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What's New

CBTH celebrates 20th anniversary

In September 2025, the CBTH Project celebrated its 20th anniversary! To commemorate this milestone, our research group is the subject of a new article in the Houston Geological Society Bulletin written by CBTH PhD and MS graduate Lucia Torrado. **Click here** to read!



CBTH students, staff, and sponsors at the 2025 CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, hosted at TotalEnergies.

CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting 2025

The CBTH Project hosted its annual sponsor meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at TotalEnergies in Houston. Thanks to the team at TotalEnergies for hosting this year's event. Sponsors can **click here** to view the presentations from this year's meeting.

CBTH at IMAGE 2025

CBTH students and researchers recently presented 17 oral and poster presentations at IMAGE 2025 on August 25-29 in Houston. A full list of CBTH presentations at this event is available in the "Recent Meetings" section of this newsletter. Sponsors can download this year's presentations by clicking **here**.

MS student Estefani Ruiz Toro wins award at HGS and UH Robert E. Sheriff Lecture

Congratulations to CBTH MS student Estefani Ruiz Toro, who won the 2nd Place Presentation award (Advanced MS/First year PhD category, Geology) at the EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture on November 10, 2025.

What's New

PhD student Jumoke Akinpelu receives NAPE Nigeria Fellowship Award

In November 2025, CBTH PhD student Jumoke Akinpelu received the NAPE Nigeria Fellowship Award (FNAPE) at 43rd Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) Annual International Conference and Exhibition held in Lagos. Congratulations on this prestigious award!



PhD student Jumoke Akinpelu (far left) accepts the NAPE Nigeria Fellowship Award.

Student internships for summer 2025, 2026, and full-time jobs

Congratulations to CBTH students Daniel Maya, Josh Miller, Estefani Ruiz Toro, and Kenneth Shipper, who all completed industry internships in summer 2025. Daniel, Josh, and Estefani interned at TotalEnergies, and Kenneth interned at Hilcorp. Congrats to Daniel Maya for his summer 2026 summer internship with BP, where he will join former CBTH students Juan Pablo Ramos (PhD, 2024), Nahid Hasan (PhD, 2022), and David Lankford-Bravo (BS Honors thesis, 2017). We thank each of these companies for these outstanding opportunities!

Expanded datasets in the CBTH study area

We would like to thank ANP of Brazil for providing data for the projects of Ruth Beltran (PhD, Campos basin), Jose Gorosabel (Equatorial Brazil), Jumoke Akinpelu (PhD, Equatorial Brazil), and Sharon Cornelius (Campos-Santos-Espirito Santo basins). We also thank TGS for making a dataset from Liberia available for Jumoke Akinpelu, and we thank Viridien for making their Geoverse database available to our project.

Phase VIII proposal coming in Spring 2026

In spring 2026, we will release our proposal for Phase VIII (2026-2029) of the CBTH Project. Stay tuned for more details, and visit our website for the latest information.



Graduating Students



JOSHUA MILLER completed his MS thesis in December 2025. His study is titled "3D seismic stratigraphy, sedimentation, and hydrocarbon potential of the deepwater, rifted-passive margin of Uruguay." He will begin working full-time with ExxonMobil in Houston starting in February 2026.



CHESNEY PETKOVSEK completed her PhD dissertation in July 2025. Her study is titled "Crustal, thermal, and structural controls on hydrocarbon systems in the Delaware basin, West Texas, and Southeastern New Mexico." She is currently a senior geologist at Quantum Capital Group in Houston.

New Students



CONOR CAHILL is a first-year, MS Geology student at the University of Houston. His research interests include structural geology, tectonics, and basin modelling, and his work with CBTH will focus on basin modelling along the rifted margins of Eastern Canada in the Atlantic Ocean and the Labrador Sea. We thank OilCo of Newfoundland and Labrador and TGS for making available well and seismic data available for this regional study. Conor will also be captain of the UH IBA team which will compete in the 2026 IBA petroleum competition.



ARY GUSTAVO CANDIDO is an exploration geologist with 15 years of experience with Petrobras in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ary began a PhD study with the CBTH project in August 2025 on the source rocks of Brazil's rifted-passive margins and their conjugates in West Africa. His UH PhD study is supported by Petrobras.



