



PACIFIC SEDIMENTOLOGIST

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2020 Summer



From the President



Greetings to the PS-SEPM Family,

Welcome to 2020! There is something about this year that seems odd, but I can't quite put my finger on it. Anyway, PS-SEPM is still here and we are hoping to finish 2020 strong!

We are canceling the 2020 Fall Field Trip and hope to resume as planned in 2021. In place of the field trip, we are working on a Fall Virtual Lecture Series so please keep an eye out for that. If you would like to be part of the Lecture series, please contact Russell Shapiro as soon as possible (rsshapiro@csuchico.edu).

Of course, the PS-AAPG conference in 2020 was canceled, but we plan to resume at the earliest opportunity. We are eager to bestow the A.E. Fritsche Lifetime Achievement Award on our own Mario Caputo and Eric Hendrix. Please see the citations included in this newsletter honoring these two very dedicated individuals.

Registration is currently open for the GSA online conference set for October 26-30 and PS-SEPM will have some presenters, so check out the schedule and support them! Early registration ends September 21 and you can find more information here: https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home?_zs=qv3Ob1&_zl=FKn17.

Looking back, the 2019 Fall Field Trip to Owens Valley CA led by Adam Woods (CSU-Fullerton) was a great success! The weather was gorgeous until the winds picked up and blew us out of camp early Sunday morning. But we made it to the rocks at Union Wash. There are pictures and even a video (many thanks to Scott Hector and Daniel Gillies for capturing the trip) on our website (<https://www.pacificsectionsepm.org/2019-field-trip>).

As PS-SEPM moves forward, we hope to adapt to this changing landscape in ways that continue to support students and academia in the geologic community. I would like to encourage our PS-SEPM family to support this endeavor by sharing their own experiences and knowledge about how organizations like ours can best serve our members in the current climate. Your thoughts and suggestions are very welcome, so please feel free to share to pacsecsepm@gmail.com.

I hope to see you all again soon. Stay safe.



Lisa A. Alpert
PS-SEPM President

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Cover Image:

PS-SEPM members examine Paleozoic carbonate during the 2019 Fall Field Trip. Photo by Daniel Gillies.

2019-2020 Pacific Section SEPM Executive Committee



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2020 FALL LECTURE SERIES

Explore the latest in west-coast sedimentology in this semi-monthly, online lecture series hosted by the Pacific Section, SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)

When: The first and third Wednesday of every month, 5:00-6:00 PM (Pacific Time)

How: Join from home via Zoom: [click here to join](#)

or, paste this into your browser: <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/95189464992?pwd=bFZpUGVXTFoxMktvcW4yOWRCbGwwUT09>
or, in Zoom, click "Join", then enter Meeting ID: 951 8946 4992 and Passcode: PSSEPM

Free to attend and open to all!

Speaker Schedule (as of 2020 September):



Megan Mortimer-Lamb – Aera Energy LLC

"Quantitative compositional analysis of diatomaceous rocks: a case study in the North Sea"

Wednesday, October 7, 5:00 PM PDT



Dan Sturmer – Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati

"Looking through the window of tectonics: late Paleozoic tectonism, basin evolution, and paleogeography of eastern Nevada"

Wednesday, October 21, 5:00 PM PDT



Carol Dehler – Department of Geosciences, Utah State University

"Global glaciations in deep time: what they can tell us about climate change"

Wednesday, November 4, 5:00 PM PST



Yadira Ibarra – Department of Earth and Climate Sciences, San Francisco State U.

"Enigmatic early Paleozoic dolomite mottledstones from western Laurentia: burrows or microbialites?"

Wednesday, November 18, 5:00 PM PST



Geraldine Anon – PaleoSolutions, Inc.

