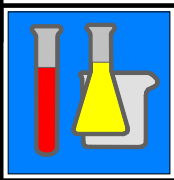




**THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY**



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 27, No. 2

June, 2010

ISSN 0743-3816

**27th TSOP ANNUAL MEETING  
12-16 September, 2010  
Denver, Colorado  
USA**

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** Submit abstracts by **July 15, 2010**



Denver at Night, taken from International Space Station. Photo courtesy of NASA Earth Observatory.

# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual TSOP Meeting September 12-16, 2010 Denver, Colorado USA See pages 8-10

[www.tsop.org/2010Denver](http://www.tsop.org/2010Denver)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Submit abstracts by **July 15, 2010**

### Conference Topics will include:

- Oil Shale and Gas Shale
- Petroleum Geology and Geochemistry
- Coal Resources and Utilization
- New Techniques and Applications

## PRELIMINARY MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Sat/Sun, Sept 11, 12: Arrival Denver, Colorado @ Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Lakewood, CO.
- Sunday, September 12: Registration; Icebreaker; Short course - *Basics of Organic Petrography*.
- Monday, September 13: Registration; Technical Sessions; TSOP Business Lunch; Outgoing Council Meeting.
- Tuesday, September 14: Technical Sessions; Conference Dinner; Incoming Council Meeting.
- Wednesday, September 15: Field Trip: Western Colorado - Piceance Basin, Mahogany Oil Shale with overnight stay in western CO.
- Thursday, September 16: Return from Field Trip

## The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, other meetings, and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, this quarterly Newsletter, a membership directory, annual meeting program and abstracts, and special publications.

Members may elect not to receive the printed Newsletter by marking their dues forms or by contacting the Editor. This choice may also be reversed at any time, or specific printed Newsletters may be requested.

Members are eligible for **discounted subscriptions** to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Paleobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org). You will then be billed by Elsevier. Contact Paul Hackley <[phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)> if you do not receive a bill or have any other problems with a subscription. For the best prices on subscriptions to AGI's *Geotimes*, see their web site at [www.geotimes.org/current](http://www.geotimes.org/current)

TSOP is a Member Society of AGI and an AAPG Associated Society.

## The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter

ISSN 0743-3816 published quarterly

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**DEADLINES: September Issue: September 5, 2010  
December Issue: December 5, 2010**

Writers, Photographers and Associate Editors Needed!

### GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Color illustrations may be possible in some issues.

Please do not embed **graphics** or **photos** in word processor files. You can provide photos or other graphics as slides or prints (which will be returned after being scanned) or as digital files (300 dpi preferred) via email or on cd or dvd. Low resolution images are discouraged as they cannot be reproduced well in print. **Text** is preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

### Contact the Editor:

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### Address Changes

Please report any changes in address or contact information to: Paul Hackley, TSOP Membership Chair, [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)

Members can update their own information by logging into the secure TSOP website: [www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/](http://www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/)

### Society Membership

The TSOP Newsletter (ISSN-0743-3816) is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see:

**[www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org)**

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is: The Society for Organic Petrology, c/o American Geological Institute, 4220 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302-1520 USA

## Contents

Archivist's Reminder .....	3
Members only website update.....	4
Catch up on your Dues! .....	4
Bank Fees and online payments update.....	4
2010 Meeting Webpage Update .....	5
In Memoriam: Dr John Vleeskens .....	5
New TSOP Members.....	6
News from ASTM .....	6
2010 TSOP Meeting .....	8
Call for Papers, Registration, Venue .....	8
Meeting Schedule.....	8
Accommodation Information .....	9
Fieldtrip Information .....	9
Day Trips and Transportation .....	10
Spackman Award Applicants .....	11
2008 Castano Award Citation:	
Dr James Hower .....	11
Discovery Magazine .....	12
Ohio Valley Meeting .....	12
ICCP 62 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting Announcement.....	14
AASP Annual Meeting .....	14
Pittsburgh Coal Conference .....	14
Calendar of Events .....	15
Photo Gallery .....	16

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Officers and Committee Chairs are reminded to provide their records to Ken Kuehn, **TSOP Archivist**. Please contact Ken at [kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu](mailto:kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu) for further information.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Institutional Level Dues Supporter

On behalf of TSOP Council we would like to say thank you to the following Institutional Level Dues Supporter for their consistent support of the Society and its goals.

- [Albert V. Tamashausky, Asbury Graphite Mills](#)

### Members-only Website Update

Keeping up the tradition in these articles, we will first report that the number of TSOP members who have activated their account has reached 50%. Thanks to those who have taken the few minutes needed to do so.

As described in previous newsletters there are significant benefits provided to members who can login and we have added a new feature. The long promised access to TSOP's legacy of annual meeting abstracts volumes has been implemented. **All available abstracts volumes from 1984 to 2008 are easily accessible to TSOP members in PDF format.** These files can also be saved to the members desktop but you are cautioned that due to our agreement with AAPG Datapages we are **NOT** allowed to provide copies of these in any format to non-TSOP members. A logged in member can pick a year of interest from a dropdown list.

