



## The Hammer

Newsletter of the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago

January 2002

P.O. Box 3524, La Romain, Trinidad and Tobago W.I.

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

The 2001-2002 Executive:

President	Dr. Krishna Persad
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Dr. Laurent de Verteuil
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Mr. Dereck Smith
Treasurer	Ms. Cindy Arjoon
Secretary	Mr. Curtis Archie
Assistant Secretary	Ms. Kim Gillizeau

### **GSTT Annual General Meeting 24th October 2001: A synopsis**

The 2001 Annual General Meeting was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Trinidad & Tobago Institute of Technology (TTIT), Brechin Castle, Couva, with a quorum of 34 members. Dr. Larry Tiezzi, outgoing president expressed gratitude to the executive and volunteer committee members for support given throughout a year which saw a number of new programmes and measures come on stream for the society. The past president highlighted some of these initiatives, which included changes to membership invoicing procedures, launch of the GSTT Secretariat and library at TTIT and the establishment of an undergraduate Geoscience programme at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. According to the outgoing President, the year also saw a continuation of the societies' usual activities such as technical sessions, Petroleum Conference, Field trips, newsletter and website.

The use of the GSTT library seemed of great interest to the attendant members as many concerns and suggestions were raised arising from the Dr. Tiezzi's report. In response to concerns governing book donations to the library raised by Dr. John Frampton, Dr. Tiezzi assured members that bpTT would be

### **GSTT Committee Volunteers 2001-2002**

Technical Sessions	John Chambers
Field Trips	John Chambers, Richard Robertson, Jennifer James-Romano
Finances	Cindy Arjoon
Energy Conference	Victor Young On
Quarterly Forums	Curtis Archie
Housing	Derek Smith
Legal Constitution/ Status	Laurent de Verteuil, Deo Maharaj, Larry Tiezzi
Publications/ Editorial	Hasley Vincent, Richard Robertson
Carrer Guidance	Shaffi Ali, Lindy Phillip, Cindy Arjoon, Kim Gillezeau
Institute of Petroleum Studies	Larry Tiezzi, Ray Kasino
National Energy Business Association	Tony Paul

willing to cover the cost of shipment to Trinidad of any books that are forwarded to their shipping offices in London or Miami. Commendations and concerns were also offered concerning the educational thrust of the GSTT and the Geoscience programme at UWI. Ms. Helena Innis closed by highlighting the need for educational programmes at pre-tertiary levels as a next worthy GSTT project (see letter to the editor).

The outgoing presidents' report was followed by an interim outgoing Treasurers' report by Dr. Laurent de Verteuil on behalf of Mr. Bruce Eggertson. From the interim report, the Society's coffers saw an increase of approximately \$210K at the end of the 2001 financial year, compared to the beginning, to close at \$TTD550 000. This increase can be attributed to successful events such as the GSTT2000SPE and Petroleum conferences, 2000 Annual Dinner and Dance and the Venezuela field trip. The interim treasurers' report was accepted by the members with the agreement that an updated statement of accounts be forwarded by early 2002. Mr. Stephen Wattlely reminded the gathering of the newly opened GSTT library which should be valued and added to our final accounts. Dr. Laurent de Verteuil assured him that this was being pursued. Another important item on the agenda was the election of officers to serve for the 2001-2002 financial year. The election was chaired by Mr. Mahendra Nath with Deosaran Maharaj providing some assistance. The elected officers are listed within another section of this newsletter.

Several other items were discussed during the meeting. In particular, some members raised the idea of membership cards, and merchandizing initiatives

such as tee shirts for members of the Society. Concerns were also raised about government plans to encourage mining around the Pitch Lake, and the effects of the new Geoscience programme on similar programmes already existing at the Mona Campus of the University. Collectively, the evening was very progressive and informative and reaffirmed the efforts of the GSTT as it strives to advance the cause of the Geological profession in Trinidad and Tobago.

*Summarized by the editor from the minutes of the AGM, written by Dr. Laurent de Verteuil.*

### **Twenty-fifth annual dinner & dance awards ceremony of the Geological Society of Trinidad & Tobago**

#### ***Remarks by Incoming President of the Geological Society, Dr. Krishna Persad***

Outgoing President Dr. Larry Tiezzi and Mrs. Tiezzi, President of the SPE Danny Dorsey and Mrs. Dorsey, Members of the High Table, Honorary Members, Special Guests, Members and Friends of the Geological Community. Good evening to you all.

