

*The following pages are excerpted from the booklet distributed at the Honors and Awards luncheon at the 2017 Pacific Section AAPG meeting*

# Honors and Awards



**The 90th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Section  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists**

**May 23, 2017  
Anchorage, Alaska**

## **Committee on Honors and Awards**

The purpose of the Committee on Honors and Awards (CH&A) as listed in the ByLaws, Article 2, Section 9 of the Pacific Section AAPG states:

“The primary function of the Committee on Honors and Awards shall be to recommend to the Executive Committee recipients for all honors and awards. All recommendations for these honors and awards by Section members or other Section committees shall first be considered by this Committee before being presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Following Executive Committee approval, the awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Section.

### **Committee Members**

**Bob Lindblom, Chair, Northern CA, AK**

**Jack H. West, San Joaquin Valley CA**

**Robert C. Countryman, San Joaquin Valley CA**

**Tom Hopps, Coastal Area CA**

**John Williams, Coastal Area CA**

**Don Clarke, Southern CA**

## **Young Professional Distinguished Service Award**

The YP Distinguished Service Award was defined and proposed by the Section's Executive Committee in 2014. It will be first presented at the Section's Annual Meeting in Oxnard, CA in 2015. The award is bestowed upon practicing petroleum geologists who are under 35 years of age or who have been employed as a petroleum geologist for less than 10 years. The Honoree has volunteered and demonstrated excellence, enthusiastic participation, organization creativity, leadership and passion for the geological sciences.

**This year the Section honors:**

***Trystan M. Herriott, Fairbanks, AK***

# Citations

## YP Distinguished Service Award

### *Trystan M. Herriott*



Trystan Herriott is an excellent choice to receive the Young Professional Distinguished Service Award from the Pacific Section AAPG. Since joining the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) in 2009, he quickly became widely respected for both his technical contributions and his service to the geologic community. Trystan is a regular contributor at local, regional, and international technical conferences where he has been lead author on eight presentations since 2011. He has also given invited lectures at the Alaska Geological Society (AGS) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His leadership contributions include serving on the board of directors for AGS and co-chairing a theme session on energy resource potential of the northern Cordillera hosted by the Geological Society of America. He has also provided technical leadership at DGGS, most notably as an editor of a collected series of papers on Cook Inlet geology and lead author on two forthcoming geologic maps from the North Slope.

Trystan received his geology degrees from the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he received a number of awards in recognition of his academic and field skills. His Master's thesis focused on the stratigraphy, structure, and  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  geochronology of Cenozoic volcanic and clastic rocks in Chile. This work provided the key geologic framework for a number high profile fossil occurrences, including some early primate sites. The bulk of this remote fieldwork in South America was actually completed while Trystan was still an undergraduate, heralding a pattern of precocious accomplishment that has characterized Trystan's career thus far.

DGGS hired Trystan in the hope that he would contribute as a geologic mapper—a task that tends to require a generalist with working knowledge of a variety of fields, but not necessarily expertise in any one topic. Although Trystan has proven to be an outstanding mapper, it quickly became apparent that he was a voracious learner who would also be able to contribute in other areas. In the last four years alone, he has been first author on eight papers and coauthor on another twelve. As a harbinger of things to come, Trystan's first DGGS paper was selected by the State Geologist as the best publication of the year.

The breadth of topics that Trystan has tackled in his short career are quite remarkable and worth outlining briefly:

- Photogeologic mapping of recent volcanic eruptions
- Geology and geochemistry of Mississippian mafic igneous rocks
- Sedimentology of Pleistocene volcanoclastic rocks
- Petroleum geology of oil-stained Mesozoic rocks
- U-Pb detrital zircon geochronology
- Origin and significance of submarine canyons
- Sequence stratigraphy of forearc strata

The diversity present in that selected list would be impressive following a long career; for it to summarize a young scientist is a testament to Trystan's curiosity and facility to rapidly learn new subdisciplines and make meaningful contributions to a wide variety of fields.

Trystan's productivity as a scientist might suggest a narrow interest in only his chosen field of geology. However, his focus and work ethic have resulted in success in a number of other arenas in his personal life. For example, Trystan is an accomplished photographer, woodworker, and endurance athlete. He's also now built three "tiny houses", each of which reflects his unique blend of architectural aesthetic and building science.

My relationship with Trystan when he first arrived at DGGS was that of a senior colleague and mentor. I'm proud to admit he quickly eclipsed that and is now an esteemed peer whose intellectual rigor regularly leads us on the road to new and interesting discoveries. It is my honor to have witnessed this progression and to see it recognized in this distinguished award. Finally, I want to convey my admiration for Trystan's courage and indefatigable spirit during the many long months recovering from injuries sustained during fieldwork in 2014. His perseverance in the face of adversity was truly inspiring and brings to mind the words of Alfred Brooks, longtime chief of the USGS Alaska branch:

*"Alaskan surveys and explorations have never been and never will be easy. Throughout its history, the geographic investigation has been a tale of hardship and suffering . . . Let those who are not personally familiar with the character of the difficulties not judge it too harshly."*

**Marwan A. Wartes, Citationist**



**Pacific Sections AAPG-SEPM-SEG**

**May 21-24, 2017**

**Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Spa**

**Anchorage, Alaska**