Field trip guides are also available for a few years and Group photos have been gathered for annual meetings for most years. We will try to get photos for all years. Thanks to Peter Warwick for preparing the photos from the earlier meetings, most of which include an index to aid in the identification of the meeting attendees in the photo. Indexing the few remaining group photos may be something that is taken on by someone or some group and all members can contribute to identifying members in the photos that remain a mystery.

Activating your account is easy. See 'Setting up your account' on the Member-only main page at [[www.tsop.org/mbrsonly](http://www.tsop.org/mbrsonly)] or you can send us a note at one of the following addresses: [silo.admin@tsop.org](mailto:silo.admin@tsop.org) or [mavery@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:mavery@nrcan.gc.ca). You can also get to the 'Members-only' main page via the 'Member only' main menu dropdown list on TSOP's new and improved website [[www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org)]. We encourage members to make the Members-only page a priority bookmark or favorite.

Again, your suggestions for how to make use of the secure site are welcome.

Mike Avery  
TSOP Treasurer and secure website manager

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### CATCH UP ON YOUR TSOP DUES!

Are you paid up? According to records, there are ~25 members who still need to catch up to their current TSOP dues! TSOP is dependent upon members' dues, so please check to ensure you are up to date. You can check your dues expiry date online by logging into your account at the **Members Only** site and select **My Information** or you can contact Mike Avery at [mavery@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:mavery@nrcan.gc.ca). Don't forget, members can elect to pay several years in advance by taking advantage of the *5 years for the price of 4* discount.

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### Bank fees and the move to online payments – update!

Following up on the December article we are happy to report positive progress on a couple of fronts. Firstly, the rollout of the online dues payment system has been very successful. It was launched just after the March Newsletter release. The system can be accessed inside or outside the secure login section and both methods were tested with several dues payments received. The main test will come when the main dues payment season happens just before the dues expiry deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup> this year.

Online dues payment is not just for members who have a PayPal account or want to set one up. You can also easily make credit card payment through the PayPal site. PayPal accepts more types of cards than we can through our bank at this time and it is much more secure. PayPal stakes its reputation on ensuring your transaction with them is as secure and as easy as possible.

Although the primary intent is for making payments via PayPal any member can use the system to setup their dues payment even if they are paying by US check or international cheque or money order or even wire transfer. In this case the member does not have to fill out a paper form they just make a few simple entries and choices online and the total payment is calculated for them. When they reach the payment page an email will be sent to them and then they can finish the process by mailing their payment. For wire transfers they can inform us when they actually make the transfer. International cheques and money orders must be drawn a US bank in US dollars.

After the next major test of the payment system in November/December, we will be reviewing the need to

keep the older system of bank-based credit card payment processing. This system has been increasing in cost to the point where it now charges fees that take 14% of the dues income derived from credit cards. PayPal payments cost just over 4% for international transactions and just over 3% for US transactions. Any comments from the membership concerning the necessity of keeping the old bank-based system are welcome but they will have to convince us that a bill of \$400/yr through the bank versus \$100/yr through PayPal can be justified.

On another front, we have had some good luck with the initiative to cut our growing service charges on our Wells Fargo bank account. Most of the credit for this is due to Peter Warwick's skills at investigating various options for obtaining an adequate bank account for our small Society. While visiting a Denver branch in support of the Denver meeting Peter found that we could open a new type of account that would, based on a few stipulations, allow the service fee for the account to be dropped or at least be drastically reduced. I won't go into all the details here but the new account is attached to a savings account. For further details you can contact me by email or phone.

The result of these two pieces of good news is that we have the potential to lower our overall banking costs from \$800 to maybe as low as \$100 per year. This level of savings in one year on a necessity like banking is very significant to our Society. Thanks for all those who helped and those who will help move it along, particularly those who will make the move to the online payment system.

Mike Avery  
TSOP Treasurer and secure website manager

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**2010 Meeting Web Pages Recently Expanded**  
[www.tsop.org/2010Denver](http://www.tsop.org/2010Denver)

David Glick, Internet Committee Chair

The meeting web page has recently been updated and expanded with details provided by meeting chair Mark Pawlewicz, such as the keynote speakers and topics. New pages linked from that page have been added, particularly those for registering online and paying via PayPal, which is encouraged; two local trips; and transportation choices from the airport and around the area.

Please visit the meeting pages, see what's there, and

use the features to submit your abstract (by July 15) and register to attend the meeting.

In the secure section of the TSOP site, Mike Avery recently added several new features; please read about those and make use of them on the site.

\* \* \* \* \*

**In Memoriam**

**Dr John Vleeskens**



Dr John Vleeskens, Honorary member of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology passed away on 21st of April, 2010. He worked at the Netherland Energy Research Foundation ECN Fuel Department in Petten since 1958 and retired officially in 1993. In fact he was still working until his seventies. When the ECN started research into the characteristics of coal for fluidized bed combustion, John was involved as a senior scientist. The main field of Dr Vleeskens' research activities was chemistry and other disciplines connected with coal. He had tremendous, wide-ranging knowledge and accumulated experience about coke properties, combustion chars, coal chemistry and several topics dealing in general with organic matter. John played a very important role in the development of ECN. He published interesting and original papers in renowned, foreign scientific journals. Some papers were presented at international conferences.

