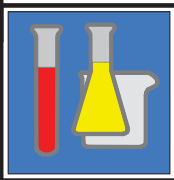




**THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY**



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 27, No. 4

December, 2010

ISSN 0743-3816

**28th TSOP ANNUAL MEETING  
July 31 – August 4, 2011  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada**



WTCC, Halifax, Canada.

**TSOP 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
(Held in partnership with CSCOP)  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
Also see pages 7-10

**Conference Theme**  
Energy Resources and Petroleum Systems in the 21st Century

Meeting website address  
(bookmark this site as your main source of up-to-date meeting information):

[www.tsop.org/2011Halifax](http://www.tsop.org/2011Halifax)

or

[www.tsop.org/TSOP-Halifax2011](http://www.tsop.org/TSOP-Halifax2011)

Deadline for abstracts:  
**April 30, 2011**

**Planned Schedule**

Sunday, July 31 **Short course** - 8:30 to 5 (*with one hour in-house lunch*)

Tentative title: Geochemistry, Maturation, and Petroleum System Modelling Related to Shale Gas Resource Evaluation TSOP Council meetings (*tentative*)

Monday, August 1 **Technical sessions** - Day 1 (*8:30 - 5:30 with 2 hour break at noon*) Petroleum Systems and Evaluation of the Unconventional Resources (Shale Gas or Shale Oil, Coal Bed methane and Gas Hydrate)  
TSOP-CSCOP 2011 Banquet (7:30-10:00)

Tuesday, August 2 **Technical sessions** - Day 2 (*8:30 - 5:30 with 2 hour break at noon*)

1 Offshore Exploration: Source Rocks & Petroleum Systems

2 Clean Coal Technology, CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration and Other Environmental Issues related to Coal and Petroleum use

Wednesday, August 3 **Field trip** – Day 1: Joggins Fossil Cliffs World Heritage Site & Fossil Museum, Bay of Fundy, Joggins, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, August 4 **Field trip** - Day 2: Shale Gas Evaluation in Elgin and Moncton subbasins (with a possible visit to recent Shale gas Development Site)

**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: March Issue: March 5, 2011  
June Issue: June 5, 2011**

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:

Rachel Walker  
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Unit D  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
USA 46202  
e-mail: [drrachelwalker@gmail.com](mailto:drrachelwalker@gmail.com)

### 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
Presidents' Letter.....	4
Online Payments – Success! .....	4
Literature and Website Updates.....	5
Universal Unconventional Petroleum Systems .....	5
News from ASTM.....	5
New TSOP Members .....	6
<b>TSOP 2011 Annual Meeting Details .....</b>	<b>7-10</b>
Calendar of Events.....	11
ICCP Short Course Announcement.....	12

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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.

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### 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](#)



**President's Letter**

Dear colleagues,

It is my special privilege to extend heartfelt Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to you, the great TSOP members, and your families.

It is my honor to work with our dedicated colleagues in the Council who generously volunteered their precious time and experience in the service of the society. Also, the active scientific contributions of TSOP members have made organic petrology and its various related disciplines in forefront of many advance geoscience researches.

The past year was an exceptional one for TSOP, with a successful organization of TSOP 2010 Denver, and number of improvements in the way TSOP functions, which were highlighted in the past several Newsletter issues.

As always I look forward to your support in the coming year in the areas needed the most, particularly your support of TSOP 2011 Halifax, and your active participations in the council and various TSOP committees.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, suggestions, or advice.

Best regards,  
Hamed Sanei  
TSOP President

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**Online dues payments – a success!**

Since the June article on 'Bank fees and the move to online payments – update' there has been a great response. Most of our non-US dues payments have been made via the online system and paid using PayPal credit card system. Many, many thanks to all of you who have used the system. You are helping to bring our move away from the expensive bank based credit card processing closer to reality. We are looking forward to the test that will come when the main dues payment season happens just before the dues expiry deadline of

December 31<sup>st</sup>.

As stated in the June article, online dues payment is not just for members who have a PayPal account or want to set one up. You can also easily make a credit card payment at the PayPal site. Actually PayPal accepts more cards than we can at this time and it is much more secure. PayPal makes a business and 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 type of dues or donation payment can be made through the online system. This includes those 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 complete 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.

After the major end of the year dues payment surge we will be reviewing the need to keep the bank based current system of credit card payment processing by TSOP. This system although very helpful to TSOP has been increasing in costs to the point where it now costs us 14% of the dues income derived from credit cards. Processing PayPal payments is just over 4% for international transactions and just over 3% for US transactions. Any comments on the necessity of keeping the current system are welcome but they will have to convince us that a bill of \$400/yr versus \$100/yr is justified which would be equivalent to giving out 12 free memberships a year.