Recent Meetings

UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House (May 8, 2025)

Akinpelu, J., 2025, Crustal structure characterization offshore Niger Delta, Nigeria: impact on hydrocarbon exploration in ultra-deepwater, UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House, Houston, Texas, May 8, 2025.

Beltran, R., 2025, Crustal structure and structural evolution of the Brazilian rifted passive margin in the Campos basin, Brazil, UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House, Houston, Texas, May 8, 2025.

Maya, D., 2025, Crustal structure and basin modeling of Cretaceous source rocks in deepwater settings, UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House, Houston, Texas, May 8, 2025.

Miller, J., 2025, 3D seismic stratigraphy and tectonic controls on contourite and turbidity sedimentation along the deepwater Atlantic margin of Uruguay, UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House, Houston, Texas, May 8, 2025.

Ruiz Toro, E., 2025, Tectonic origin of the Bering Sea from geophysical and geological constraints, UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House, Houston, Texas, May 8, 2025.

Savrides, P., 2025, Crustal structure, tectonostratigraphy, and hydrocarbon potential of the deepwater, rifted-passive margin of Nova Scotia, UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House, Houston, Texas, May 8, 2025.

Shipper, K., 2025, Regional maturation model for hydrocarbons along the Guyana-Suriname margin based on improved estimates of the thickness and thermal structure of the rifted lithosphere, UH EAS 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House, Houston, Texas, May 8, 2025.



CBTH students Daniel Maya, Ruth Beltran, Estefani Ruiz Toro, and Joshua Miller (L to R) win awards at the 38th Annual Student Research Conference and Alumni & Industry Open House.



Recent Meetings

NAPE North America Chapter Exco May Technical/Business Meeting (May 28, 2025)

Mann, P., 2025, Extending the Frontiers of Deepwater Exploration, NAPE North America Chapter Exco May Technical/Business Meeting, Virtual, May 28, 2025.

IMAGE 2025 (August 25-29, 2025)

Akinpelu, J., 2025, Using geophysical data for mapping crustal types beneath the Niger delta and their impact on basin modeling, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Akinpelu, J. and Mann, P., 2025, Continent-ocean transition beneath the Niger Delta, West Africa, and implications for its deepwater, hydrocarbon potential, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Beltran, R., 2025, Structural restoration to improve basin models, Campos basin, Brazil, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Beltran, R., Mann, P., and Mora, A.R., 2025, Structural evolution of the Brazilian rifted passive margin in Campos basin: Timing and kinematic relationships of the rift system and salt tectonics, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Cornelius, S., 2025, 3D basin modeling for predicted hydrocarbon trends in the Campos-Santos-Espirito Santo basins, Brazil, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Cornelius, S., 2025, 3D basin modeling of the Santos-Campos-Espirito Santo combined salt basin using geochemical well data for source rock characterization, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Cornelius, S., 2025, Predicting play fairways along the Campos-Santos margin with validation from recent hydrocarbon discoveries, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Gorosabel Araus, J.M., 2025, A source rock-based approach to frontier exploration with examples from rifted-passive margins of the South Atlantic, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Gorosabel Araus, J.M., Mann, P., Pepper, A., Leopoldino Oliveira, K., Souza, A., and Cerdeira, I., 2025, 3D basin modeling and geochemical characterization of Early Cretaceous source rocks in the deep-water Ceará Basin in the Brazilian Equatorial Margin, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Mann, P., 2025, Introduction to workshop and predicted hydrocarbon trends based on megaregional basin modeling of South Atlantic conjugate margins, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Maya, D., 2025, Comparing basin models for conjugate margins of the South Atlantic - How do they differ and why?, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Maya, D., and Mann, P., 2025, Crustal structure and predictive hydrocarbon modeling of Early Cretaceous source rocks in upper slope and deepwater settings of Uruguay, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Miller, J., 2025, Using Paleoscan to identify source rocks and paired stratigraphic traps along the deep-water Uruguayan margin, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.