John was of great intellectual depth and showed immense personal charm. He had a good sense of humor. He had a fascinating, extremely warm and unusually deep human personality. He used words economically, with authority and paid great attention to the formal aspects of conversation, but with a fleeting smile that truly could light up a room. For those who had a chance to meet and work with Dr Vleeskens, he will always remain in our memories as a very modest, clever and sensitive man.

I would like to pay homage to this exceptional man and scientist.

Barbara Kwiecinska

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### New TSOP Members!

#### PinRu Huang



Ms. Huang is pursuing PhD studies in the National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, U.K., where she is using organic petrography to investigate the relations between trace metals and organic matter. Prior to beginning her graduate studies she worked as a research

assistant in the Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

#### Anne B. Satterwhite



In a previous life, Anne Satterwhite got a BA in English from the University of Kentucky and worked in Kentucky State Government. Among other positions, she was the state coordinator between the federal government and the Kentucky food stamp program. Realizing that there was more to life than state bureaucracy, she

returned to UK and earned a BA in Geology. Anne is currently studying coal petrology under the direction of Jim Hower and Cortland Eble as part of her MS degree at the University of Kentucky.

#### Laura McParland



Dr. McParland earned her PhD in Geoscience in 2010 from the University of London. She is employed as a coal petrologist at CSIRO Australia.

\* \* \* \* \*

### News from ASTM

ASTM subcommittee D05.28 for the petrographic analysis of coal and coke met during ASTM D05 committee week May 16-19, 2010, at the Renaissance Grand, St. Louis, Missouri. Subcommittee D05.28 is charged with maintaining six ASTM consensus standards. These include three test methods (which produce a numerical result): 1) vitrinite reflectance of coal, 2) maceral composition of coal, and 3) textural components of coke. Also included within the purview of D05.28 are three practices (instructions for an operation that does not produce a numerical result). The practices are for: 1) preparing coal samples for microscopical analysis, 2) preparing coke samples for microscopical analysis, and 3) etching of coal samples.

Attending were Eric Hatfield (SGS Mineral Services), Michael Haven (Intertek Caleb Brett), Paul Hackley (U.S. Geological Survey), Andrus Innus (Rio Tinto Alcan), Victor King (SunCoke Energy), Doug Lowenhaupt (Consol Energy), Dan Mooza (Hampton Roads Testing), Tommy Pike (ABC Coke), Pete Ritchie (Patriot Coal Corp.), Dave Spong (ArcelorMittal Dofasco), and Ted Todoschuk (ArcelorMittal Dofasco).

Business items before the subcommittee included a potential revision to the coal maceral analysis standard D2799 to incorporate the simplified seven component classification scheme used by the coke-making industry. This change would be in addition to the larger classification scheme currently specified in the standard.

The subcommittee also is interested in surveying TSOP membership about two items specified in the D2798 vitrinite reflectance standard. In particular, if you are: 1) using a reflectance microscope wherein the 546

bandpass filter is located in the light path prior to the sample, and/or 2) if you check the parasitic reflections of your objective by measuring the reflectance of a hole filled with immersion oil that has been drilled into an opaque briquette, please contact [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov). These two items may be revised or removed from the standard if they are not common laboratory practices.

Discussion of D2797 for coal petrographic sample preparation identified the need for significant revisions, including language to incorporate the growing use of thermoset resins and automated mounting presses. Your input is requested for a survey of current grinding and polishing procedures; please contact [eric.hatfield@sgs.com](mailto:eric.hatfield@sgs.com) for more information.

The standard for the etching of polished coal surfaces, D5671, was last approved in 2005 and needs to be balloted for re-approval. If you are currently etching coal samples in your laboratory and have comments on this standard, please contact [douglowenhaupt@consolenergy.com](mailto:douglowenhaupt@consolenergy.com).

Work to create a new ASTM standard for dispersed vitrinite reflectance analysis is ongoing and the task group responsible for this effort includes members of TSOP and the ICCP. An ASTM news update describing this work is available from [www.astm.org/SNEWS/SO\\_2009/d0528\\_so09.html](http://www.astm.org/SNEWS/SO_2009/d0528_so09.html) and related information is contained in ICCP News No. 48, p. 62-70, [www.iccop.org/fileadmin/documents/pdf/ICCP48b.pdf](http://www.iccop.org/fileadmin/documents/pdf/ICCP48b.pdf). A first draft of the new standard has received comments from the task group and revisions are in progress.

Two ISO coal petrographic standards are being balloted for systematic review: 1) 7404-1 Vocabulary, and 2) 7404-4 Microlithotypes. If you are interested in commenting on these international standards please contact [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov) or [ron.grahm@sgs.com](mailto:ron.grahm@sgs.com).