Let me start by saying what a special pleasure it is to be addressing you on this the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society, which I assisted in founding in November 1976.

I note with pleasure also the presence of the first and third Presidents of the Society, Mr. Ken Birchwood and Mr. John Scott.

My role this evening is to outline to you the goals I hope, together with the incoming Executive to achieve in the year ahead.

Before I do that, however, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous achievements of Dr. Larry Tiezzi and his

outgoing executive. Particular mention should be made of Larry and Ray Cassino for their success in ensuring the start of the first Geoscience Bachelor's program in the history of the University of the West Indies at the St. Augustine Campus.

I also want to commend Derek Smith, Victor Young On and their committee which succeeded in this our 25<sup>th</sup> year in finding a home for the Society in the TTIT building and starting a Secretariat. Now as for our goals for the coming year, I see four major tasks ahead.

One, while we commend the start of the Geoscience program, we must remember that we have long recognized the need for an Institute of Petroleum Studies. I want to put everyone on notice that the work has just begun and one major goal of our Executive is to expand the program into a full fledged Institute of Petroleum Studies.

Two, again the current home is a good start, but to my mind we must have a greater vision.

- One in which we see a large energy complex, founded and owned by the Society. A complex based near to Pt. Lisas, and which houses not just the G.S.T.T. but also other energy related organizations.
- One that houses the South office of the Ministry of Energy.
- One which houses a National Core facility, one which houses a comprehensive data base of the entire energy industry and
- One that includes conference and meeting facilities etc.
- In other words, a place where all energy related personnel can meet and interact.

Three, to increase our interaction with and influence on the wider population and in particular the business community. In this regard we are expanding the annual conference which the Society co-hosts with the South Chamber of Industry and Commerce to where it become the premier energy business conference of the region.

In addition I propose to introduce three quarterly business forums, which provide not just quarterly industry and economic updates but also discusses selected topics of particular interest. Finally in this regard the Society will publish periodically, articles in the newspapers, based on the above discussions or other topics of national interest.

Fourthly and finally, ladies and gentlemen, the time has come for the formation of a National Association of Energy Businesses.

- An association which all companies working in the Energy Sector or providing services to the Energy Sector can join.
- An association, which, however, is totally focused on the Energy Industry.
- An association, which speaks in a united voice for the entire industry, but only for the industry.
- I intend to work with our Executive and with all the other energy related organizations and with the various Chambers of Commerce and with the Ministry of Energy to set up such an Association as soon as possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen I thank you for your attention, please enjoy the rest of the evening.

*Dinner & Dance, in pictures*



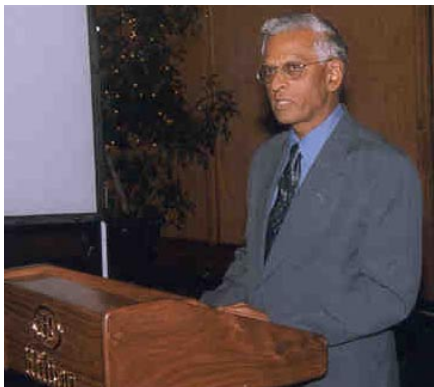
From left: Deosaran Maharaj, Kelvin Bainey, Barry Carr-Brown & John Scott



A section of the audience enjoys the proceedings at the Trinidad Hilton.



Mrs. D.Tiezzi, wife of past GSTT president Larry Tiezzi, flanked by Tony Paul and Andy Carmichael (right)



“GSTT in Review”, Feature presentation by Mahendra Nath reviewing some aspects of the 25-year history of our organization

**On the Calendar**

*16th Caribbean Geological Conference  
16 - 21 June 2002*



The Sixteenth Caribbean Geological Conference will be held in Bridgetown, Barbados in June 2002 under the auspices of the Energy and Natural Resources Division of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources. The Conference is dedicated to the exchange of information on all aspects of Caribbean Geology including Central America and northern South America.

For further information on the Conference, please contact Ms. Carol Telemaque at [carol.telemaque@petrotrin.com](mailto:carol.telemaque@petrotrin.com) or Ms. Gayatri Maharaj at [gstt@tstt.net.tt](mailto:gstt@tstt.net.tt) (679-6064).