To access the online dues payment system use the convenient 'Online due payment' link when logged into your TSOP Members-only account or the links provided on the TSOP mainpage [[www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org)] or at [[www.tsop.org/dues](http://www.tsop.org/dues)].

Mike Avery  
TSOP Treasurer and secure website manager

\* \* \* \* \*

## Literature References and Other Updates on Website

By David Glick

Updated literature reference files from 2010 are being processed into web pages at the time of this writing. These files can be found at [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org) in the "Organic Petrology" menu under "References." Submission of additional entries for these reference lists is invited; please email [webmaster@tsop.org](mailto:webmaster@tsop.org).

The literature reference files from late 2009 have been processed into EndNote format by Bob Cluff and his colleagues at The Discovery Group. There are now two EndNote files: the original from 2007, and another of all updates from 2008 and 2009. EndNote users can use its update process to add the contents of the 2009 update to the 2007 file. If comments or additional references have been placed in the 2007 file, this process will preserve them in the resulting file. The 2010 updates are expected to be available in EndNote soon.

Be sure to see the extensive new Halifax 2011 meeting website created by Mike Avery, available through the home page or 'meetings' menu at [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org) or directly at [www.tsop.org/2011Halifax/](http://www.tsop.org/2011Halifax/). It will be the place to find information and updates in the months leading up to the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Universal Unconventional Petroleum Systems

P. Mukhopadhyay, D. Mossman & J.M. Ehrman

*Oil present in extraterrestrial environments is derived from living organisms through processes very close to those at work on Earth.*

Such is the proposal of the following news article by TSOP member Muki and co-authors, originally published in SPIE Astronomy News and available for download as a pdf from the following link:

[http://spie.org/documents/Newsroom/Imported/1699/1699\\_6014\\_0\\_2009-07-20.pdf](http://spie.org/documents/Newsroom/Imported/1699/1699_6014_0_2009-07-20.pdf)

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## News from ASTM

The American Society for Testing and Materials subcommittee D05.28 for the petrographic analysis of coal and coke met during ASTM committee week October 12-15, 2010, at the Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, Texas. Subcommittee D05.28 is charged with maintaining six ASTM consensus standards. These include three test methods: 1) vitrinite reflectance of coal, 2) maceral composition of coal, and 3) textural components of coke. Also included are three practices: 1) preparing coal samples for microscopical analysis, 2) preparing coke samples for microscopical analysis, and 3) etching of coal samples. The subcommittee is preparing to ballot a new test method standard for the measurement of the reflectance of vitrinite dispersed in sedimentary rocks.

Attending the October meeting were Jesse Belcher (Inspectorate America Corporation), Michael Carmon (Hampton Roads Testing Laboratories), Jason Carter (Intertek Caleb Brett), Katie Danyko and Michael Haven (Intertek OCA), Bob Gossett (Arch Coal, Inc.), Eric Hatfield (SGS Mineral Services), Paul Hackley (U.S. Geological Survey), Victor King (SunCoke Energy), Doug Lowenhaupt (Consol Energy), Tommy Pike (ABC Coke), and Dave Spong (ArcelorMittal Dofasco).

Business items before the subcommittee included new ballots for the coal preparation and vitrinite reflectance standards. Proposed revision of standard D2797 for coal petrographic sample preparation included significant changes, such as the addition of language to incorporate the growing use of thermoset resins and automated mounting presses. Ballots for the vitrinite reflectance standard D2798 will include updated abbreviations for mean maximum and mean random reflectance, and language to include CCD light detection systems.

The coal and coke petrography subcommittee will next meet in Anaheim, California, May 15-18, 2011, and a teleconference will be arranged beforehand for interested parties who cannot attend the California meeting. Coal and coke petrographers using ASTM standards are encouraged to participate in the teleconference and to attend the Anaheim meeting; please contact Paul Hackley ([phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)) for additional information.

Representatives from the metallurgical coal industry are the principal members in ASTM subcommittee D05.28 (currently with thirty members), including coal, coke, and steel companies, service laboratories, and consultancies. A small minority of the subcommittee

consists of representatives from governmental organizations and academia. ASTM members have an individual vote in the development and maintenance of petrographic standards.

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**New TSOP Members**

**Jacquelyn Holt**



Ms. Holt earned her B.S. in geology in 2004 from the University of Colorado. She has worked since 2002 as an industry laboratory manager, overseeing coal and shale gas desorption and geochemical analyses.