Membership in ASTM subcommittee D05.28 (currently twenty-six) is dominated by the metallurgical coal industry, including representatives from coal and steel companies, service laboratories, and consultancies. A small minority of the subcommittee consists of representatives from governmental organizations and academia. TSOP members who would like to contribute to the development of consensus standards within subcommittee D05.28 are encouraged to contact Paul Hackley ([phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)) for additional information. ASTM members have an individual vote in the development and maintenance of standards.

\* \* \* \* \*

**27<sup>TH</sup> TSOP ANNUAL MEETING 2010**  
September 12-16, 2010    Denver, Colorado

**Meeting theme:**

*Advances in Organic Petrology*

[www.tsop.org/2010Denver](http://www.tsop.org/2010Denver)

**Conference Topics include:**

- Oil Shale and Gas Shale
- Petroleum Geology and Geochemistry
- Coal Resources and Utilization
- New Techniques and Applications

**TECHNICAL SESSIONS:**

- **Oil shale:** Geology; Geochemistry and Technology
- **Gas:** Shale and Coal: Geology; Technology; the Future
- **Oil & Gas:** Conventional oil and gas: From Exploration to Application
- **Coal:** Technology: the Future

**Call for papers: Submit abstracts by July 15, 2010**

Please submit abstracts up to 250 words in Microsoft Word. Indicate preference: oral or poster presentation. Personal contact information required.

Meeting, registration and abstract submittal information at: [www.tsop.org/2010Denver](http://www.tsop.org/2010Denver)

*Email:* Mark Pawlewicz [pawlewicz@usgs.gov](mailto:pawlewicz@usgs.gov) and/or Paul Hackley [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)

Following review and notification of acceptance, authors will be invited to submit their papers for a special issue of the International Journal of Coal Geology.

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE:**

Mark Pawlewicz	USGS	<a href="mailto:pawlewicz@usgs.gov">pawlewicz@usgs.gov</a>
Paul Hackley	USGS	<a href="mailto:phackley@usgs.gov">phackley@usgs.gov</a>
Mike Lewan	USGS	
Ron Johnson	USGS	(oil shale field trip)

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

- Sat/Sun, Sept 11,12:            Arrival Denver, Colorado and Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Lakewood, CO
- Sunday, September 12:        Registration; **Short course-** *Basics of Organic Petrography* offered Sunday afternoon. **Icebreaker** - Sunday evening.





### **LOCAL FIELD TRIPS:**

- Denver Museum of Natural History. \$35. Half day. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)  
The Denver Museum of Science is a day trip for meeting attendees and spouses. It is a world class facility and offers not only museum type exhibits, including special, limited time, traveling exhibits, but also includes an IMAX and a planetarium. If you wish to attend alone, it is an easy drive to the Museum about 12 miles (19km) away.
- Dinosaur Ridge. \$35. Half day. [www.dinoridge.org](http://www.dinoridge.org)  
Dinosaur Ridge is a slice of the Denver Front Range geology complete with dinosaur footprints and impressions of plants and other fossils. It is close to the Sheraton Hotel (about 6 miles; 10km) and would be a great half day trip outside.

### **Transportation**

Travel to the Sheraton Denver West Hotel from Denver International Airport (DIA) is by major highways. The hotel is located about 35 miles (55km) from DIA.

*Please consider viewing [maps.Google.com](http://maps.Google.com) or [www.Bing.com](http://www.Bing.com) satellite maps of the Denver and the surrounding area. These programs can also plan (and print) driving instructions, along with directions to other attractions.*

**The internet** makes it easier to compare travel plans for transportation and directions. Denver International Airport is served by numerous companies with an equal number of options for transportation to local and mountain destinations. Below are a few choices available to help you arrive at the Sheraton and perhaps plan more activities. Most of the providers below cost about the same to get to the Sheraton. Most sites list their services cost. A few carriers will transport several people for the price of one person. Non-reservation taxis are available outside the DIA terminal at the ground transportation level. Please research the possibilities.

#### General internet addresses for transportation searches:

- [www.flydenver.com/parkinggt](http://www.flydenver.com/parkinggt) Excellent site for transportation and activities
- [rideflyreservations.com/airports/search/1079\\_Denver\\_CO\\_DEN\\_airport\\_shuttle](http://rideflyreservations.com/airports/search/1079_Denver_CO_DEN_airport_shuttle) : site inside DIA to reserve shuttle transportation
- [www.shuttlefinder.net/airport\\_shuttles/denver.html](http://www.shuttlefinder.net/airport_shuttles/denver.html)

#### Specific transportation searches:

- Luxury Taxi [www.dialuxurytransportation.com](http://www.dialuxurytransportation.com)
- 1st Denver Limo [www.1stdenverlimo.com](http://www.1stdenverlimo.com)
- [www.007airportlimodenver.com](http://www.007airportlimodenver.com)

#### City Bus Service:

- [www.rtd-denver.com/skyRide\\_SubHome.shtml](http://www.rtd-denver.com/skyRide_SubHome.shtml) Site is for a city bus ride from airport. Slower and less direct. Inexpensive. The **Cold Spring Park-n-Ride** is about 120 meters from the Sheraton Hotel. (Purple- **AF**- route: see skyRide Resources link for route map).

