



▶ NEW NABGG UNIVERSITY CHAPTER IN PROCESS AT COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES...



▶ NABGG GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS PILOTING A NEW EARTH SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM...



▶ NABGG IS ON THE MOVE FORMING A PARTNERSHIP WITH EARTH IMAGES FOUNDATION ...

# NABGG



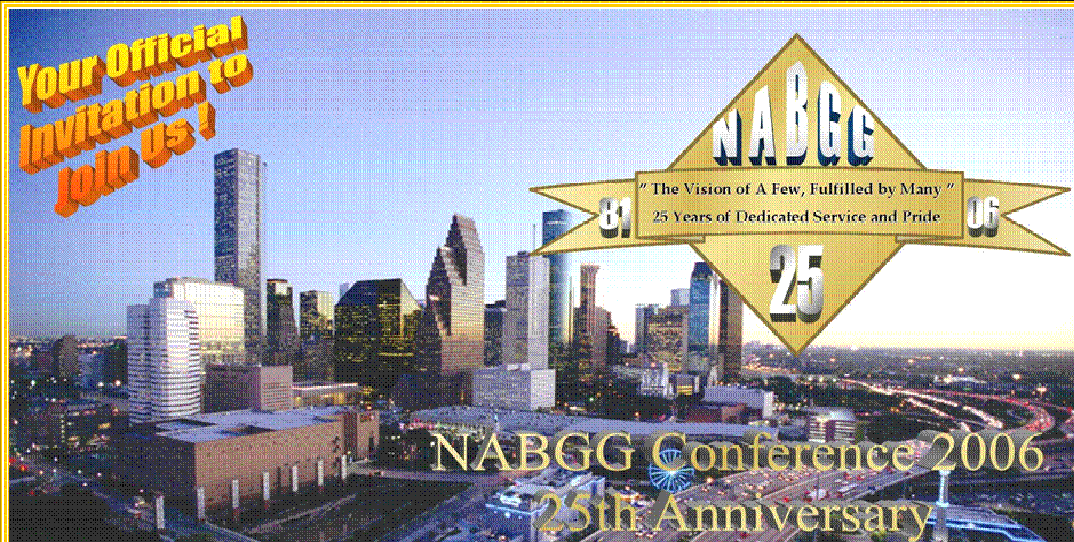
# PRISM

○ 1ST      ○ EDITION      ○ 2006

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS

## Welcome !

To the  
2006 NABGG  
Technology  
Conference  
Houston, Texas  
September 27 - 30, 2006



## NABGG - 25 Years of Achievement

*Congratulations to Darryl Willis, Past-President (NABGG). He is one of the two finalists selected by BP to participate in the prestigious Sloan Program at Stanford University, where he will complete studies for a Master of Science in Management Degree. Good luck Darryl!*

### NABGG ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Volunteers Needed - NABGG is planning to host a booth at the GSA Conference in Philadelphia, PA on October 22-25, 2006. If you plan to attend the conference and can volunteer some time in the booth, please send an e-mail to NABGG.*

*GSA will host a meeting on "Managing Drought and Water Scarcity in Vulnerable Environments" on September 18-20, 2006 in Longmont, CO. To obtain additional information on this event. Please visit the following website for details: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/06drought/ead.htm>*

*If you are willing to sponsor a student to attend the upcoming NABGG Conference, please e-mail NABGG. You can contribute towards registration cost, airfare, and/or hotel expenses for a deserving student.*

*Remember that this year is election year for the next NABGG Executive Team. Please consider running for a position and dedicating your time to this association. You can help play a pivotal role in NABGG's continued success in training and supporting minority geoscientists.*

# President's Corner

Mr. Robert J. Johnson



## 2006 Highlights

Greetings to everyone! The first half of 2006 has been a really busy one. Many of our members have faced new opportunities and challenges with the high level of activity in the oil and gas industry. NABGG is continuing to expand its membership base with new members that have joined from domestic and international regions.

