any longer. During the symposium each delegate received a code to download the papers and read them beforehand. In general, if your company or university has a license to access onepetro, any user can download the pre-prints immediately after they’re uploaded. Also remember that as SPWLA members you’re entitled to 10 free papers per year via the publications link on www.spwla.org. Papers are also available for purchase anytime from onepetro, which is a great source of revenue for the society.

Symposium

After one year of hard work for all members of the local organizing committee, the TC, the SPWLA staff, and authors, the first week of June 2018 was finally showtime. We gathered for 5 days in the Old Billingsgate Market, a striking historic building part of London’s heritage. I have attended more than a handful of Symposia throughout the years, and this one proved to be one of the very best, but also the one I got tired the most. Not because it was boring, but because of the amount of work involved for the VP Technology. I had to be there everyday first thing in the morning to make sure that the workshops were running like a well-oiled machine on the weekend and that every speaker and session chairpersons were present and aware of all the protocols for presentations and e-posters. On Sunday I held a technical committee meeting to confirm attendance of session chairs, instruct them on presentation and paper grading, training on the AV system, flow of the conference, speaker gifts, and remind them to be at the speakers’ breakfast on the morning they were chairing sessions. I had to be there every day though. On Monday I got to open the technical sessions with a presentation that is pretty much summarized in this article. Figure 5 shows a picture while I’m talking to the audience. I have to say that the auditorium and the AV system were top notch. For the first time during a Symposium we introduced a mobile device app with the conference schedule and all necessary information to make your life easier during those few days. This app complemented the traditional pocket program. We need to please the younger generations of petrophysicists, millennials and beyond!
SPWLA Annual Symposium’s Technical Program: A Team Effort

Author: Jesús M. Salazar

The other part of the Symposium was the social functions. The local organizing committee must be proud of putting together such a great entertainment for the delegates. I was impressed with the beautiful venues; the Icebreaker on Sunday was sponsored by Halliburton and held in the stunning HMS Belfast, the most significant surviving WW II Royal Navy warship; on Tuesday we boarded a 19th Century replica paddle steamer the Dixie Queen on the Thames River, it was a “Beatles Themed Party” sponsored by Baker Hughes, a GE Company; finally the Tuesday evening reception brought us to the amazing Tower of London, courtesy of Schlumberger, for a night of cocktails, finger food, history, and camaraderie with fellow petrophysicist from around the globe. Great time to catch up with former colleagues and acquaintances that I had not seen in years. As you can see all these activities kept me on my toes for over 16 hours a day, with some jetlag, and the help of a lot of caffeine I was able to sustain this series of events. Figure 6 shows some of the moments during the various social functions.

Figure 5: VP Technology opening the technical sessions.
SPWLA Annual Symposium’s Technical Program: A Team Effort

Author: Jesús M. Salazar

Figure 6: VP Technology enjoying the social events, clockwise from top, Tower of London, Dixie Queen, The Belfast, Tower of London again, and a quick visit to Greenwich.

At the end of the Symposium I closed the technical session and made a quick survey asking delegates how they would like to see at least two simultaneous sessions next year. From my vantage point on the stage I could see a highly polarized opinion, almost evenly split. However, I noticed a slight leaning to changing the status quo. The idea is not to mimic the multiple parallel session we see in our sister societies (SPE, AAPG, SEG), but to have one or two days with two auditoriums and organize very different sessions running at the same time. This will provide more opportunities to have more oral presentations and reduce the number of e-posters. In the last few years delegates have complained that there are too many posters, really good ones, but very little time to see them. Furthermore, this year we accepted less than 30% of the abstracts submitted, we would like to see that number increased at least to 40%. This is impossible if keep on with the single sessions. It’s important to remark that this option will be pursued in the 2019 Symposium at The Woodlands only if the number of abstracts submitted is as large as it was in London.
SPWLA Annual Symposium’s Technical Program: A Team Effort

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Post Symposium

Once the symposium was finished, the VPT and his TC continued working for a few more weeks. Remaining tasks included review papers and presentations to rank the best oral talk and e-posters. Each committee member was given close to 30 papers and 10 presentations to review and rank. The ranking accounts for both the presentation delivery and quality of slides and the technical content and quality of writing from the manuscript. I consolidated the TC scores to select the best presentation and e-posters, informed the winners and sent the list with top papers to the VP Education for consideration in the Distinguished Speaker program and to the VP Publications for potential publication in Petrophysics. My final task was to send surveys to workshop attendees for feedback and to prepare a handover to the incoming VP Technology. I collected feedback from people during and after the symposium, what was good, what worked, and what didn’t. Among the things that people liked a lot was the layout of technical session with good mixing of operators, service companies, and academia, the quality of the papers, the auditorium and audiovisual system, the app, the workshops, the social activities, among others. People liked the e-posters, however, the space was small and the time limited to enjoy such a large number of e-posters. We need to improve the e-poster area layout for next year. I communicated all this to Jim Hemingway (new VPT) for his consideration.

Organizing the technical program is a team effort that works as a well-oiled machine where all the gears need to be in motion. From the authors to the technical committee and from the local organizing committee in London to The SPWLA office in Houston. I want to thank the companies that allow their employees to be part of the TC and even more to those sponsoring their travels to London. Also, my appreciation goes to three volunteers SPWLA members (not on the TC) that co-chaired sessions during the symposium and helped with the ranking as well. Regretfully not all the TC member could attend the symposium.
SPWLA Membership

SPWLA has played a major global role in strengthening petrophysical education and strives to increase the awareness of the role petrophysics has in the oil and gas industry and the scientific community.

The LPS is a chapter of SPWLA and we encourage you all to become members of our parent organisation and join the "Home" for Formation Evaluation and Petrophysics.

Remember that professional and student membership has many benefits including:
- The Petrophysics Journal
- The new SPWLA Newsletter magazine
- Access to online literature resource
- Discounted registration for two "Topical Conferences" each year
- Access to monthly Webinars
- Access to and use of training facilities located in Houston
- Discounted registration for the Annual Symposium and its associated short courses

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**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday 4th September 2018**

6:30pm-7:30pm

"Using Fractals to Determine a Reservoir’s Hydrocarbon Distribution"

Steve Cuddy, Baker Hughes

**Evening Lecture**

**Thursday 27th Sept 2018**

9:00am – 5:00 pm

“Seismic Rock Physics”

**One Day Seminar**
LPS Sponsors

The LPS wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the generous companies who continue to be our Sponsors.

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