### Applications for 2010 Spackman Awards

A total of seven applications have been received for student research grants under the TSOP Spackman Awards program for 2010. These deal with projects spread across the globe and with organic matter in strata from Proterozoic to Jurassic in age.

The applications will be assessed by an independent panel drawn from senior TSOP members, and the winner (or winners) will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Society in Denver later this year.

#### Colin R. Ward

Chair, TSOP Research Committee

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### The John Castaño Honorary Membership Award

2008

#### Dr James C. Hower

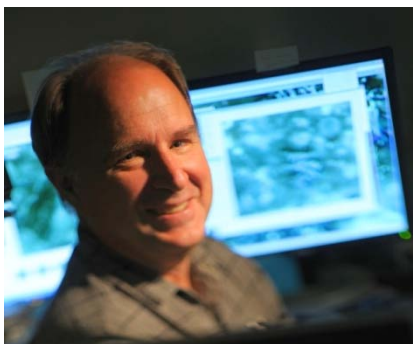


Photo by Lee Thomas Photography

The Society for Organic Petrology nominated Dr. James C. Hower for the 2008 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award. Jim has made significant and lasting contributions to the field of coal geology in research, service, and teaching. With his expertise in coal petrography and his time as Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Coal Geology*, Jim is regarded as coal geology's most forceful advocate.

Jim was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, on March 30, 1951. He received his Bachelors in Earth Science from Millersville University, PA, his Masters in Geology and Mineralogy from Ohio State University, and his PhD. in Geology from The Pennsylvania State University. Upon graduation in 1978, he joined the

University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research, where he remains today as the Senior Coal Petrographer.

Jim Hower is first, and foremost, a coal geology researcher. He has worked in almost every aspect of coal geology, including inorganic petrology, coal quality, coal combustion by-products, and environmental aspects of coal utilization. His work in applied coal and coal combustion by-product petrology is the benchmark in the U.S. coal research community. He was one of the first researchers to specialize in "cradle to grave" coal studies, the systematic examination of partitioning of coal constituents in mining, beneficiation, and combustion. Jim is also recognized as the expert in Kentucky coal quality variation and has extensive field experience in coal mines of both eastern and western Kentucky.

Jim and his co-workers have published over 200 peer-reviewed technical articles on just about every aspect of coal geology. Jim Hower is also a dedicated teacher. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Kentucky, where he has advised many students and has served on graduate committees in Chemistry, Mining Engineering, and Pharmacy. He chaired a Master of Science committee in Chemistry at Western Kentucky University and has served on graduate committees at Wollongong, James Cook, Witwatersrand, Canterbury, Dalhousie, Indiana, and Eastern Kentucky universities and was recently named a member of Ph.D. committee in Geology at Duke University.

Jim serves the coal geology community with distinction. He served as the Editor-in Chief of the *International Journal of Coal Geology* from 1999 through 2008, and successfully transitioned the journal from a mostly North American venue to a truly international one. In addition, he is a member of the Advisory Scientific Board, *Geologica Acta*; serves on the editorial boards of *Energy Exploration and Exploitation* and *Central European Journal of Geosciences*, and served as an Associate Editor of *Organic Geochemistry* for five years. He is the founding editor of *Coal Combustion and Gasification Products*. He serves as the technical program chair for the World of Coal Ash conference and is one of the technical program chairs for the International Pittsburgh Coal Conference.

Jim Hower's service to the community and his research has been recognized by GSA and other organizations. He was Chair, Coal Geology Division from 1995-1996 and received the Division's Distinguished Service Award in 1997. Jim was awarded the 1996 Gordon H. Wood Jr. Memorial Award from the Eastern Section Energy Minerals Division, American Association of Petroleum Geologists; the 1997 Outstanding Kentucky Geologists Award from the American Institute of Professional Geologists, Kentucky Section; the 2003 Reinhardt Thiessen Medal of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology; and the 2006 Gilbert Cady Award from the Coal Geology Division of the Geological Society of America.

For these reasons, TSOP has chosen to honor Jim C. Hower's numerous, significant, and ongoing contributions to the field of coal geology with the 2008 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response to Castaño Award citation  
James C. Hower**

I wish to thank the Castaño Award committee, the Society for Organic Petrology council, and the TSOP membership for this honor. I cannot say that I saw this coming, certainly not now. I am honored to be considered among this distinguished group. I have known all of the previous recipients and I consider them all to be among the leaders of our discipline.