*2002 Petroleum Conference & Exhibition  
4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002*

The South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce together with the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago will be hosting the 2002 Petroleum Conference and Exhibition from February 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2002 at the TTIT complex, Brechin Castle, Couva. The Honourable Patrick Manning is listed to deliver the feature address. Presentations are expected from the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, the Honourable Eric Williams, and representatives from major interests groups operating in both the upstream and downstream energy sector of Trinidad and Tobago. Visit [www.gstt.org](http://www.gstt.org) or [www.southchamber.org](http://www.southchamber.org) for provisional programmes and registration information.

**Field Trip Feature**

*Petrotrin Business Units visit Parrylands  
– Forest Reserve area  
Sushma Chatelal (Trinmar)*

Two thumbs up were given to trail master Curtis Archie as he lead a wide cross section of individuals on a year-end field trip to Parrylands. All participants found the day away from the

office not only informative but also highly refreshing.

The day started off early and we were on our way by 8:30 am. Smiles could be noticed on the faces of all whom attended, especially the younger geologists as fond memories of undergraduate field trips came rushing back.

The first of eight stops took us to an outcrop of the Lower Morne L'Enfer. For the newer participants, it was a 'wowing' experience to visit the actual formation and discuss its oil producing capabilities. Petroleum seeps were abundant. As the day progressed, textbook examples of various structural and sedimentological features were observed and prodded for samples.

Neither the glaring sunshine nor the torrents could keep the trailblazers from the outcrops. Our trail continued to an outcrop of the Erin Formation where channels were observed in cross section and some of us took the time to get into the formation – literally!

By the end of the day, old friendships had been rekindled and new ones fostered by the newly merged Technical Teams from Trinmar SBU and Petrotrin-Santa Flora. "Nothing like a good field trip to bring us together" was the view. The effort was greatly applauded and calls for regular expeditions and technical sessions were made by the time we had returned.

Rock on!



Section of the participants examine an outcrop within the Morne L'Enfer Formation

### **Letter to the Editor**

#### *Attracting Children to the Geoscience Profession*

The Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago held a Career Guidance Seminar in 1997 and invited fifth and sixth form students of secondary schools. The cry heard at that seminar was that the Society had held the seminar too late to be of benefit to them as they had already chosen subjects, some of which were unsuitable. They felt that sometime in the third or fourth form would have been ideal as it would have informed their choice of subjects.

I would like to advance the theory that "we need to catch them from small". To this end I am suggesting we create something, which would capture the attention of the youngsters and attempt to hold their attention to it. Next to the National Museum there is an empty lot used mainly by visiting amusement parks. It used to be the site of the Princess Building. I am suggesting that we capture the site and with the assistance of the Energy Companies

located in our midst build on the site a Natural History Museum. I am sure that exhibits featuring the earth and its evolution, evolution of the solar system, the origins of oil, etc would help in imparting knowledge of Geoscience in a way that would be attractive to children and would help to fix their interest.

I anticipate no problems getting help and donations for a project if this type because of the potential benefits to the companies - this is the very population from which companies would draw future employees.

Hope this letter falls on fertile soil.

*Helena Inniss*  
MOEEI

16<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Geological Conference

#### **Field Trip to Tobago**

June 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2002

Led by: Professor Art Snoke,

University of Wyoming

USD 300 per participant

For more info contact

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### **Lighten Up!!**

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression, he said, "If I had all the beer in the world I'd take it and throw it in the river." With even greater emphasis, he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it in the river." And then, with great gusto, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it in the river." He then sat down. The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our next song, let us sing Hymn #365: We Shall Gather at the River."

### **Editorial Note**

*Hasley Vincent  
Richard Robertson*

The newsletter committee joins the membership of the GSTT in thanking the past executive for service to the organization for the 2000-2001 term. We also thank those who have made contributions to this issue of the Newsletter and encourage their continued support in upcoming issues. If you are interested in providing contributions to the GSTT activities, either by newsletter articles, technical presentations or ideas, please contact Ms. Gayatri Maharaj at 868-679-6064 or [gstt@tstt.net.tt](mailto:gstt@tstt.net.tt).