

February 2016



LOS ANGELES BASIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Thursday February 25th

Stanley C. Finney

CSULB Geosciences Department Chair and Professor

THE 'ANTHROPOCENE' EPOCH: SCIENTIFIC DECISION OR POLITICAL STATEMENT?

Abstract

The proposal for the 'Anthropocene' Epoch as a formal unit of the Geologic Time Scale has received extensive attention in scientific and public media. However, most articles on the 'Anthropocene' misrepresent the nature of the units of the International Chronostratigraphic Chart, which is produced by the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) and serves as the basis for the Geologic Time Scale. The stratigraphic record of the 'Anthropocene' is minimal especially with its recently proposed beginning in 1945; it is that of a human lifespan, and that definition relegates considerable anthropogenic change to a pre-'Anthropocene.' The utility of the 'Anthropocene' requires careful consideration by its various potential users. Its concept is fundamentally different from the chronostratigraphic units that are established by ICS in that the documentation and study of human impact on the Earth system are based more on direct human observation than on a stratigraphic record. The drive to officially recognize the 'Anthropocene' may, in fact, be political rather than scientific.

Speaker's Biography

Stan Finney is professor and interim chair of geological sciences at CSULB. Originally from California, he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from UC Riverside followed by a PhD at The Ohio State University. Following post doctoral positions at

Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada and the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and a temporary teaching position at Ohio State University, he has held tenure track positions at Northern Arizona University, Oklahoma State University, and since 1986 at CSULB, where he served as chair of Geological Sciences from 1988-2009 and is again chair today. He held the position of Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Natural Sciences at the University of Salzburg, Austria in 2002 and was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic in 2010. He is a stratigraphic paleontologist with an initial specialization on Ordovician graptolites. Besides publishing on the morphology, taxonomy, paleoecology and paleobiogeography of graptolites, he has used graptolite biostratigraphy to investigate the subsidence and migration of the Taconic foreland basin in the Appalachians, correlate the stratigraphy and interpret the depositional history of Ordovician strata in the Arbuckle and Ouachita Mountains of Oklahoma and Arkansas, and to reconstruct the depositional and tectonic history of the Roberts Mountains allochthon in north-central Nevada. In addition, he has used U-Pb dating of detrital zircons from Cambrian and Carboniferous sandstones to develop a new model for the origin of the Cuyania terrane of western Argentina. Since 2008 he has served as chair of the International Commission on Stratigraphy. Of his many duties and activities with ICS, the most recent has been to address the proposal that an 'Anthropocene' epoch should be recognized as a new unit of the Geologic Time Scale (the subject of his presentation to the LABGS). In addition, his feature science article to appear in the March/April 2016 issue of GSA Today focuses on the same topic.

Meeting Time, Place, Cost, and Reservations

Date:

Thursday, February 25th, 2016

Meeting Agenda:

Lunch Served: 11:30 AM to 12:00PM
Announcements: 11:45 AM to 12:00 PM
Guest Speaker: 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM
Questions/Close: 12:45 PM to 1:00 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 Conference Center. Park free in the garage structure.

Cost:

Lunch and Speaker: \$25.00 with reservations
\$30.00 without reservations
Retired: \$20.00
Student: \$5.00

Meeting Reservations:

We encourage you to make your reservations using the LABGS web site, at www.labgs.org

Otherwise, call Ryan Weller at (562) 637-6019, or e-mail ryweller@gmail.com.

PLEASE Make: ☺ Reservations must be made by 10:00 AM Tuesday morning prior to Thursday's meeting to receive discount price noted above. As always, walk-ins are welcome.

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If you or your business/organization would like to become a Student Lunch Sponsor, please let us know.

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