It is also an honor to be the recipient of an award named after John Castaño. John was an outstanding individual in all aspects of his life. I knew John from many TSOP committees, particularly committees organizing the annual meetings. This award also has special meaning because I was on the TSOP council when the Honorary Member recognition was established; I served on the selection committee, fighting, and eventually winning, battles to get individuals recognized; and, in 2005, I played a role in getting the award named after John Castaño. I hope that the individuals selection for the award do as much to honor the legacy of John Castaño as an award named after this fine gentleman honors the awardees.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Earth on Fire:  
TSOP Members appear in Discovery magazine  
article.**

TSOP members Jen O'Keefe and Jim Hower were among the coal scientists featured in the story "Earth on Fire" which appeared in the July/August 2010 issue of Discover magazine. Author Kris Olhson accompanied O'Keefe and Hower on a January 2010 trip to a coal mine fire in eastern Kentucky. Ohlson also visited the Centralia fire in Pennsylvania and interviewed other scientists about other fires in the US and other countries.



From left to right: Max Hammond (Morehead State student), Allison Richardson (University of Kentucky graduate student), Jim Hower (University of Kentucky CAER), Rachel Hatch (University of Kentucky student), Jen O'Keefe (Morehead State), Erika Neace (Morehead State student), Kris Olhson (Discover writer). Greg Copley (UK CAER) took the picture.

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**Ohio Valley Organic Petrographers,  
31st March 2010, Henderson, Kentucky**

The lower Ohio Valley states of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois have at least nine locations where organic petrographers are employed. Typically, the petrographers do not all attend the same professional meetings or are confined by the short times allotted for their talks. In an attempt to get the regional petrographers in the same place at the same time, a regional colloquium was held at the Henderson office of the Kentucky Geological Survey of 31 March 2010. The first meeting of the group provided an opportunity for professionals to give longer and more informal presentations and, in some cases, very early versions of experiments in progress. The colloquium also served as a forum for students to present their research results and a venue for all in attendance to freely comment on the

presentations without the constraints of a time keeper.

Our host, Dave Williams, started the meeting with an overview of the activities of the Kentucky Geological Survey in western Kentucky. The planning, drilling, and testing of the 2440-m Blan well in Hancock County, KY, has dominated their work for the past 30 months. In this test, supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> was injected into the Ordovician Knox formation carbonates in order to test the formation's capacity for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. Maria Mastalerz and Agnieszka Drobniak, Indiana Geological Survey, and Cortland Eble, Kentucky Geological Survey, returned to the subject of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration throughout the day with their reports of studies in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia.

Jen O'Keefe, Morehead State University, gave two presentations on behalf of her undergraduate students. In one study, Jen and her students have been following the reconfiguration of the Morehead State University steam plant before and after US Environmental Protection Agency directives to eliminate the fly ash emissions from the plant. In another study, she has been directing an investigation of several coal fires in eastern Kentucky. Along with USGS and UK CAER collaborators, along with co-investigators across the US, they have been revisiting one of the fires in order to learn more about temporal variations in the emissions. In addition, they have experimented with a number of different instruments for measuring emission gases, including techniques to gather continuous measurements of T and CO over the course of several weeks.

The remaining presentations dealt with the origin of inertinite in coal. At one end of the rank scale, O'Keefe showed the fungal damage to wood buried in a compost pile for five years and made comparisons to similar features found in coals. Allison Richardson and Anne Satterwhite, University of Kentucky Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences MS candidates, discussed the nature of inertinites in the splint coals of eastern Kentucky and in the Stephanian coals of western Kentucky, respectively. The splint coals are marked by abundant unstructured inertinites, often part of detrital assemblages. The Stephanian coals originated from a floral assemblage quite different from the arborescent Lycopod-dominated flora of the underlying Asturian coals. Jim Hower, UK CAER, closed the program with a discussion of the complex origin of detrital macerals and unstructured inertinites, often in juxtaposition, in a variety of coals.



Group picture (from left):

Dave Williams (Kentucky Geological Survey), Jim Hower (University of Kentucky CAER), Cortland Eble (KGS), Ken Kuehn (Western Kentucky University), Maria Mastalerz (Indiana Geological Survey), Jen O'Keefe (Morehead State University), Sharon Swanson (U.S. Geological Survey), Adam Layne<sup>1</sup> (MSU), Anne Satterwhite<sup>2</sup> (CAER & University of Kentucky Earth & Environmental Sciences), Agnieszka Drobniak (Indiana Geological Survey), Allison Richardson<sup>2</sup> (CAER & UK EES), Rachel Hatch<sup>1</sup> (CAER & UK EES), Penny Meighan<sup>3</sup> (Indiana University)

[1 – Undergraduate student; 2- Graduate student MS; 3- Graduate student PhD]

**62nd Meeting of the International Committee for  
Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP)**

**September 26th-October 2nd, 2010**

**Hosts:** Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) and  
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology  
**Location:** Belgrade, Serbia, Knez Mihailova 35 (City Centre)