### Outreach & Networking

We continue to network with other professional groups and outreach to the local and national community. The word is also reaching a larger audience, as NABGG has been approached to support an upcoming video documentary series, **Earth Explorer**, that will be produced by **Earth Images Foundation**. I was especially intrigued by the African Plume episode, which will follow teams of American and African scientists, as well as, students from several historically black colleges, as they conduct research on the East African Rift zone.

We also support the efforts of **Dr. Robert Ford**, Associate Provost for Research, **Texas Southern University** in his quest to expand educational programs at the university. His vision is that earth sciences will be a component of his long term vision at the university. He has requested collaboration with NABGG on his project to create fresh and innovative programs at TSU.

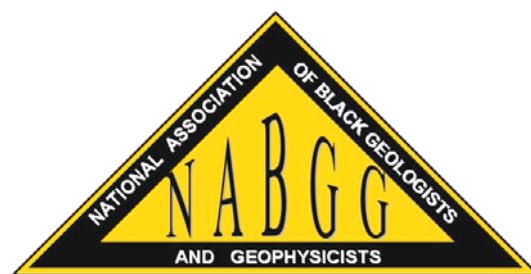
NABGG continues its partnership with **Project Respect** and their ongoing program of outreach and education of historical sites. Project Respect hosted their first Open House Meeting on June 12, 2006. The theme of the meeting was "Exploring & Preserving Cultural Heritage"

While attending the **AGI Leadership Forum** in Washington DC, I had the opportunity to meet **Ms. Lisa Pinsker**, Managing Editor of the AGI publication, **Geotimes**. With her assistance, NABGG will have ads in the upcoming issues announcing the 2006 conference. Please look for them!

I attended the **Northwest Preparatory Academy's 2006 Career Day**. As was the case last year, the students were quite interested in " what exactly what does a geoscientist do ? " There were other minority professionals in attendance from various other occupational fields, such as legal, military, aviation, law enforcement, computer science, and local government. It was a very rewarding day well spent with energetic future "scientists".

### NABGG 2006 Technology Conference

I encourage all our members to read **Dr. Wesley Ward's** open letter to NABGG members and please consider pre-registering for the conference. There are many positive surprises awaiting all of you this year.



### NABGG 2006 Technology Conference Sponsorships

We are still in need of members to solicit sponsors for this historic event. Please contact me or Ms. Carolyn Jones, Chairperson 2006 NABGG Technology conference with potential funding partners.

### NABGG Website

The NABGG website was updated recently with a **GeoScience Data Links** entry. I commend our webmaster, **Ms. Judy Wilson**, for implementing this new option so efficiently. The website continues to serve as a geo-information portal for members and the general public.

### AABE & NABGG

I recently visited with **Mr. Robert Hill**, **AABE** (American Association of Blacks in Energy) National President. He was very enthusiastic about their recent **AABE National Conference**. It was an extremely successful event, with a broad range of energy-related topics presented. During my visit in DC, Bob invited me to attend the **AABE – Washington, DC Chapter's Scholarship Luncheon**. It was a great experience to see that **AABE** is fulfilling the same commitment as NABGG, in mentoring and assisting future minority professionals.

Thanks to **Ms. Geraldine Grant**, for coordinating an excellent evening this year. Members of **AABE-Houston** were well represented at the **.OTC 2006 Networking Event**.

Since **Mr. Carroll Ellis Jr.** took on the responsibility as NABGG's first National Chairman of Geoscience Education, he has been very active promoting NABGG involvement in many new educational opportunities.

Please read Carroll's update on a new certificate program that he is directing for middle and high school student. This is an exciting program that will hopefully expose students to the opportunities available in the earth sciences. I am very pleased to see his vision turn into reality. Kudos to Carroll !!

Thanks for all of your support and efforts to keep our organization active and vital !

