



January 2008

## Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Newsletter

**January 24, 2008 Meeting: Dr. Azzam Alwash**

*Will speak on . . .*

### ***“Restoration of the Tigris and Euphrates marshes in Iraq, and other topics”***

#### **Speaker Synopsis / Abstract**

Dr. Azzam Alwash, the executive director of Eden Again/Nature Iraq, was born in Kut, Iraq. Dr. Alwash spent his youth in Nasiriyah, where his father was a district irrigation engineer. In 1978, Alwash left Iraq, immigrating to the United States. He earned a bachelor's degree at California State University at Fullerton, and a doctorate at the University of Southern California, both in civil engineering.

Dr. Alwash worked for 18 years at Pacific Soils Engineering, a consulting firm specializing in southern California geologic, geotechnical, and environmental services. He also serves on the board of directors for the Iraq Foundation, a Washington-based nonprofit organization working for democracy and human rights in Iraq. Further, he is also the Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the newly established American University of Iraq – Sulimani (AUI-S) as well as the founding director of the Twin Rivers Environmental Research Institute at AUI-S

In 1998, Dr. Alwash and his wife, geologist Suzanne Alwash, started “**Eden Again**” to bring attention to the environmental disaster caused by the drying of the marshes in Iraq. After the fall of Saddam Hussein, Alwash quit his consultant practice to direct the Eden Again operations in Iraq. He and his family now divide their time between Iraq and the United States, where he speaks to international audiences and continues to promote the restoration of the marshlands.

Dr. Alwash has been written about in various publications, including the front page of the Wall St. Journal, and he has testified before Congress

**A GREAT TALK TO FIND OUT  
ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES IN IRAQ . . .  
AND MORE !!!**

## Meeting Time, Place, Cost and Reservations

### **Time:**

**Thursday, January 24, 2008**

### **Typical Meeting Agenda**

**Lunch Served: 11:30 AM to 12:00PM**  
**Announcements: 11:50 AM to 12:15 PM**  
**Guest Speaker: 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM**

### **Place:**

**The Grand at Willow Street Conference Center** located at 4101 East Willow Street, Long Beach, CA. (562-426-0555). Take Lakewood Boulevard south from the San Diego Freeway (405), turn west onto Willow Street and turn right onto Grand Avenue at the sign for the Center. Park free in the garage structure.

### **Cost:**

**Lunch and Speaker: \$20.00 with reservations**  
**\$25.00 without reservations**  
**Student: FREE (Lunch and Speaker)**

### **Meeting Reservations:**

Make your reservations using our web site at [www.labgs.org](http://www.labgs.org), by calling Marieke at (562) 624-3364., or emailing Marieke\_Gaudet@Oxy.com. **Reservations must be made prior to Tuesday** before the meeting, but walk-ons are always welcome.

## Upcoming 2008 Speaker Schedule

January 24, 2008 – Dr. Azzam Alwash on “*Restoration of the Tigris and Euphrates marshes in Iraq, and other topics*”. This is a joint meeting with the Los Angeles Association of Petroleum Landmen and the PSAAPG ExCom will be in attendance.

February 28, 2008 – Dr. Gregory Holk of CSULB will talk about “*Stable Isotopic Clues to Fluid Pathways in Major Crustal-Scale Fault Zones*” .

March 27, 2008 – Dr. Kenneth Peters of the USGS will talk about “*Families of Monterey Crude Oil, Seep Oil, and Tarballs in Coastal California*”.

*If you have a speaker suggestion, please mention it to a Board member !!*

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## WE'LL BE THERE



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## The LABGS Don Clarke Award

The 2007 recipient of the Don Clarke Brunton award is Ms. Rane Anderson of Long Beach City College. Rane was nominated for the award by her advisor, Dr. Doug Britton. Dr. Britton described Rane as a bright and enthusiastic new geology student with great promise. Rane exhibited great interest and enthusiasm in class, helped as a student assistant, and has the potential to become an outstanding geologist.

Ms. Anderson is continuing her coursework at CSULB by getting a BS in Geology and expects to graduate in the summer of 2008. Her advisor at CSULB is Dr. Rick Behl.

The Don Clarke Brunton Award is given to a qualified student attending a LA Basin community college with the goal of getting an Associate degree, and enrolled with plans to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Geology or the Earth Sciences.

*The Society is currently looking for a qualified applicant for the 2008 award.*

### SELECTION PROCESS

The award winner is selected from candidates nominated by a faculty member at their original school. The winner is selected based on the following criteria:

- Grade point average in earth science classes.
- An enthusiastic or special recommendation from the advisor, department chair, or mentor professor

## Elections

### We have new officers:

Bill Long of Occidental Petroleum will take over as the Program and field trip coordinator.

Jean Kulla, environmental consultant, will take over as Treasurer from Steve Zigan.

Marieke Gaudet of Occidental Petroleum will take over as Secretary / Web Master from Ivan Aburto.

Welcome !!!