**Deadline for Abstract Submission:** May 31st, 2010

**Planned Schedule Includes:**

**Sunday**, September 26: ICCP Council Meeting and Ice  
breaker

**Monday**, September 27: Registration, Welcome, ICCP  
General Assembly

**Tuesday**, September 28: ICCP Commissions and Council  
Meeting

**Wednesday**, September 29: ICCP Commissions and Poster  
session

**Thursday**, September 30: ICCP Commissions, Symposium,  
Poster session and Conference Dinner

**Friday**, October 1: Symposium and ICCP Plenary Meeting

**Saturday**, October 2: Field trip to Kostolac basin and  
Viminacium archeological site.

**Registration Fee, Conference Dinner, Fieldtrips (at this  
point estimated)**

ICCP Members and Guests: Early registration	150 €
after May 31, 2010	180 €

Students	50 €
Accompanying persons	50 €
Conference Dinner	50 €
Field trip	60 €

*For further information please see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular:*

[http://www.sanu.ac.rs/English/62ndICCP\\_SecondAnnouncement.pdf](http://www.sanu.ac.rs/English/62ndICCP_SecondAnnouncement.pdf)

*or email to:* [ICCP.erc@sanu.ac.rs](mailto:ICCP.erc@sanu.ac.rs)

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**AASP**

**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Palynological Society Meeting  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

**September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

Deadlines for pre-registration and field trips: 27 August 2010.  
Abstracts deadline: 20 August 2010.

Technical Sessions. The planned technical program will  
accommodate more than 60 talks (with two concurrent  
sessions), including keynotes. The sessions will be:

**1) Paleobotany in all its aspects:** This session will highlight  
macro and micropaleobotany (spores and pollen). Talks on  
how the subdisciplines shed new light on ancient plant  
communities and evolution are especially welcome.

**2) Canadian and Arctic Paleontology:** This session will  
focus on new paleontological discoveries in Canada.

**3) The Amazingly Diverse World of Quaternary  
Palynology:** A Celebration of the Career of Jock McAndrews.

**4) New frontiers in paleobiology:** We welcome papers  
dealing with new chemical approaches used in paleobiological  
research.

**5) General session:** Papers addressing industrial uses of  
paleontology are especially encouraged.

Further details can be found at the AASP website:

[www.palynology.org](http://www.palynology.org)

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**The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual  
International Pittsburgh Coal Conference  
October 11 - 14, 2010  
Istanbul, TURKEY**

The **Twenty-Seventh Annual International Pittsburgh Coal  
Conference** focuses on environmental emissions issues and  
technologies surrounding the continued use of coal and the  
development of future coal-based energy plants to achieve  
near-zero emissions of pollutants, reduced costs, and high  
thermal efficiency while producing a suite of products to meet  
future energy market requirements. Session Topics include:

**1. Combustion**

- Industrial Applications, Economics, and  
Environmental Issues
- Advance Pulverized Coal Combustion Technologies  
(Supercritical, Fluidized Bed, Etc.)
- Novel Technologies (Oxyfuel, Chemical Looping,  
Etc.)
- Flue Gas Clean Up

- Science And Modeling
- Materials, Instrumentation, and Controls
- Turbines (Steams)

**2. Gasification**

- Industrial Applications, Economics, and Environmental Issues
- Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)
- Synthesis Gas Cleanup
- Gasification Science and Modeling
- Novel Gasification Technologies and Concepts
- Co-Gasification of Coal and Biomass

**3. Sustainability and Environment**

- Energy Production and Water Use - Conservation and Recycle
- Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of Energy Production Systems
- Energy Production Impact on the Environment
- Energy Sustainability - Efficiency and Conversion to Reduce GHG
- GHG: Inventory Protocol, Legal and Regulatory Considerations, Credits

**4. Carbon Management**

- Pre-Combustion Capture
- Post-Combustion Capture
- CO2 Sequestration (Monitoring, Mitigation, and Verification; Storage: Depleted Oil/Gas Reservoirs, Aquifers, Basalt, Coal Bed Methane)
- Transportation Infrastructure and Issues
- Legal and Regulatory Issues
- Carbon Footprint Comparison: CTX (DCL/ICL), Petroleum

**5. Coal-Derived Products**

- Coal-To-Liquids, CTL (Direct Liquefaction, Fischer-Tropsch, Methanol-To-Gasoline, Etc.)
- Substitute Natural Gas (SNG)
- Hydrogen Production
- Syngas Utilization (Gas Turbines, Fuel Cells)
- Chemicals/Materials
- Coal Utilization By-Products (Ash, Fertilizers, Etc.)
- Jet Fuel

**6. Coal Science**

- Chemistry
- Geoscience/Coal Resources
- Trace Elements/Emission
- Processing
- Coal Preparation

**Calendar of Events  
2010**

**July 11-16, 2010:** Carbon 2010, the Annual World Conference on Carbon, Clemson University, South Carolina, USA.  
<http://caeff.ces.clemson.edu/carbon2010/>

**September 12-16, 2010:** 27<sup>th</sup> Annual TSOP Meeting, Denver, Colorado, USA.  
[www.tsop.org/2010Denver/index.htm](http://www.tsop.org/2010Denver/index.htm)