Recent Meetings

IMAGE 2025 (August 25-29, 2025) (continued)

Miller, J., and Mann, P., 2025, 3D seismic stratigraphy and tectonic controls on contourite and turbidite sedimentation along the deepwater margin of Uruguay, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Ruiz Toro, E., and Mann, P., 2025, Correlation of Jurassic source rocks and basin evolution of the North Slope and Southern Alaska, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Shipper, K., 2025, LAB Variations constrained by elastic thickness and their effects on the petroleum systems in Guyana-Suriname, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Shipper, K., and Mann, P., 2025, Regional maturation model for hydrocarbons along the Guyana-Suriname margin based on improved estimates of the thickness and thermal structure of the rifted lithosphere, IMAGE 2025, Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-29, 2025.

Geophysical Society of Houston Tech Lunch (September 17, 2025)

Cornelius, S., 2025, Creating a 3D basin model for predicting hydrocarbon maturity in the Santos-Campos-Espirito Santo Basins, Brazil, Geophysical Society of Houston Tech Lunch, Sept. 17, 2025.

AAPG International Conference & Exhibition (September 30 – October 3, 2025)

Gorosabel Araus, J.M., Mann, P., Oliveira, L., de Souza, A.B., and Cerdeira, I., 2025, Source Rock Characterization and 3D Basin Modeling of the Deepwater Ceara Basin of the Brazilian Equatorial Margin, AAPG International Conference & Exhibition, Sept. 30 – October 3, 2025.

Shipper, K., Gorosabel, Araus, J.M., and Mann, P., 2025, Hydrocarbon exploration of Guyana: Past, Present and Future, AAPG International Conference & Exhibition, Sept. 30 – October 3, 2025.

CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting (October 9, 2025)

Akinpelu, J., 2025, Comparison of structural evolution and deepwater hydrocarbon potential of two conjugate, rifted margins: Potiguar Basin, Brazil and Niger Delta, Nigeria, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Beltran, R., 2025, Structural restorations of the Campos basin, Brazil, and constraints on ultra-deepwater, hydrocarbon provinces, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Candido, A.G., 2025, Marine source rocks in the South Atlantic - stratigraphic and tectonic settings, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Cornelius, S., 2025, 3D basin modeling of the Santos-Campos-Espirito Santo basins using ANP geochemical data from 84 presalt wells, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Gorosabel Araus, J.M., 2025, 3D basin model for the Equatorial margin of Brazil and predicted areas of future large discoveries, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.



Recent Meetings

CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting (October 9, 2025) (continued)

Gorosabel Araus, J.M., 2025, Mature source rocks on oceanic crust, Part 1: Equatorial Guinea, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Mann, P., 2025, Meeting summary and discussion with sponsors with future directions of the project in Phase VII, Year 3 and Phase VIII, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Mann, P., 2025, Welcome, main results from Phase VII, and looking ahead to Phase VIII (2026-2029), CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

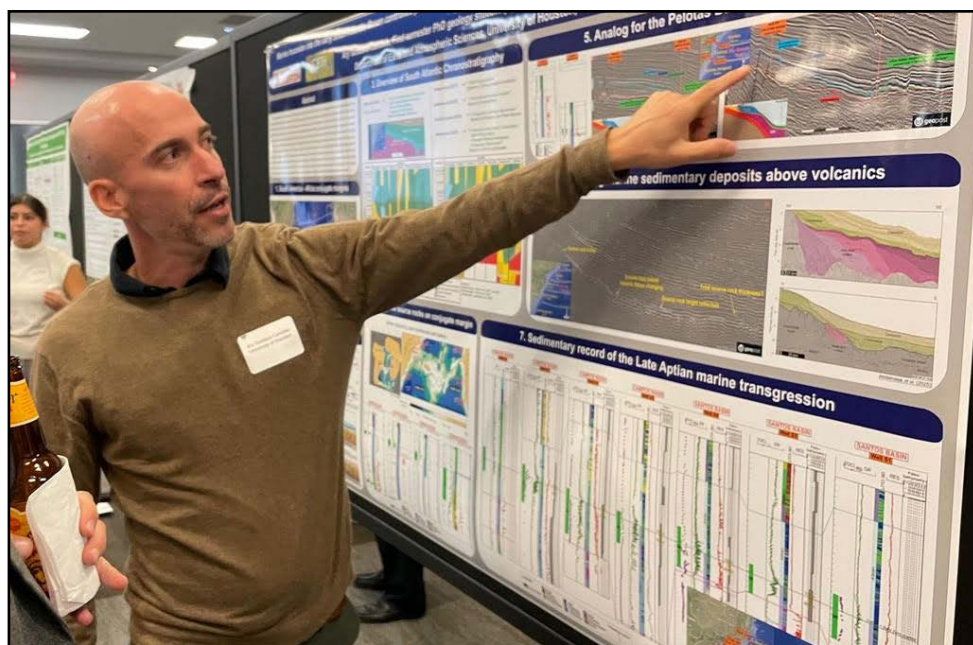
Maya, D., 2025, Structural impact of the Salado microplate on the deepwater potential of Uruguay, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Miller, J., 2025, Paleoscan images illustrating source rock-reservoir pairs of the deepwater margin of Uruguay, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Shipper, K., 2025, 3D basin model for Guyana-Suriname and predicted areas of future large discoveries, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Shipper, K., 2025, Mature source rocks on oceanic crust, Part 2: Atlantic margin of Morocco, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.