Blessings Always,

Rj



## *The NABGG Celebrates 25 Years*

*"The Vision of a Few, Fulfilled by Many"*

The National Association of Black Geologists & Geophysicists 25th Anniversary Conference will convene September 27-30, 2006, at the beautiful Magnolia Hotel located in historic downtown Houston.

We are inviting all geoscience entities to take part in our anniversary conference; we promise that this conference will be the most memorable and exciting conference ever! NABGG members will come together from all across the nation and abroad to:

- 1.) Engage each other in technical and academic discussions of the latest trends in all geoscience realms: technology, environmental, astrophysics, petroleum, etc.
- 2.) Award scholarships to deserving college students.
- 3.) Research new career opportunities.
- 4.) Conduct the business of the organization.

In addition to the business, the members, spouses, students and friends, will have various activities of which to partake, including golfing, an outreach field trip, and shopping in Houston's Uptown Galleria. The conference location allows all to enjoy the downtown historical districts' shops, entertainment venues and variety of restaurants that are sure to satisfy even the most discriminate taste.

Numerous corporations, education institutions and other professional organizations have been invited to showcase their resources.

Two days of technical sessions will begin with a continental breakfast, highlights of our historical past and a brief summary of the technical session agenda. We are honored to have as our opening technology session speaker, founding member & first president of the NABGG, **Mr. Michael Carroll**.

We invite all geoscience societies, students, members of academia, the geoscience community, service companies and government to participate in discussions, present papers, network, display their areas of expertise and to celebrate this pinnacle moment in our history.



## 2006 CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

### EXHIBITOR BOOTHS

NABGG invites exhibitors from various areas of geoscience, including: academia, energy, government, information systems, consulting/services, human resources/recruiting, and business related services to display. Please visit our website for more information and the pricing chart.

### NABGG 2006 GOLF TOURNAMENT

If you are a golfer, please register for the golf tournament taking place on Wednesday morning. This event includes lunch and a trophy presentation. All proceeds will go toward the NABGG scholarship fund. Please visit the website for detailed information and registration.

### PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Be sure to attend the President's Reception on Wednesday evening in the spacious atrium of the Magnolia Hotel. It will be an event that you will be talking about for some time. Entertainment will be provided by renowned jazz pianist Morgan Bouldin.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

On Thursday at noon, you are invited to attend the 2006 NABGG Scholarship Awards luncheon and hear the keynote address given by **Mr. A. T. Cejka**, President, **ExxonMobil Exploration** Company, and a Vice President of ExxonMobil Corporation.

### BENEFACTOR AWARDS LUNCHEON

On Friday at noon, the NABGG Executive Team (E-Team) and the Advisory Board will host a luncheon to honor NABGG Sponsors that have supported the NABGG through our 25 year history. **Ms. Annell Bay**, Vice President of Exploration Americas for **Shell Exploration & Production Company**, will be the keynote speaker.

### BLACK AND GOLD BALL

On Friday night, please plan to attend the Black & Gold Ball in the grand ballroom of the hotel. Enjoy a black tie affair, which includes a night of cocktails, dinner and dancing, featuring the musical talents of Joe Carmouche & Company. The theme of this event is representative of the NABGG colors. In accordance with the theme, Ladies and Gentlemen attending this event are asked to dress in black and gold.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITY

On Saturday morning, in conjunction with the **Houston Area Urban League (HAUL)** and the **American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)**, NABGG will be participating in a community outreach project.

*We look forward to seeing you at the conference!*  
For more information, please visit: [www.nabgg.org/conf2006](http://www.nabgg.org/conf2006)

- Submitted by: Ms. Carolyn Jones, 2006 Conference Chair

*An Open Letter to the Members of the  
National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists  
from  
Mr. A. Wesley Ward, Jr., NABGG Past President*

I know my place in history.

Wherever I have gone, whatever I have undertaken -- I have tried to make a difference. In this case, however, I am privileged to be one of the many fulfilling the vision of a few -- those in **NABGG** who came before me and created the opportunity for me to make a difference.