\*\*\*

**Chris Mays**



Mr. Mays has earned BSc degrees from the University of Melbourne in Earth Sciences (2006) and Paleontology (2007) with honors. Currently he is pursuing PhD studies at Monash University in Clayton where he is investigating

terrestrial organic deposits under the supervision of Dr. Jeffrey Stillwell and Prof. Mike Hall.

\*\*\*

**Deolinda Flores**



Dr. Flores earned her PhD in 1997 from the University of Porto in studies of organic petrology and geochemistry. She has over twenty years experience in the organic petrology and geochemistry community and has published widely on basic

and applied research including coal utilization, classification and nomenclature, petrology,

environmental applications, and dispersed organic materials.

\*\*\*

**Justin Birdwell**



Dr. Birdwell earned undergraduate (2002) and PhD (2007) degrees in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the U.S. Geological Survey, Central

Energy Resources Science Center in Denver working with Michael Lewan and Ronald Johnson on research projects related to *in situ* pyrolysis of Green River oil shales in the Piceance Basin. His petrological interests include the application of FTIR and advanced NMR techniques in the characterization of kerogen, source rocks and spent oil shale residues. Dr. Birdwell is also the co-chair of the Colorado School of Mines 30th Oil Shale Symposium, to be held in Golden, CO from October 18th through the 20th.

\*\*\*

**Jorgen Samuelsson**



Dr. Samuelsson received his PhD in 1999 from the Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden for a thermal modeling and vitrinite reflectance study of the Alum Shale in the Caledonian foreland basin. Since receiving his degree he has worked for industry on

various aspects of petroleum systems analysis, basin modeling, and prospect evaluation.

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**TSOP 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**July 31 –August 4<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
**Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

Meeting website address:

[www.tsop.org/2011Halifax](http://www.tsop.org/2011Halifax)

or

[www.tsop.org/TSOP-Halifax2011](http://www.tsop.org/TSOP-Halifax2011)

**Organizing committee**

Chair:

Prasanta Mukhopadhyay [muki@global-geoenergy.com](mailto:muki@global-geoenergy.com) Global Geoenergy Research Ltd  
(Muki)

Co-Chairs:

Mike Avery	<a href="mailto:mavery@nrca.gc.ca">mavery@nrca.gc.ca</a>	Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic
Dave Brown	<a href="mailto:dbrown@cnsopb.ns.ca">dbrown@cnsopb.ns.ca</a>	Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
John Calder	<a href="mailto:jhcalder@gov.ns.ca">jhcalder@gov.ns.ca</a>	Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Paul Harvey	<a href="mailto:harveypj@gov.ns.ca">harveypj@gov.ns.ca</a>	Nova Scotia Department of Energy
Hamed Sanei	<a href="mailto:hsanei@nrca.gc.ca">hsanei@nrca.gc.ca</a>	Geological Survey of Canada - Calgary

**Call for papers**

Abstract submission deadline:

**April 30, 2011**

Send to: Prasanta Mukhopadhyay ([muki@global-geoenergy.com](mailto:muki@global-geoenergy.com)) and/or  
Mike Avery ([mavery@nrca.gc.ca](mailto:mavery@nrca.gc.ca))

Postal address: Prasanta Mukhopadhyay  
Global Geoenergy Research Ltd.  
PO Box 9469, Station A  
Halifax, NS B3K 5S3

**Expression of interest:**

Please send us a note to inform us that plan to attend. If you want to make a presentation then send us a preliminary title for your talk or poster.

**Registration:** Pricing to be finalized soon but will be approximately \$300US. Please check the website and watch for email announcements. An online registration form will soon be available along with a printable hardcopy mail-in version.

**Field trip:** A two-day trip is planned with day-one being a comprehensive tour of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs World Heritage Site and museum. Day-two is a trip to an active shale gas area in New Brunswick. Pricing to be announced.

Generic map of North America indicating the location of Halifax on the east coast of Canada.

