



# AAPG Announces This Year's Best of the Best

By VERN STEFANIC, EXPLORER Managing Editor

**P**aul E. Potter, an award-winning geology professor, researcher and best-selling author with more than 60 years of experience and distinguished accomplishments, has been named the recipient of the AAPG Sidney Powers Memorial Award – the Association's highest honor.

Potter, professor emeritus at the University of Cincinnati, is widely celebrated as an expert on the Midwestern U.S. Paleozoic – he performed groundbreaking research on paleocurrent analysis and basin analysis – and is the author of "Sedimentology of Shale (1980)," one of the first textbooks on the subject.

Joining him at the top of this year's awardees list is **Scott W. Tinker**, an AAPG Honorary member, past president and multiple award winner, who has been named recipient of the Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award.

Tinker, acclaimed for his role as Texas state geologist and head of the influential Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, also is known worldwide as the co-creator and onscreen presence of the award-winning documentary film, "Switch."

As AAPG president, Tinker played a pivotal role in promoting the growth of AAPG's international Regions, as well as advancing interdisciplinary cooperation with other geoscience societies, including SEG, SPE, SEPM, GSC and EAGE.

Potter and Tinker head the list, but they are just two of the 56 award winners who have been announced by AAPG and who will be recognized at the opening session of the 2016 AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition, set June 19-22 in Calgary, Canada.

AAPG awards, approved by the Executive Committee, are presented annually to recognize individuals for service to the profession, the science, the Association and the public.

Biographies and citations of all award winners will be included in a future AAPG BULLETIN.

Joining Potter and Tinker as this year's AAPG awardees are:

### Honorary Member Award

Presented to members who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments and through their service to the profession of petroleum geology and to AAPG.

- Hussain M. Al-Otaibi, Saudi Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.
- Rebecca L. Dodge, Midwestern State

University, Wichita Falls, Texas.

- Michael C. Forrest, consultant, Duncanville, Texas.
- Lawrence D. Meckel, L.D. Meckel and Company, Denver.
- Valary L. Schulz, consultant, Dallas.

### Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award

Presented to members in recognition of distinguished and outstanding achievement in exploration for petroleum or mineral resources, with an intended emphasis on recent discovery.

- Richard K. Stoneburner, retired, Houston, honored for his significant role in the discoveries and developments of both the Eagle Ford and Haynesville shale plays.

### Robert R. Berg Outstanding Research Award

Presented to honor a singular achievement in petroleum geoscience research.

- Michael D. Lewan, U.S. Geological Survey, Golden, Colo., honored for his pioneering role and expertise in petroleum geochemistry.

- Quinn R. Passey, retired (ExxonMobil), Kingwood, Texas, honored for his contributions in well-log geochemistry and the petrophysics of unconventional reservoirs.

### Distinguished Service Award

Presented to those who have distinguished themselves in singular and beneficial long-term service to AAPG.

This year there are nine recipients of the honor:

- Abdulkader M. Afifi, Saudi Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.
- Sa'id A. Al-Hajri, Saudi Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.
- Paul English, Nexen Energy, Calgary, Canada.
- Peter H. Hennings, ConocoPhillips, Houston.

- Arthur H. Johnson, Hydrate Energy International, Kenner, La.

- Stephen E. Laubach, Bureau of Economic Geology, the University of Texas at Austin.

- Geir Lunde, Concedo ASA, Gjettem, Norway.

- Terrilyn M. Olson, EOG Resources, Denver.

- Debra P. Osborne, COG Operating Co., Midland, Texas.

### Grover E. Murray Distinguished Educator Award

Presented for distinguished and outstanding contributions to geological education, both at the university level and toward education of the general public.

- Brenda L. Kirkland, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss.

- Xiaomin Zhu, deputy director, Academic Committee, China University of Petroleum-Beijing, China.

## Potter, Tinker Honored for Continuing Excellence

**W**hen celebrated educator and researcher Paul E. Potter receives his award in Calgary in June he will become the 69th winner of the AAPG Sidney Powers Memorial Award.

The Powers Award is given annually in recognition of distinguished and outstanding contributions to, or achievements in, petroleum geology.

Sidney Powers himself was a founding member and 14th president of the Association. He died in 1932 at the age of 42.

Frank R. Clark, in his memorial to Powers, said, "Sidney Powers will be known by future generations for his able contributions to pure and applied geology, but, important as are his scientific achievements, his character was greater, because it typified service to others."

In Potter's 60-plus-year career, he has had a significant influence on geologists in their formative years, which is a big reason why his peers saw him as an ideal recipient for the honor.

It's not the first time Potter has had the spotlight on him and his work. He also has won:

- ▶ AAPG's Jules Braunstein Award for presenting the best poster at the 1990 annual meeting in San Francisco.



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TINKER

- ▶ SEPM's Francis J. Pettijohn Award for Excellence in Sedimentology (1992).

- ▶ The Eastern Section's Outstanding Educator Award (2000) and John T. Galey Memorial Award (2007).

- ▶ AAPG's Grover E. Murray Distinguished Educator Award (2002).

He received his undergraduate, master's and doctor's degrees from the University of Chicago – plus a master's degree in statistics from the University of Illinois in 1959 – and started his career in 1952 as a geologist with the Illinois Geological Survey.

He was named an associate professor of geology at Indiana University in 1963, and from 1966-71 was a full professor.

He began his long career as a professor at the University of Cincinnati in 1971, also during that time serving five stints as a visiting professor at universities

in Brazil.

In addition, he has authored or co-authored more than 130 articles and maps, and seven books – including the seminal "Exploring the Geology of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Region."

Scott Tinker, who is director of the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, is the 10th recipient of the Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award, given in recognition of outstanding and exceptional leadership in the petroleum geosciences.

One of the Association's more high-profile figures, Tinker was AAPG president in 2008-09, where he played an active role in advancing AAPG's international expansion, and has been the Texas state geologist since 2000.

He also has served as president of the Austin Geological Society, Association of American State Geologists and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies.

He's been involved with dozens of AAPG committees, has served as the Distinguished Ethics Lecturer, and has previously been awarded Honorary membership, the AAPG Distinguished Service Award, the J.C. "Cam" Sproule Memorial Award and the Geosciences in the Media Award.

Interviews with both Potter and Tinker will be published in a future EXPLORER.