Storms, J., 2025, CBTH website, deliverables to sponsors, and demo of CBTH mapped surfaces posted to Geopost, CBTH Annual Sponsor Meeting, Houston, Texas, Oct. 9, 2025.



PhD student Ary Gustavo Candido presents at the EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture.



Recent Meetings

EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture (November 10, 2025)

Beltran, R., 2025, Structural restoration of the Campos rifted-passive margin, Brazil, and constraints on its ultra-deepwater, hydrocarbon potential, EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture, Houston, Texas, Nov. 10, 2025.

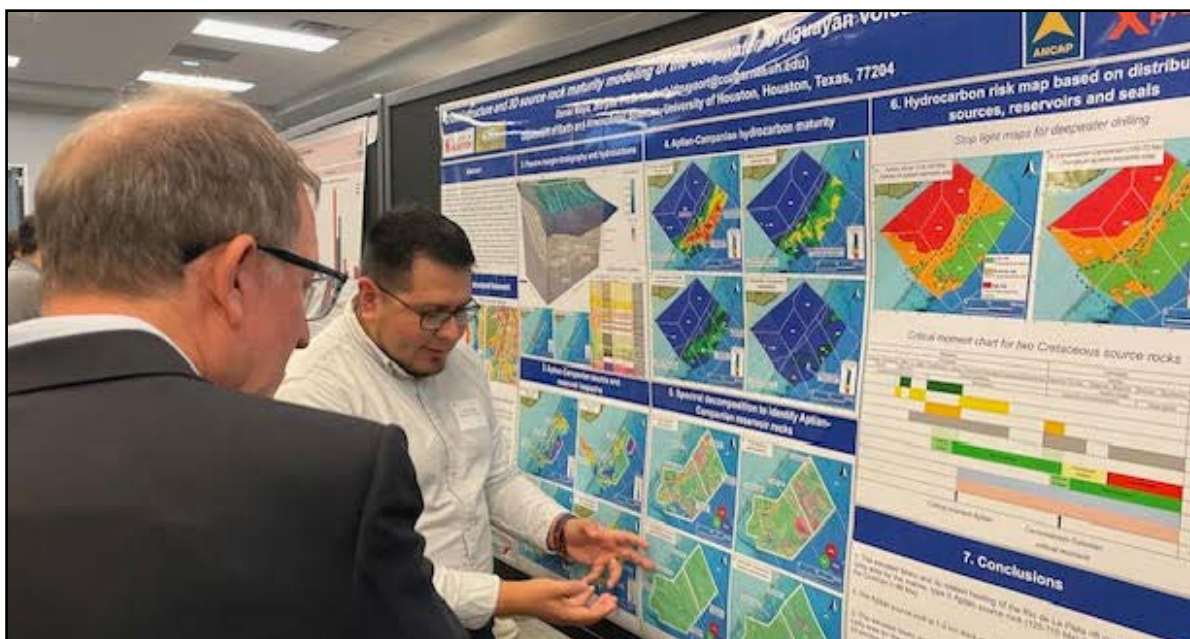
Cahill, C., 2025, Tectonic reconstruction of the rifted conjugate margins of the southeastern Bahamas and Guyana-Suriname, EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture, Houston, Texas, Nov. 10, 2025.