That special few -- the visionary founding members of **NABGG** -- created a fellowship for all of us, as earth scientists and engineers, like none other our profession has seen! I am now well into my second decade as an **NABGG** member. I am proud to have known and worked for many years both inside and outside the organization with **Mack**. I am honored to have been our 10<sup>th</sup> President. And perhaps most of all, I am grateful for the hundreds of new friends I have made through **NABGG**.

**NABGG** is a special fellowship that offers enrichment and education, support, fun, opportunities for networking and advancing -- it is almost immeasurable what it contributes to our lives. And in return it requires so little -- that you support its leaders, members, and programs so that we may continue to offer financial support for students, collegial support for our professionals, and (most of all) improvement in the lives of people around the globe -- especially those who have little or no idea how critical earth science is to our daily lives today and in years to come.

As we prepare to celebrate "**The Vision of a Few fulfilled by Many**", I ask each of you to consider what **NABGG** has given to you; how it provides a means to serve not only young people who might aspire to a career in earth science, and not only to potential members of **NABGG**, but to the greater global community that has wondered about, hoped, and even worked for the advancement of professional minority scientists that we could contribute our unique perspective to the questions of energy, hazards, and resources in the worlds of today and tomorrow.

I know the role I play in the sciences and in society, thanks in great part to **NABGG**. Those few who started us down this road, the many who have served as officers, the hundreds in or affiliated with our society, and uncounted perhaps millions of others rely upon each of us to help secure what the future promises. **NABGG** is an excellent way to achieve that, and so **Many**, all the way back to the **Few**, are relying on you to play your part.

I will see you at the Annual Meeting.

### ***NABGG Members Attend the AABE-Houston Scholarship Banquet***

The **American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)** held their first annual scholarship banquet on April 20, 2006 at the University of Houston's Hilton Hotel. The event was a success with over 80 guests in attendance, both students and professionals. AABE's actions truly echoed the theme of this year's banquet, "**Energize Tomorrow by Investing in our Youth Today**", by exceeding its initial objective of awarding two \$500.00 scholarships, with five scholarships. These awards were given to minority students who are preparing for college and have plans of pursuing careers in energy- related fields.

In addition to a very impressive and promising group of students, there were a host of esteemed guests in attendance. The guest speaker for the evening was **Robert Ford, PhD**, Associate Provost for Research at Texas Southern University. **Robert Spencer**, Director of Talent Management and Inclusion at Entergy Services, Inc., served as master of ceremony. Also present were members of other professional societies, such as **NABGG** and the **Dallas Chapter of AABE**. The AABE – Houston Chapter has definitely begun its scholarship initiative with a positive step, and through furthering partnerships with organizations such as NABGG, will continue to contribute to the success of our future community leaders.

*- Submitted by: Mr. Jerome Murphy*





### *Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) NABGG & AABE 2006 Networking Event*

The **NABGG** (National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists) and **AABE** (The American Association of Blacks in Energy) held a professional networking event at Farrago's Restaurant, located in heart of Midtown Houston, on May 4, 2006. This event was held during the **2006 Offshore Technology Conference**, which took place at the Reliant Center. This mixer was attended by many officers and members of both organizations. The event highlighted a need for cooperation and support among these two minority-focused organizations.

Both associations share a common goal of encouraging minorities to consider careers in energy-related fields.

Information about NABGG's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference was discussed throughout the evening. Each attendee received a postcard announcing the upcoming NABGG Conference in September, and several AABE members expressed interest in attending.

The enthusiasm of continuing collaboration between the two organizations was very evident and NABGG looks forward to planning shared projects with AABE.

Mr. Robert Hill, National President of AABE, was pleased to hear that this successful cooperative event between NABGG and AABE. He underscores the need of our two organizations is continuing to develop stronger ties and more future collaboration.