"The nuts and bolts of environmental consulting (paleontology and archaeology)"

Wednesday, December 2, 5:00 PM PST

Interested in speaking as part of this lecture series? Contact Russell Shapiro at rsshapiro@csuchico.edu

Field Trips to Resume in 2021

The PS-SEPM annual fall field trip is usually the highlight of the year for PS-SEPM, a great chance to connect with other members, and an opportunity to introduce new members and students to the society and all it has to offer. Unfortunately, with the current COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 field trip, like so many things, must be postponed. But, not to worry: PS-SEPM will be back out in the field as soon as it is feasible, with some exciting trips lined up. Next year, we will explore the San Gabriel Mountains of southern California on a trip led by Raymond V. Ingersoll and Kevin Coffey, and in 2022, Daniel Sturmer will lead us into the Spring Mountains of southern Nevada. In the meantime, PS-SEPM is launching an exciting new lecture series to take the place of this year's fall trip. See what your fellow west-coast sedimentologists have been up to, join in interesting discussions, and keep in touch with the rest of the society, without worrying about the long drives that come with field trips. The details are on the previous page....we hope we'll see you there! And, as always, you can relive past fieldtrips through the summaries in our newsletters (2019's is on the next page, and previous years' newsletters are available at <https://www.pacificsectionsepm.org/newsletters>), or take to the field yourself armed with one of our fantastic field guides (<https://www.pacificsectionsepm.org/aapg-datapages>).



PS-SEPM Student Research Grants

A new student research grant opportunity will soon be available from PS-SEPM, with applications to be released in December and due by 2021 February 15.

Please check our website in December: www.pacificsectionsepm.org

Summary: 2019 Fall Field Trip to the Inyo Mountains

Anatomy of Anachronistic Carbonate Platform: Environmental Conditions and Biotic Recovery in the Aftermath of the Permian-Triassic Mass Extinction

Trip Leaders: Adam D. Woods, Rostislav Kovtun

2019 October 26-27

Pacific Section SEPM Book 122

[Purchase the Field Guide](#)



Trip Leader Adam Woods (center) discusses the sedimentology of the Union Wash Formation. Photo by Daniel Gillies.

The 2019 PS-SEPM Fall Field trip examined Lower Triassic carbonates of the Union Wash Formation in the southern Inyo Mountains in order to examine environmental conditions in a shallow to deep carbonate sequence deposited in the aftermath of the Permian – Triassic mass extinction. We started at the classic angular unconformity in Darwin Canyon that separates Lower Permian and Lower Triassic rocks. From there, we walked through the majority of the section exposed in the Darwin Hills. We examined abundant *Thalassinoides* burrow networks that are found within shallow water sediments of the lower member, and represent an early, nascent recovery. Unusual fabrics and facies of the middle and upper member that are indicative of harsh environmental conditions made up the rest of our day, including seafloor precipitates, thick sequences of cm-scale alternations of laminated micritic limestone and calcareous siltstone, and unusual

Summary: 2019 Fall Field Trip to the Inyo Mountains



(Left) Pacific Section SEPM members gather around the campsite for a morning presentation before heading into the field.



(Right) The Pacific Section SEPM at a spectacular outcrop. Photos by Daniel Gillies.

micritic limestone units. We also got a chance to see ample evidence of soft sediment deformation. Sunday we examined microbial facies and fabrics found in the upper member of the Union Wash Formation at Cerro Gordo, CA.

– written by Adam Woods



(Above Left) A view of the majestic Sierra Nevada from Owens Valley. (Above Right) The night sky as seen from the campground.

(Below) A panoramic view of the Pacific Section SEPM exploring the outcrops. Photos by Daniel Gillies.



2020 A. Eugene Fritsche Lifetime Achievement Award:

Eric D. Hendrix

Citation by Raymond V. Ingersoll



It is with mixed emotions that I present the A. Eugene Fritsche Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020 to Eric D. Hendrix on behalf of the Pacific Section SEPM. My heart swells with pride at Eric's achievements as a researcher, practitioner and wonderful person at the same time that I feel such a sense of loss at his recent death from complications from lifelong diabetes. PS-SEPM has lost a longtime supporter, contributor and friend.

