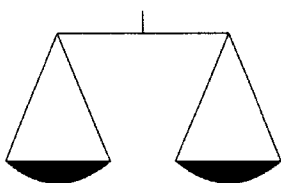


# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

## Southern California Section

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Since 1957"*

**NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1998**



## WASHINGTON STATE SENATE BILL 6394

Washington State Senators Hochstatter, Stevens, Oke, and Swecker have introduced Senate Bill 6394 which proposes to place a notice about evolution in science books. According to information received from Linda Schiebers (via e-mail, January 20, 1998), the proposed Senate Bill includes the following notice to be placed in science textbooks that are purchased with Washington State moneys.

### "A MESSAGE FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

This textbook discusses evolution, a controversial theory some scientists present as a scientific explanation for the origin of living things, such as plants, animals, and humans. No one was present when life first appeared on earth. Therefore, any statement about life's origins should be considered as theory, not fact. The word 'evolution' may refer to many types of change. Evolution describes changes that occur within a species. (White moths, for example, may 'evolve' into gray moths.) This process is microevolution, which can be observed and described as fact. Evolution may also refer to the change of one living thing to another, such as reptiles into birds. This process, called macroevolution, has never been observed and should be considered a theory. Evolution also refers to the unproven belief that random, undirected forces produced a world of living things. There are many unanswered questions about the origin of life which are not mentioned in your textbook, including: Why did the major groups of animals suddenly appear in the fossil record (known as the 'Cambrian Explosion')? Why have no new major groups of living things appeared in the fossil record for a long time? Why do major groups of plants and animals have no transitional forms in the fossil record? How did you and all living things come to possess such a complete and complex set of 'Instructions' for building a living body? Study hard and keep an open mind. Someday, you may contribute to the theories of how living things appeared on earth."

We welcome your opinion on the matter. Send correspondence to: the AEG Newsletter Editor, Linda Tandy, 1341 Hill Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90041.

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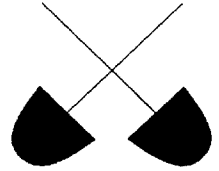
Martin Licurance  
805-499-5035

-INSIDE-  
March  
Meeting  
Information



# CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS

## UPDATE



### *First Annual Meeting*

The first annual meeting of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations, or CCGO, will feature Dr. Eldridge Moores, a well-known structural geologist. Former president of the Geological Society of America, Dr. Moores is featured in several of author John McPhee's popular books, including "Assembling California." Dr. Moores' technical presentation will be based on California's diverse geology and its relevance to Californians and their future.

Dr. Moores teaches at the University of California at Davis and has made many geological field trips in the company of author McPhee. The two intrepid travelers, each expert in his own field, have journeyed to Cyprus, northern Greece, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, and the East Coast, interpreting each other to the world in a graceful, entertaining exchange. John McPhee's articles have long been a feature in *New Yorker* magazine.

CCGO is an umbrella group of professional California geoscientists whose purpose is to advocate the use of sound geologic knowledge and practice by proposing, reviewing, and monitoring statutes, regulations, and public policies. The first meeting will be held at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Jack London Square in Oakland, California on Wednesday, March 11, 1998, at 6 PM. The cost is \$25 per person. Early reservations are recommended. RSVP to John Darachewski by March 6, 1998 at (510) 227-1105, ext. 407.

### *CCGO Accepting Applications for Executive Director*

CCGO is seeking an Executive Director to manage the group's routine affairs and perform administrative duties. During the CCGO organizational period, the Executive Director must be willing to serve on a volunteer basis. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. Ultimately the Executive Director post will be a paid, half-time position.

The ideal candidate will have: a good understanding of geologic hazards, engineering geology and hydrogeology; excellent written and spoken communication skills; excellent interpersonal skills, ability to respond rapidly to the CCGO's needs, some of which will require time in Sacramento; ability to develop and maintain effective relations with regulators, lawmakers and legislative staff, state and local government leaders, and professional organization leaders; and registration as a geologist in California (or Ph.D. in geology).

The position will remain open until filled. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and a current resume to: James M. Parsons via e-mail: [jparsons@pacbell.net](mailto:jparsons@pacbell.net) or via snail mail at P.O. Box 220968, Sacramento, California 95822-0968. Mr. Parson can be reached at (916) 421-5276.

### *Save the Date*

It is not too late to help get CCGO off the ground. The next CCGO planning meeting is on March 8, 1998, in Point Richmond (just north of Oakland Airport). The main topics to be discussed include member recruitment and review of a draft policy manual. Join us!

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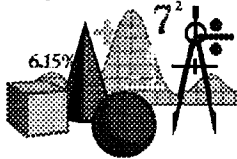
## GIS COURSES AT PIERCE COLLEGE

Need some Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training to construct a state-of-the-art geologic map? Los Angeles Pierce College in Woodland Hills offers three GIS classes in its Fall 1998 Semester. These courses teach important skills for geologists involved in the mapmaking process. For additional information regarding the following GIS courses please contact Ms. Gail Hobbs at (818) 710-4293. For general information about Los Angeles Pierce College and its enrollment procedures, please call (818) 347-0551.