*- Submitted by: Ms. Geraldine Grant & Mr. Mike Mitchell*

*Photos from the OTC  
NABGG & AABE 2006  
Networking Event*

*1<sup>st</sup> Edition - June 2006*



*See you there  
next year !*



*Photos courtesy of Mr. Terrance Griffin - AABE*

## *Earth Day 2006*

April 20, 2006



The Earth Day/Career Day at North Harris County Community College was a successful event. The main objective of this event was to educate students about the opportunities associated with the study of geosciences. Many students were surprised to hear how geoscience was related to the oil industry. This relation was the main point of interest for most students, especially those who were considering what some believe as more traditional areas of study, like business management or kinesiology. Learning that there was another outlet to consider like engineering, geology or geophysics excited those who perused the booths for more information.

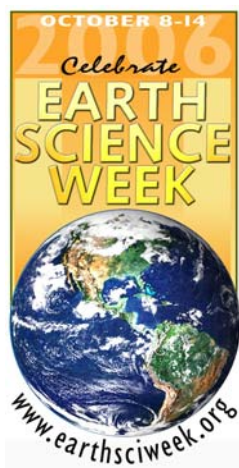
Many students were simply uneducated about the great opportunity in the oil industry. Some even associated geology to archaeology, this was their understanding. As the students listened, they became more eager and open to this field of study. Exploring job opportunities, salary earnings, scholarship opportunity and different associations, like National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists (NABGG), were also main points of interests. Most impressive for the students was that Mr. Robert Johnson, President of NABGG, was present to answer questions and to give information on the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> NABGG conference this year in Houston.

Most of the students were freshman who needed guidance on required curriculum for the earth sciences. It was important to advise those students that they should take certain math courses, develop their ability in math, physics and to develop computer skills while completing their core classes. This will assist them to be better prepared upon entering their major area of scientific study. Overall, this was an outstanding experience for everyone.

*Submitted by – Mr. Mohamed Sati*



## *Get Involved! - Earth Science Week is in October!*



This year, **Earth Science Week** will take place **October 8<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>**. This week-long event involves a variety of activities, including the Houston Geological Society's Earth Science Week Kickoff at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. In past years, the NABGG has volunteered at this event and manned the fossil table while answering Museum visitors' questions about Earth Science. This year, the NABGG will once again participate in the Earth Science Week kickoff, but will afford members the opportunity to share their skills and expertise in seismic, oil and gas, and rocks and minerals with the general public. The purpose of this year's theme, "**Be a Citizen Scientist**", is to both engage students and the general public in conducting real "citizen science" research and to help spread science literacy.

The Earth Science Week Kickoff continues to be a great opportunity to volunteer and reach-out to students and the Houston community. The NABGG outreach committee invites you to be a part of the Earth Science Week Kickoff at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. We are in the early stages of putting a display together for the Museum visitors. We ask that you volunteer your ideas, time, and resources –such as data and/or samples- to help plan the display or man the display table at the Kickoff event on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to participate, then please contact me via e-mail at [eoakan@yahoo.com](mailto:eoakan@yahoo.com). We look forward to your continued support of Earth Science Week and of future NABGG outreach activities.

*- Submitted by: Mr. Olufemi Akanbi*

## ***Geoscience Education Committee Piloting Certificate Program***

The NABGG Geoscience Education Committee is piloting a new Earth Science Achievement Certificate program for middle & high school students. The pilot program was introduced in the Greater Richmond, VA area, where students scoring advance to perfect scores on the state mandated Earth Science tests will receive a NABGG Certificate. The certificate packet includes: a black & gold NABGG Certificate of Achievement signed by Roxanne Lamb, Scholarship Committee Chair, and Carroll Ellis, Jr., Geoscience Education Committee Chair, a letter of congratulations and a brochure on geoscience careers from the American Geological Institute (AGI).

The feedback from teachers and school administrators has been excellent. The Geoscience Education Committee hopes to expand the program nationally by Spring of 2007. By recognizing high achieving earth science students and exposing them to geoscience education and career choices earlier in school, we stand the chance of increasing the number of African-American and other minorities in geoscience careers.