Candido, A.G. , 2025 Marine incursion into the early South Atlantic Ocean controlled prolific Barremian-Aptian source rocks along the conjugate margins of Brazil and Namibia, EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture, Houston, Texas, Nov. 10, 2025.

Maya, D., Crustal structure and 3D source rock maturity modeling of the deepwater, Uruguayan volcanic, rifted-passive margin, EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture, Houston, Texas, Nov. 10, 2025.

Ruiz Toro, E., 2025, Late Cretaceous oceanic plateau origin of the Bering Sea lithosphere from 3D gravity inversion for crustal thickness and integration of heatflow and depth to basement data, EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture, Houston, Texas, Nov. 10, 2025.

Shipper, K., 2025, 3D basin modeling indicates an active petroleum system overlying Late Jurassic oceanic crust along the deepwater, Central Atlantic margin of Morocco, EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture, Houston, Texas, Nov. 10, 2025.



CBTH PhD student Daniel Maya presents at the EAS-HGS Annual Sheriff Lecture



Recent Meetings

GCSSEPM 41st Annual Perkins-Rosen Research Conference (November 17-19, 2025)

Cornelius, S., 2025, Well log chronostratigraphic conversion of multi-basin formation units as requisite for 3D basin modeling in the Santos–Campos–Espírito Santo salt basin, Brazil, GCSSEPM 41st Annual Perkins-Rosen Research Conference, Nov. 17-19, 2025.

AGU25 Annual Meeting (December 15-19, 2025)

The three Caribbean talks below were in a special oral and poster session entitled “Subduction Top to Bottom: Convergent margin processes surrounding the Caribbean Plate and analogous, global settings convened by: D. Fisher (Penn State), Kristin Morrell (UC/Santa Barbara), Paul Mann (UH), and Grey Bebout (Lehigh Univ).

Akka, H., Mann, P., Tahayt, A., Hippolyte, J.-C., Gorosabel Araus, J.M., 2025, Defining the northwest Africa-Eurasia plate boundary from the Azores to Eastern Morocco from integrated geophysical data sets, AGU25 Annual Meeting, Dec. 15-19, 2025.

Gorosabel, Araus, J.M., and Mann, P., 2025, Large-scale rotations within the Island of Hispaniola and offshore areas resulting from Neogene tectonic indentation of the Beata Ridge, AGU25 Annual Meeting, Dec. 15-19, 2025.

Mann, P., 2025, A tale of two prisms: Barbados accretionary prism, AGU25 Annual Meeting, Dec. 15-19, 2025.

Ruiz Toro, E., and Mann, P., 2025, Oceanic plateau capture model for the origin of the Bering Sea from integration of potential fields and seismic reflection data, AGU25 Annual Meeting, Dec. 15-19, 2025.

Shipper, K., and Mann, P., 2025, Comparison of subduction-related flexure of the Caribbean oceanic plateau with oceanic crust of the Central Atlantic Ocean, AGU25 Annual Meeting, Dec. 15-19, 2025.

Upcoming Meetings

Subsurface Energy to Power: Accelerating Electricity Capacity with Natural Gas, Geothermal, Hydrogen, Lithium, Uranium hosted by AAPG (January 7-8, 2026)

HGS-GSH 2025 Case Studies Seminar (January 15, 2026)

EAGE Basin and Petroleum Systems Conference (2026 TBD)



Recent Theses & Dissertations

- Miller, J., 2025, 3D seismic stratigraphy, sedimentation, and hydrocarbon potential of the deepwater, rifted-passive margin of Uruguay, MS thesis, University of Houston, 94 p.
- Petkovsek, C., 2025, Crustal, thermal, and structural controls on hydrocarbon systems in the Delaware Basin, west Texas and southeastern New Mexico, PhD dissertation, University of Houston, 130 p.