Eric received his B.S. in Geological Sciences from CSU, Long Beach in 1983 and M.S. in Geology from UCLA in 1986. His Masters thesis on the Vasquez Formation of the Soledad basin remains the definitive work on the subject. He was a Certified Professional Geologist, a Certified Hydrogeologist and a Certified Engineering Geologist in California, and a Certified Professional Geologist in Arizona. He served as Principal Hydrogeologist and Partner with Earth Consultants International in his final years. The Dibblee Geological

Foundation dedicated a map to him. He received Honorary Membership in PS-SEPM in 2017, based on years of devoted service as Newsletter Editor and Executive Committee Member, as well as extensive contributions to both academic and applied research.

Eric was imbued with an intense intellectual drive to understand geologic and hydrologic problems, whether they were purely academic efforts to reconstruct complex stratigraphic, paleogeographic and paleotectonic relations; or evaluation of neotectonic hazards; or exploring practical hydrologic and environmental problems. It was a distinct pleasure for me to supervise Eric's M.S. thesis research, to be a co-author with him, and explore efforts to expand that research in new directions and develop new hypotheses concerning southern California paleotectonics. He completed a manuscript concerning the Miocene Topanga Formation that will be the foundation for a future synthesis. Engaging Eric in intense intellectual discussion was always wonderfully rewarding.

Some of Eric's friends posted the following remembrances:

"Eric was a really warm, big-hearted guy and a heck of a good geologist. I think that all of us benefited from knowing him. My connections with him were primarily through the Pacific Section SEPM where he was a long-time, strong and reliable contributor and colleague."

"Eric was a great guy, always contributing positive energy to the group! I really enjoyed working with him and was amazed about his extensive knowledge on California geology, whether it was sedimentology, tectonics, structural geology, or his main expertise, hydrogeology. I had many great conversations on the Monterey Formation with him and he shared a lot of his books with me that helped me during my times as a student."

"Eric had a big heart and he cared deeply for PS-SEPM."

And, for myself: "Eric was one of the most self-motivated, enthusiastic graduate students I supervised. He was a true scholar who investigated all sources of knowledge, which he merged with his excellent observations to produce innovative and solid syntheses. He was a pleasure to work with, both personally and professionally. He will be missed by many."

2020 A. Eugene Fritsche Lifetime Achievement Award: Mario Vincent Caputo

Citation by Tom Anderson



I am very honored to have been asked to be the citationist for Mario's award. He has been a friend, colleague, and mentor for many years and I have worked with him on several projects. It is appropriate that the late John Cooper on a PS-SEPM fall field trip, the 2004 San Andreas Fault in the Bay Area, first introduced me to Mario and we really bonded during subsequent fall field trips and started working together a few years later. Both John and the traditional fall field trips have had a big influence on both Mario and myself, as you will see in the following paragraphs.

Mario's geologic career started as an undergraduate geology major at San Diego State University. While at San Diego State, Mario took a class in Sedimentology from Pat Abbott and continued his sedimentology education with graduate degrees at Northern Arizona University (M.S.) and The University of Cincinnati (Ph.D.). His thesis and dissertation described the Middle Jurassic rocks in east-central and southwest Utah and formed the basis for a long lasting interest in the rocks of this area. And the scenery wasn't bad either! An important part of this work was the mentors that he had at these universities; Ron Blakey at NAU and Wayne Pryor and Paul Potter at Cincinnati; all leaders in their fields. In doing fieldwork with Mario, one can sense the influence that these men had on him.