Please send any suggestions to: [cellis@richmond.edu](mailto:cellis@richmond.edu).

- Submitted by: Mr. Carroll Ellis, Jr.



# NABGG Student's Corner

## *Announcing the 2006-2007 Scholarship Recipients:*

Ovieme D. Aki	- University of Houston
Hendratta Ntalla Ali	- University of Missouri- Rolla
Inyene Awakessien	- University of Oklahoma
Keisha Alana Durant	- Grand Valley State University
Ernest Wirnkor Fonyuy	University of Missouri- Rolla
Baraka D. Kinabo	- University of Missouri- Rolla
Malcolm Lockett	- Fort Valley State University
Haile Mengistu	- Western Michigan University
Moikwathai Moidaki	- University of Missouri- Rolla
Albert Oko	- Kansas State University
Elebiju Olubunmi Olumide	- University of Texas- El Paso
Shakira Danielle Turner	- Elizabeth City State University

*Congratulations to each of you !!!*

*Submitted by: Ms. Roxanne Lamb*



## *A New NABGG Student Chapter in the Making at Colorado School of Mines*

After coming across the NABGG website in May 2006, and seeing the noble service of the association over the past years, I spoke with some other students and there was an agreement to initiate a chapter at the Colorado School of Mines.

Since Mines has a very limited Black population, especially in geology and geophysics, there are only 4 students that have agreed to start a chapter here, once school resumes in the fall. There are other students in the sophomore, junior and senior classes that I was unable to get in-touch with before the spring semester ended. I hope to invite more people to join the chapter, and hope the association is recognized and becomes popular in the near future.

Before the association can be acknowledged at the Colorado School of Mines, it has to be registered with the "Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines" (ASCSM) as a professional society. ASCSM is the controlling body for all the organizations in the school. The proper registration forms have to be submitted to ASCSM, and must include relevant by-laws of NABGG, names of members, and local chapter officers of the association.

Future plans of the chapter will be to hold a few meetings when the fall semester begins, register the association with ASCSM, select our officers, communicate with the national NABGG constantly, and to invite some of the national executives to visit the chapter. We think that establishing this chapter will provide an avenue to bring our Black and other interested earth scientists together, be a ground to plan social events aimed at uniting the members, give members the opportunity to participate in national NABGG programs and events, and get more exposure with industry professionals. We look forward to extending the mission of NABGG to the Colorado School of Mines campus.

- Submitted by: Mr. Olusola Bakare



## ***Best Student Paper Award to be Given at GSA Conference in October***

The GSA Geology and Society Division announces an award for the best oral presentation by a student at the upcoming 2006 Philadelphia GSA Annual Conference in a session sponsored or co-sponsored by the G&S Division. All student oral presentations on the preliminary program are eligible for judging. The winner will be announced shortly after the meeting, and an award of \$300.00 will be awarded immediately. A plaque or certificate in recognition of the achievement will be presented at the following year's business meeting of the Division. Also, the student winner will be invited to submit a highlighted lead article to the Geology and Society's first Newsletter of 2007.

The G&S Division is actively seeking volunteers to judge the student presentations. If interested, please contact Karen McCurdy at [kmccurdy@GeorgiaSouthern.edu](mailto:kmccurdy@GeorgiaSouthern.edu)

Please visit GSA's website for detailed conference information:  
<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2006/>

*- Submitted by: Ms. Marilyn Suiter*



*National Association of Black Geologists & Geophysicists  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*2006 Annual Technology Conference*

*"The Vision of A Few, Fulfilled by Many"*

*September 27 – 30, 2006*

*Houston, Texas*

## CALL FOR PAPERS

In 2006, NABGG is returning to Houston, Texas to celebrate 25 years of dedicated service and pride. NABGG's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Technology Conference: "The Vision of A Few, Fulfilled by Many" will be bringing together all who are engaged in the various aspects of the geosciences. We want to provide an opportunity for all to come together and share their knowledge and expertise from a broad spectrum. Do not miss this opportunity to present your research results, leading edge techniques, and case histories at what promises to be a superb meeting of geoscientists from all across the nation. This year's conference will start on Wednesday morning and will continue through Saturday morning, September 27 – 30, 2006. The conference will be held at the beautiful Magnolia Hotel. For more information on the event visit our website at [www.nabgg.org](http://www.nabgg.org).