Recent Publications

- Gorosabel Araus, J.M., Mann, P., and Pepper, A., 2025, New modelling study reveals a petroleum system overlying oceanic crust offshore Equatorial Guinea, *GEO EXPRO*, v. 22, no. 5, p. 36-45.
- Granja-Bruna, J.L., Gorosabel-Araus, J.M., ten Brink, Muñoz-Martín, U., Rodríguez-Zurrunero, A., Leroy, S., López-Venegas, A., Llorente-Isidro, M., Macías Sánchez, J., Sánchez-Linares, C., and Carbó-Gorosabel, A., 2025, Seismotectonics and crustal structure in the southern Dominican Republic offshore margin: Implications on the tsunami potential, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, v. 26, e2024GC012092. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GC012092>
- Hippolyte, J.C., Mann, P., Henry, P., Guihou, A., Deschamps, P., Ourliac, C., Godeau, N., Marié, L., and Gordon, M.B., 2024, U–Pb calcite dating reveals the origin of a 600-km-long intraplate fault: The Balcones Fault System of Texas, *Terra Nova*, 00, p. 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ter.12734>
- Hippolyte, J.-C., and Mann, P., 2025, Polyphase tectonic evolution of the Puerto-Rico-Virgin Islands microplate revealed by fault-slip data and stress inversions, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, v. 26, no. 7, e2025GC012227. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2025GC012227>
- Kusky, T.M., Mann, P., and Meng, J., 2025, The February 8, 2025, Swan Islands (Caribbean Sea) Earthquake: Lessons for geohazards on transform plate and microplate boundaries, *Journal of Earth Science*, v. 36, no. 2, p. 852-855. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12583-025-0176-7>
- Maya, D., and Mann, P., 2025, Clockwise rotation of the Salado microplate within the Early Cretaceous, volcanic-rifted margin of Uruguay and northern Argentina, *Journal of South American Earth Sciences*, v. 165, 105600. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsames.2025.105600>
- Petkovsek, C., 2024, Multilayer 3D seismic attribute analysis and fault framework modeling of shallow extensional fault systems in the Delaware Basin, *Interpretation*, v. 12, no. 4, T399–T412. <https://doi.org/10.1190/int-2023-0132.1>
- Ramos, J.P., Mann, P., and Carvajal, L.C., 2025, Crustal structure and tectonic origin of Late Cretaceous oceanic crust, and adjacent Caribbean Large Igneous Province in the Colombian Basin, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, v. 26, no. 2, e2024GC011602. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GC011602>
- Shipper, K. and Mann, P., 2024, Crustal structure, deformational history, and tectonic origin of the Bahamas carbonate platform, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, v. 25, e2023GC011300. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023GC011300>



Awards

Jumoke Akinpelu, PhD Candidate, NAPE Nigeria Fellowship Award, 43rd Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) Annual International Conference and Exhibition.

Estefani Ruiz Toro, MS Candidate, 2nd Place Presentation PhD Candidate (Advanced MS/First year PhD category, Geology), Houston Geological Society and University of Houston Robert E. Sheriff lecture series and student poster competition (\$500)

Daniel Maya, PhD Candidate, NSM Alumni Association (Eckhard Pfeifer/Carolyn Farb) Scholarship

Ruth Beltran, PhD Candidate, 2nd Place Poster Presentation (PhD), UH EAS Student Research Day, May 2025

Daniel Maya, PhD Candidate, 3rd Place Poster Presentation (PhD), UH EAS Student Research Day, May 2025 (\$50)

Estefani Ruiz Toro, MS Candidate, 1st Place Poster Presentation (Master's), UH EAS Student Research Day, May 2025 (\$300)

Second Place, Imperial Barrel Award Program (IBA) of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), North America Semi-Finals Competition (Petroleum area), April 2025.



*The 2025 UH IBA team, including CBTH MS student Estefani Ruiz Toro.
The team finished second in the North America competition.*



Thanks to our sponsors!

As we prepare for Phase VIII of the CBTH Project, we would like to thank our active and inactive company sponsors for their support in providing data and software that has fostered our progress in understanding the hydrocarbon potential conjugate rifted-passive margins in the CBTH study area. Your support has provided many opportunities for CBTH students to pursue research projects in the region, and your support is truly appreciated.

Active Sponsors for Phase VII, Year 3



Previous Sponsors (2005 - 2025)



Data Sharing



Technical Support