**Geography 31** - Introduction to GIS, a 9-week course that introduces you to the computerized world of mapping. Included in the course are discussions of cartographic principles, hardware and software used in GIS and the wide applications the program serves in the areas of business, government, industry and the sciences. Students will learn about ArcView and work with raster and vector data structures, conversion and input of data and data bases. Classes meet from August 18, 1998 to October 17, 1998, on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Geography 32** - GIS Applications, a 9-week course following the Geography 31 class that focuses on the use of the GIS computer program called ArcView and map construction. For those who have a strong familiarity with mapping concepts (i.e., have knowledge of raster and vector data structures) and are computer literate, Geography 31 is not a prerequisite. Classes meet from October 20, 1998 to December 18, 1998, on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Geography 99A** - Intermediate GIS Applications, a 17-week course that allows students to lay out, model and analyze patterns such as toxic waste or to scan a topographic map into a program and then place geologic sampling data onto an overlay to create specialized geologic maps. Classes meet from August 18, 1998 to December 18, 1998, on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



**NOTICE** - Barney Pipkin has a complete run of over 30 years of the AEG Bulletin/Journal, including Programs of Annual meetings. He will gift the volumes to a College or University with an Engineering/Environmental Geology Program, or will sell for a fair price to a consulting firm. Contact Barney electronically at <bpipkin@aol.com>, or at 310-378-7564.

## NORMAN TILFORD MEMORIAL FUND

The Norman Tilford Memorial Fund has been established to support field work by students. To be effective a fund needs a minimum of \$20,000 as an initial amount so that interest or earning can be used to support student activities. If you look at that figure it seems large, but given that AEG's membership is over 3,000, a small contribution of \$20 by one third of our members would surpass the goal.

Persons wishing to contribute to the Norman Tilford Memorial Fund can send donations (make checks payable to the Engineering Geology Foundation) - to John B. Ivey, Treasurer, Engineering Geology Foundation, 15554 West 67th Avenue, Arvada, CO 80007-7041. Note that the donation is for the Norman Tilford Memorial Fund.

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THE LOS ANGELES CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN GEOSCIENTISTS

## Join Us for Lunch in Long Beach!

at the 94th Annual  
Geological Society of America  
Cordilleran Section Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 1998  
Noon - 1:30 pm

To register, select the AWG luncheon on your GSA meeting preregistration form. For additional information contact Rachel Fischer at (310) 833-3915.

Dr. Laurie Leshin will be the keynote speaker.

Dr. Leshin has been chasing after those little Martians with remarkable success. She has literally gone to the end of the world--Antarctica--to collect and analyze Martian meteorites. Recently, the news media has pursued Dr. Leshin for her insights into the "Life on Mars" debate.

Dr. Leshin is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Cosmochemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she studies the formation and evolution of planetary materials. She uses stable isotopes to trace physical processes involving the interaction of mantle, crustal, surface, and atmospheric sources of volatiles in planetary samples, and to understand the role of nebular versus parent-body processes in primitive meteorites. Dr. Leshin analyzes light element (H,C,O,S) isotopes with the ion microprobe, and developed the H, C and O isotopic measurement capability for the Mars '98 lander mission using tunable diode laser spectroscopy.

**March Dinner Meeting** **TUESDAY MARCH 17, 1998**  
 JOINT MEETING WITH the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ASCE)  
 Los Angeles Section, Geotechnical Engineering Group

- 5:30 Social Hour & One-half
- 7:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Announcements
- 7:45 Program

**Stevens Steak House** 5332 Stevens Place, City of Commerce, California  
**Reservations** Call Nichole Harris at Montgomery Watson (626) 568-6041

**Cost \$25.00 per person** Please make reservations by Friday March 13, 1998

**Students - Free with valid ID** Reservations which are not canceled will be billed

**SPEAKER** Raymond B. Seed, Ph.D.

**TOPIC** Soil Liquefaction Engineering in a Rapidly Changing World

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Raymond Seed is a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Seed will discuss recent research advances, coupled with lessons learned from recent major earthquakes, that have led to the rapid evolution of improved practices in the area of soil liquefaction engineering. These advances are being further spurred by recent changes in legislation (e.g. California's Seismic Hazards Mapping Act). He will discuss recent and ongoing changes in the engineering evaluation of seismic liquefaction risk, its consequences, and its mitigation, with emphasis on practical changes expected to impact practice on the West Coast.

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**Deadline for submittals to the April 1998 Newsletter: March 20, 1998.**  
**Please submit via e-mail or on disc and via snail mail.**

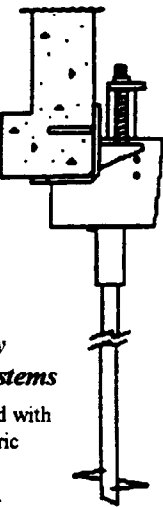
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