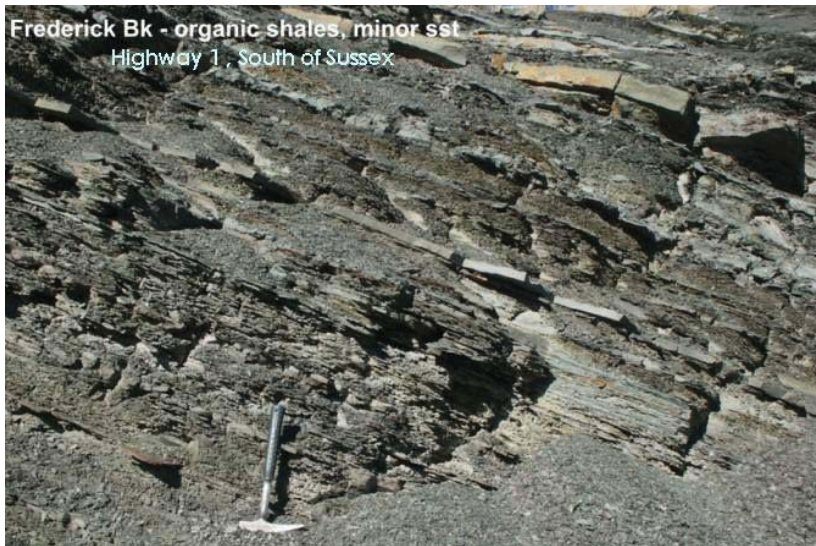
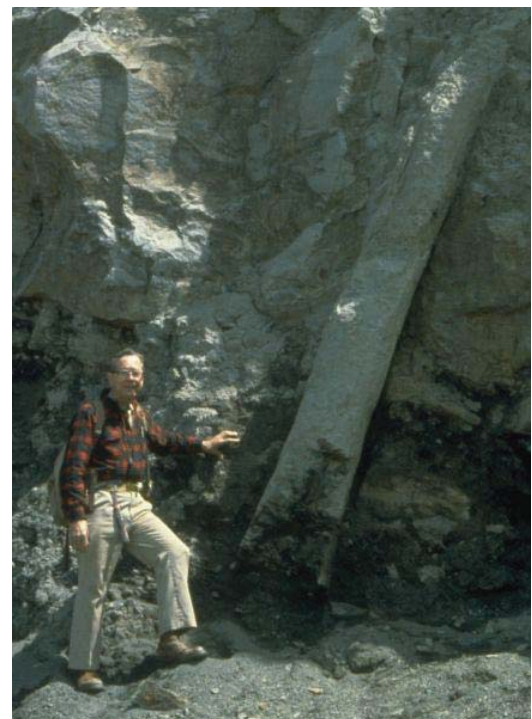


Photo: Outcrop section from New Brunswick shale gas field trip area

Photo: Famous Joggins tree trunk fossil with TSOP Honorary Member Aureal Cross for scale. Photo credit: John Calder, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. Taken during the 1992 Euramerican Coal Province Symposium.







Credit: [gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/coast/storms/noel/peggyscove\\_e.php](http://gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/coast/storms/noel/peggyscove_e.php)

### **Geology shapes our scenery**

Halifax is located on Canada's east coast and has a deserved reputation as a beautiful scenic area. The rugged Atlantic coastline and gentle topography were sculpted by recent glaciation events superimposed on the largely Cambrian to Ordovician sedimentary deposits of the Meguma Terrane on the south mainland area which butts against the Avalon terrane to the north including Cape Breton Island. The two terranes are joined by the major east-west the Minas Fault Zone, which transects the province from the northeast tip of the mainland on the east to the Bay of Fundy in the west.

The highlands in the 'Celtic' areas of the northeastern mainland and Cape Breton are part of the Canadian Appalachians. For a large part of its coast the Cape Breton highlands rise directly from the shoreline forming magnificent views from the famous coast-hugging route called the Cabot Trail, named after John Cabot the 15th century explorer of the area. If you Google Cabot Trail, you will get a link to [Images from Cabot Trail](#) which will give some of the flavour of this region.

On the south coast another famous area was created by large boulders called glacial erratics, composed of 415-million-year-old Devonian granite. With evidence of the scouring marks are still visible in the nearby bedrock the Peggy's Cove lighthouse area juts out into an often hostile North Atlantic surf that seems to try to beat down these huge granites. If you Google Peggy's Cove, you will get a link to [Images from Peggy's Cove](#) which will display fifty pages or more of one of the most photographed areas in this region.

**Program (tentative) for the TSOP 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Halifax Nova Scotia, July 31-August 4, 2011**

	Sunday July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Monday August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday August 4 <sup>th</sup>
800	Registration			Field trip  Day 1  Joggins Fossil Cliffs World Heritage Site & Fossil Museum  Bay of Fundy Joggins Nova Scotia  Leader John Calder  (overnight in Sussex)	Field trip  Day 2  Shale Gas Evaluation in Elgin and Moncton subbasins  Sussex area New Brunswick  Leaders David Keighley Steven Hinds  (Return to Halifax)
830	Short course	Technical Presentations	Technical Presentations		
900					
1000					
1030					
1100					
1130					
1200	Lunch	Business Lunch (Annual General Meeting)	Lunch (Group Photo)		
1230					
100	Short course	Technical Presentations	Technical Presentations		
130					
200					
230					
300					
330					
400					
430					
500	Dinner break				
530					
600					
630					
700	Registration & Ice breaker	Banquet with Guest speaker	(Field trip – travel to first overnight stay)		
730					
800					
830					
900					
930					

Note on Executive Council Meetings: The outgoing meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 5 to 8pm and the incoming meeting for Monday, 5 to 7pm.

