



September 2007

## Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Newsletter

**September 27, 2007 Meeting: Dr. Nate Onderdonk of CSULB**

*Will speak on . . .*

# What makes southern California spin? A look at rotational tectonics along the San Andreas plate boundary

### Speaker Synopsis / Abstract

Thirty years ago it was recognized that large parts of southern California have been rotated around a vertical axis. Although numerous studies have since helped define where, when, and how much rotation occurred, exactly how and why these areas spin is still unclear.

This talk will address the mechanics and driving forces of rotation in southern California using observations from the western Transverse Ranges and the Mojave Desert. I will summarize recent developments in understanding this process and outline the important questions that remain to be answered.

*Dr. Onderdonk is an Assistant Professor in the Geology Department at Long Beach State University. His research interests lie mainly in the fields of tectonics and geomorphology and he is currently involved with several projects in southern California, Greenland, and Arctic Norway.*

*Dr. Onderdonk received a BS in Physics from Principia College in 1996. While attending a field-based introductory geology course in Colorado one summer, he was shocked to learn that people actually got paid to hike around and bang on rocks in the mountains and decided to pursue a career in geology. So after finishing his physics degree, he enrolled at UC Santa Barbara where he earned a MS and a PhD in geology. He then spent two years as a research scientist at the Physics of Geological Processes research center in Oslo, Norway where he was introduced to Arctic tectonics. He returned to southern California in 2005 to take a professor position at Cal State LA where he spent two years before taking his current position at Long Beach State.*

**A GREAT TALK TO START YOUR  
FALL !!!**

## Meeting Time, Place, Cost and Reservations

### **Time:**

**Thursday, September 27, 2007**

### **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), emailing [iaburto@breitburn.com](mailto:iaburto@breitburn.com) or calling Ivan Aburto at (213) 225-5900 ext. 234. **Reservations must be made prior to Tuesday** before the meeting, but walk-ons are always welcome.

## Upcoming 2007 - 08 Speaker Schedule

September 27, 2007 – Dr. Nate Onderdonk of CSULB speaking on “**What makes southern California spin? A look at rotational tectonics along the San Andreas plate boundary**”.

October 25, 2007 – Schlumberger on their Periscope™ drilling technology.

November 22, 2007 – No meeting.

December, 2007 – No meeting.

January 24, 2008 – TBA. Joint meeting with Los Angeles Association of Landmen.

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

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## The LABGS Brunton Award

The 2007 recipient of the LABGS Brunton award is Ms. Jacqueline Arellano Chavez of CSULB. More info on Ms. Chavez will be in the next newsletter.

The LABGS Brunton Award is given to a qualified undergraduate student attending a four-year LA Basin College or University currently pursuing 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. The winner is selected based on the following criteria:

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

## The Don Clarke Award

The Don Clarke Brunton Award is given to a qualified student graduating from an LA Basin Community College with an Associate Degree, enrolled in a Geology or Earth Science curriculum with plans to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Geology or the Earth Sciences.

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

To qualify for this LABGS award, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Plan to graduate in 2008 with an Associate Degree from a Los Angeles Basin Area Community College.
- Complete a Geology or Earth Science curriculum.
- Must be pursuing plans to enroll in a four-year college or university with Geology, Geological Sciences, or Earth Science as their designated major.

## Elections

The time is past for elections. The election time has been delayed because of the lack of nominees. We will be running the election in next month's newsletter.

## We need YOU!!

- The LABGS needs an individual interested in being the Treasurer. This is a real issue, your treasurer has been in office for close to 4 years. Although the tasks are not great, the need for help is. Please volunteer or nominate (with their knowledge!) somebody now.

## Student Sponsorship

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

## Convention Recap and Funding

The PSAAPG put on a great National AAPG Convention in the springtime. All the fieldtrips sponsored by the LABGS were sold out and were very well received. The Urban Oilfield trip will be repeated at the SPE National convention in Anaheim this November. The fieldtrips and our hosting of the convention contributed greatly to our coffers and we plan on returning funds to our members through talks and trips. We would also like to sponsor more student chapter activities. If your student chapter is interested please contact Jon Kuespert at [jkuespert@breitburn.com](mailto:jkuespert@breitburn.com).

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## **Contact Us – The LABGS Board**

President: Jon Kuespert (213) 225-5900 x 224  
[jkuespert@breitburn.com](mailto:jkuespert@breitburn.com)

Program Chair: nominee-in-place

Treasurer: vacant

Secretary: nominee-in-place

**OUR WEB SITE ADDRESS IS:**

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

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## **President's Note**

To all our members,

I hope everybody had a great summer. As I write this I was just informed of the passing of Dr. John Cooper of CSUF. John gave many years of service to our understanding of the geologic world and put in time to help several of our local societies. I hope that all of you can keep his family in your thoughts.

This month's talk will be given by Dr. Nate Onderdonk of CSULB. Dr. Onderdonk will speak on **“What makes southern California spin? A look at rotational tectonics along the San Andreas plate boundary”**. Please come and support the first speaker of the new year ! ! ! !

**And it is still ELECTION time. We need a treasurer to help with the Society. I will remain here as President, we have nominees for Program chair and Webmaster. The Treasurer spot is not time-consuming, and does not require a PhD, just somebody willing to put some effort in. I want a person who is interested, referrals are nice, but I want the nominator to be doing the legwork of contacting the candidate. We are now having elections later than last year.**

**Please help NOW!**

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**