Technical Session Chairman Patrice Mahob and his committee officially invite you to submit your contributions for oral and poster presentations. Topics can include all aspects of the geosciences including geography, GIS, geology, geophysics, environmental, geoscience software, geological education, oceanography, planetary, environmental regulations, career development for geoscientists, etc. Please submit abstracts for oral presentations or poster sessions by mail to the address listed below or electronically at [nabgg\\_us@hotmail.com](mailto:nabgg_us@hotmail.com) or via our website at [www.nabgg.org](http://www.nabgg.org). Abstracts should be 300 words or less, typewritten, and include the author's name, title, email address, place of employment or college or university (**see form below**).

Abstracts submitted electronically should be in either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat. Small figures can be included.

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**Abstract**

**submissions are due Friday, September 1, 2006, at 12 A.M. U.S Central Time.**

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### MISSION

The mission for the NABGG is to diligently increase representation in the geosciences through partnerships with academia and mentoring students. We are committed to the continuous training and development of aspiring and practicing geoscientists. We want to welcome and encourage students to make presentations and build a network of support so we plan to focus part of the technical session of the conference to student presentation/talks, participation, and our Annual scholarship awards luncheon.

## PRESENTATIONS

An individual may give one of the following types of presentations by submitting an abstract based on the categories listed below.

### ➤ **Papers**

Thirty minutes will be allotted for presentation and discussion of each paper. Visual aids can greatly enhance communication when they are used properly. Tables and charts prepared for publication are rarely satisfactory in a short oral presentation. Illustrations should be legible when viewed on a screen from a distance of 100 feet. Charts project better than tables. Complex tables and detailed maps are more effective when distributed as handouts than when projected on a screen.

The NABGG will provide LCD projectors, 35mm carousel slide projectors, and overhead projectors in the meeting room. Presentation should be in PowerPoint on disk, CD, USB Portable Flash Drive (thumb drive), or bring your own laptop.

### ➤ **Posters**

Use the poster format for your presentation when your material lends itself to visual rather than verbal communication. Each presentation should make a unified, coherent statement. Materials, both textual and visual, should be of professional quality and be clearly legible from a distance of 4 feet. Graphic materials will be displayed on a 4' x 6' poster board supplied by the NABGG. Textual material should be confined to brief statements. Presentations consisting mostly of text are more appropriate as paper presentations.

### ➤ **Illustrated Paper**

An illustrated paper is a short (3-5 minute) oral summary of problem, data, method, and findings presented in poster format, followed by one-on-one or small group discussion with interested listeners. All oral summaries (8 to 12 per session) will be given at the beginning of each illustrated paper session, before participants disperse to the poster boards around the room. Each presenter will post illustrations and other relevant materials on a 4' x 6' poster board supplied by the NABGG.

## CONTACTS

For more information, contact:

Patrice Mahob [Patrice.Mahob@bp.com](mailto:Patrice.Mahob@bp.com), 281-366-7320

Aisha Ragas [aragas@kmg.com](mailto:aragas@kmg.com), 720-264-2783

Or send emails to [nabgg\\_us@hotmail.com](mailto:nabgg_us@hotmail.com)

Abstracts can be emailed to [nabgg\\_us@hotmail.com](mailto:nabgg_us@hotmail.com) or mailed to:

NABGG Attn.: Technical Session Committee

4212 San Felipe, Suite 420

Houston, TX 77027-2902

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NABGG



# PRISM

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