**September 26 – Oct. 2, 2010:** 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ICCP, Belgrade, Serbia. [www.iccop.org](http://www.iccop.org)

**September 29 – Oct. 2, 2010:** 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual AASP Palynological Society Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. [www.palynology.org/](http://www.palynology.org/)

**October 11-14, 2010:** 27<sup>th</sup> International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. [www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc](http://www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc)

**October 31 – Nov. 3, 2010:** Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, USA.  
[www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/)

**November 15-19, 2010:** ALAGO 2010 Workshop and 12th Congress on Organic Geochemistry, Republica University, Montevideo, Uruguay. Contact: [rmobarah@uol.com.br](mailto:rmobarah@uol.com.br)

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**Do you have calendar or meeting updates?**

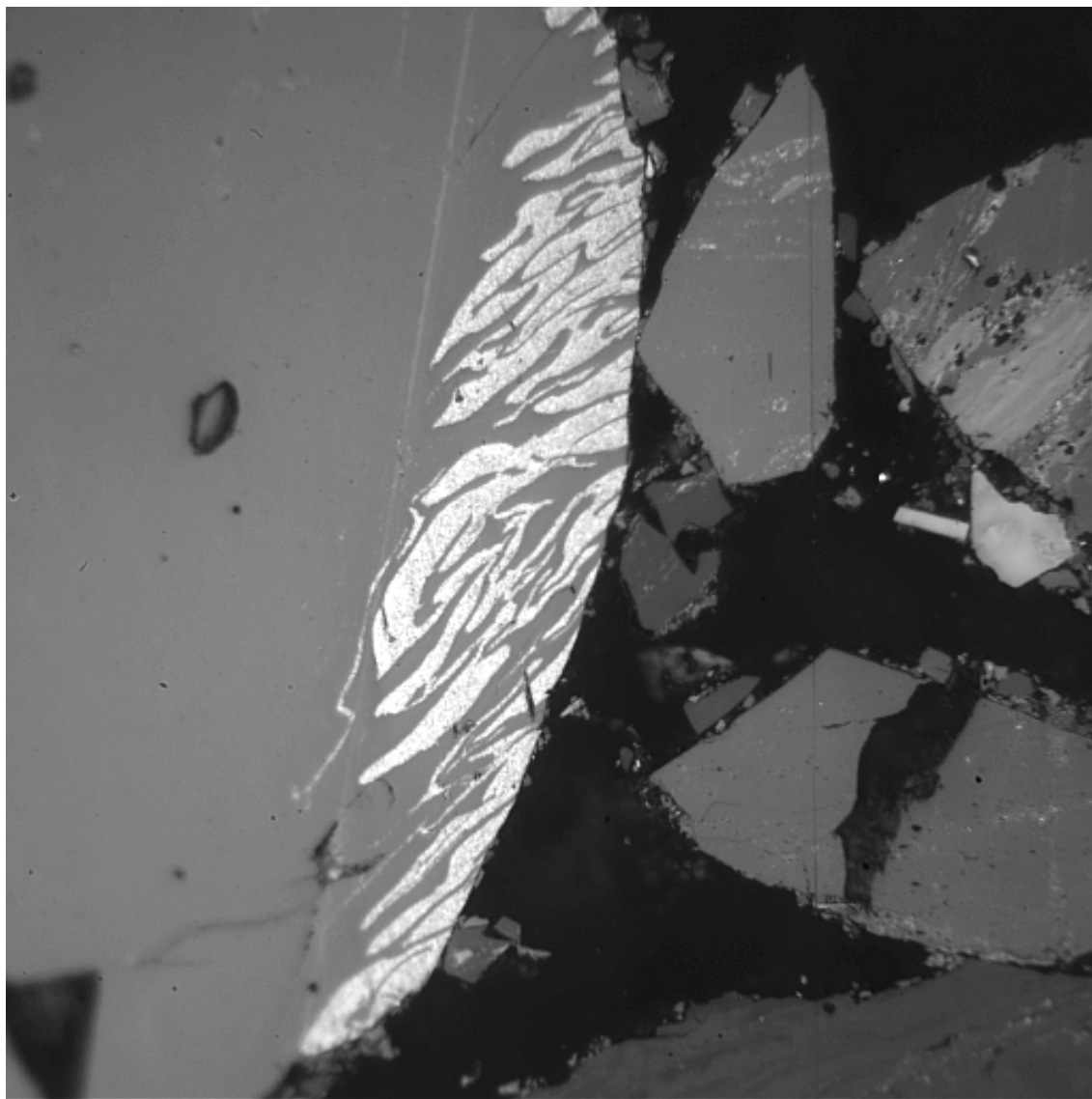
**If so, please send them to the Editor:**  
[drrachelwalker@gmail.com](mailto:drrachelwalker@gmail.com)

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For further details, please see the website:  
[www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc](http://www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc)

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### Photo Gallery



Micrinite in bituminous coal. Digital photo taken under 400x magnification on a Zeiss Universal.  
Photo by Rachel Walker.