Mario, then went on to a teaching career at various colleges and universities; Mississippi State University, Mt. San Antonio College, and lecturer, adjunct positions at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and San Diego State University. At all of these universities he was active in research and served as advisor for numerous graduate and undergraduate theses. He won awards for undergraduate advising and community service from Mississippi State University, was recognized for Teacher Appreciation-Uncompromising-Commitment to Student Achievement and California Community College Honor Society at Mt. San Antonio College. He was also recognized as a Faculty Who Make Significant Impact on Students Transferring to 4-Year Institutions, also at Mt. San Antonio College. At San Diego State University, Mario was recognized as an Outstanding Faculty Member in 2014 and as a Baylor Brooks Honored Alumnus by the Department of Geology in 2015. Thus, Mario is an excellent teacher and has been rewarded for that at the various universities that have been fortunate to have him on their faculty.

Mario has continued to be active in research on the Jurassic rocks of the Colorado Plateau and eolian carbonate rocks on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas and has continued to publish in both areas. He participated in a research conference on San Salvador Island in June, 2019 and presented some of his carbonate research at that symposium. He is also collaborating with Steve Rowland from UNLV on a study of tracks found in the Carboniferous Manakacha Formation along the Bright Angel Trail in Grand Canyon and they presented a poster on this subject at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meeting in Albuquerque in 2018. His CV lists 30 abstracts presented at meetings as well as numerous published papers and papers that he reviewed.

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2020 A. Eugene Fritsche Lifetime Achievement Award: Mario Vincent Caputo

Citation by Tom Anderson

(continued from previous page)

Those of us active in PS-SEPM know Mario for his distinguished work with our organization. When John Cooper, our Managing Editor, passed away in 2007, Mario stepped up and has taken over that role in a big way. He has edited and had published many field guides for our organization and represented us at meetings. He regularly puts up a PS-SEPM booth at meetings, moves many cartons of our publications to that booth, and generally spends a good part of every meeting at that booth selling our publications and our organization. And, of course, the entire process needs to be done in reverse at the end of the meeting. Also, as Managing Editor, Mario has put many of our publications in the Datapages file of AAPG so they are more readily available to other members of our profession. We can't thank Mario enough for filling this important and very time-consuming role for PS-SEPM.

One of the important functions of PS-SEPM is conducting the fall field trips and other field trips. Mario as Managing Editor, has obviously been very active in this area as he reviews and edits every guidebook that is published. In addition he has been active in coordinating and leading these field trips. And, after the field trips, many of the guides still need revisions and he does most of that. Field trips that he has led recently are numerous. In 2015, he was co-leader of a trip to the Hawaiian Islands with Chuck Blay titled Sediments of a Mid-Plate Volcanic Island Complex: A Field Investigative Trip on the Islands of Hawaii and Kauai (PS-SEPM Book 118). As part of that guidebook, Mario was the primary author of Volume 3, Carbonate Eolianites. In 2016, he co-led a trip to Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada with Steve Rowland (PS-SEPM Book 119) and in 2017 conducted a field trip to the Jurassic rocks of southwest Utah with me (PS-SEPM Book 120). He also has helped to coordinate other PS-SEPM trips including John Warme's field trip in 2013 to the Alamo Breccia in southern Nevada (PS-SEPM Book 115). Most recently, Mario was the primary leader of a GSA Field trip from the 2019 GSA national meeting in Phoenix entitled Back to the Jurassic: Architecture of Eolian, Wadi, Microbialite, and Disturbed Facies, Carmel Formation and Navajo Sandstone, Kane County, south-central Utah. He also was the trip leader for the San Diego State University Department of Geology alumni group in Spring, 2019. As an outgrowth of these field trips, Mario is preparing a chapter for an upcoming publication by the Utah Geological Society titled Geosites of Utah.

Enough said! It is very obvious that Mario is a very worthy recipient of the Fritsche Lifetime Achievement Award.



Mario Caputo (left) and citationist Tom Anderson (right), leading a field trip for SDSU alumni in 2019.

PS-SEPM Website

For announcements, field-trip summaries, newsletters, and more,
and to contact or join PS-SEPM, go to:

www.pacificsectionsepm.org

PS-SEPM Membership

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