## Student Sponsorship

Both Halliburton and Schlumberger are defraying the cost to the Society as our students-at-the-monthly meetings program. *Students are free at all meetings.* Thank you.

## International Conference on Coal and Organic Petrology ICCP-TSOP

This is a call-for-papers for the joint annual meeting in Ovideo, Spain to be held on September 21-27, 2008. Conference themes will include petrology, organic geochemistry, coal technologies and the environment. The abstract submittal deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. For more info see [www.incar.csic.es/iccp\\_tsop](http://www.incar.csic.es/iccp_tsop)

## Imperial Barrel Award

Our San Diego State student chapter is competing in the Imperial Barrel Award against the University of Alaska- Fairbanks. This runoff will determine the PSAAPG team that will be sent to the National convention in San Antonio and compete against schools from around the world.

The Imperial Barrel Award is a 30+ year program / contest for graduate-level students at universities around the world. The student teams interpret and review geological, geophysical, land and economic data and then present it to a review team composed of oil & gas professionals. National AAPG sponsored the 2007 version at the National Convention in Long Beach. The response was so good and the feedback was so positive that AAPG decided to hold it again at San Antonio in 2008.

Each team in San Antonio will be compensated for travel, accommodations and registration.

The national AAPG grand prize is \$20,000, the second is \$10,000, and the third is \$5,000.

More info can be found at [www.aapg.org/iba](http://www.aapg.org/iba).

***This is a great opportunity for students to get exposed to a real-life project and get a great trip to the National Convention.***

## The LABGS Field Trip

The LABGS Winter field trip will be held Sunday Feb 3, 2008 to coincide with a very low tide along the shoreline.

The field trip will visit coastal exposures of Miocene and younger extensional faults, syn-rift sediments and intrusives (San Onofre Breccia, Monterey Formation, dacitic and andesitic dikes) and post-rift sediments (Capistrano Formation) that were deposited in the newly formed tectonic troughs. Discussions at San Onofre State Beach, Dana Point, and Laguna Beach will be based upon excellent coastal outcrops and recently acquired multichannel seismic reflection profiles and high-resolution bathymetric data from the adjacent offshore continental borderland.

**See this newsletter for a flyer.**

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### **Contact Us – The LABGS Board**

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Program Chair: Bill Long (562) 624-3258  
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**OUR WEB SITE ADDRESS IS:**  
[www.labgs.org](http://www.labgs.org)

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## President's Note

To all our members,

Well, the Holiday season is just past us and I know that you had some special times with family and friends. I was back East and visited among other things the Museum of Natural History in DC. That Hope diamond sure is big!!

I am looking forward to a great program in 2008 and we kick it off in a great way with our January talk by Dr. Azzam Alwash on "*Restoration of the Tigris and Euphrates marshes in Iraq, and other topics*". Dr. Alwash has volunteered to speak on many other Iraqi-related issues as well. Dr. Alwash is a nationally recognized speaker so please come to support him and the LABGS. The meeting will be held with the LA Association of Petroleum Landmen, so please take a moment, come on down and meet somebody new.

**And we have new officers. Please welcome Bill, Jean and Marieke to the LABGS fold. They are excited about their new positions and want to do a great job in making ours one of the best geologic societies in the country.**

**And the winter field trip is coming up!!! We are planning on going to the South Coast area on Sunday Feb 3rd. Please find the article for more info.**

**The Imperial Barrel Award is the big thing now. What is it you ask? See this newsletter for some info and check the AAPG website. The LABGS has one of its student chapters working on a presentation for the overall PSAAPG sponsorship.**

Thanks!

Jon



# Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Membership Form

Join the LABGS and become a member of the Pacific Section AAPG all for one low price of \$12.00 per year - 2 West Coast Geoscience Organizations for the price of one



## Membership Benefits

- LABGS Membership
- Monthly Luncheon Meetings with Strong Technical Programs
- Pacific Section AAPG Membership
- Pacific Section AAPG Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Discounts for PSAAPG Bookstore Publications
- Bi-Annual West Coast Geoscience Directory - *next edition 6/03*
- Networking and Social Opportunities with Fellow Geoscientists

### Current Annual LABGS/PSAAPG Dues

1 Year Option = \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Year Option = \$36.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Extended E-Mail Announcement List Fees

To receive meeting notices from SJGS and CGS

1 Year Option = \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Year Option = \$36.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PSAAPG Foundation Contributions

B. Hacker Publication Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Van Couvering Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dibble Map Foundation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
California Well Sample Repository \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
John Kilkenny Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
PSAAPG Foundation Trust Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTAL PAYMENT

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Essential Member Information

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Res or Bus ?* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Directory Information

Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
Position / Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Bus Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Res Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Education *Highest Degree* \_\_\_\_\_ *Year* \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual membership is handled through PSAAPG and runs from July 1, through June 30. If you are already a current member of PSAAPG and you selected LABGS affiliation you are already a member of the LABGS.*

**Please Make Checks out to PSAAPG and mail along with member form to:  
PSAAPG P.O. Box 1072, Bakersfield, CA 93302**