## Calendar of Events

2011

**March 20-22, 2011:** Northeastern/North-Central GSA Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. Abstracts deadline: 14 Dec. 2010, [www.geosociety.org/Sections/ne/2011mtg/](http://www.geosociety.org/Sections/ne/2011mtg/)

**April 10-13, 2011:** AAPG Annual Convention, Houston, Texas, USA. [www.aapg.org/houston2011/](http://www.aapg.org/houston2011/)

**May 9-12, 2011:** World of Coal Ash 2011 Conference will be held in Denver, Colorado at the Marriott Tech Center. Abstracts due by December 1, 2010. [www.worldofcoalash.org/](http://www.worldofcoalash.org/)

**July 31 - August 4, 2011:** TSOP 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (in partnership with CSCOP), Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. [www.tsop.org/2011Halifax](http://www.tsop.org/2011Halifax)

**August 14-19, 2011:** Goldschmidt Conference, Prague, Czech Republic. [www.goldschmidt2011.org/](http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/)

**September 5-7, 2011:** 44<sup>th</sup> Annual AASP Palynological Society Meeting, South Hampton, England. [www.palynology.org/meetings.html](http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html)

**September 12-15, 2011:** 28<sup>th</sup> International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. [www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc](http://www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc)

**September 18-23, 2011:** 25th International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry (IMOG) will be held in Interlaken, Switzerland. [www.imog2011.com](http://www.imog2011.com)

**October 9-12, 2011:** Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. [www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/)

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

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

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**U. PORTO**  
FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS  
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO



# ICCP Training Course on Dispersed Organic Matter

September 7-9, 2011, Porto, Portugal

## Course venue:

Departamento de Geociências, Ambiente e Ordenamento do Território,  
Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto (Porto, Portugal).

## INSTRUCTORS:

· Prof. João Graciano  
Mendonça Filho (Brazil)

· Dr. Alan Cook (Australia)

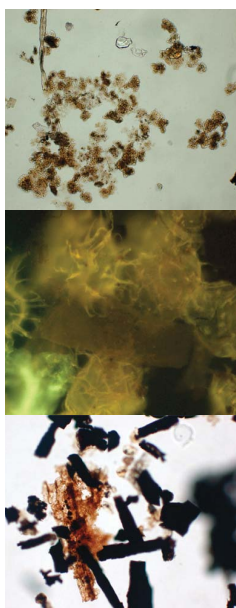
## PROGRAMME

1. Dispersed Organic Matter (DOM): Concepts and definitions  
- João Graciano (1:30h)
  - 1.1. OM production, processing and sedimentation
  - 1.2. OM evolution and chemical composition of biomass
2. Transmitted light microscopy techniques (white and fluorescence lights) – João Graciano (6h theoretical and 3h practical)
  - 2.1. Sample preparation
  - 2.2. Classification of OM
  - 2.3. Maturation: SCI-Spore Colour Index; spectral fluorescence
  - 2.4. Applications: organic petrography, palynology and palynofacies
  - 2.5. Organic facies
3. Reflected light microscopy techniques (white and fluorescence lights) – Alan Cook (6h theoretical and 3h practical)
  - 3.1. Sample preparation and Standardization
  - 3.2. Petrography of OM: Nomenclature and applications
  - 3.3. Maturation: huminite/vitrinite reflectance and spectral fluorescence
4. Case studies (2h theoretical for each instructor and 2h practical for questions)

## Field trip

**September, 10-11, 2010**

One and half day field trip entitled "The Lower Jurassic of the west coast of Portugal: Stratigraphy, geological heritage and organic matter record"



### Registration fees

Company / Professional	750 €
Government / non-profit	400 €
Students	200 €
Field Trip	180 €

For details contact the coordinator of the course, Prof. Lopo Vasconcelos, Vice-President of the ICCP, email [lopovasconcelos@gmail.com](mailto:lopovasconcelos@gmail.com) and Deolinda Flores, email [dflores@fc.up.pt](mailto:dflores@fc.up.pt) for inquiries concerning the local organization  
Updated information in the ICCP webpage [www.iccop.org](http://www.iccop.org)