



Christopher Lee Bowland (M.A. '84), age 58, of Tomball, Texas, passed away on July 20, 2018, after suffering a sudden cardiac arrest while running with his dogs on July 3, 2018. Chris graduated from St. Bede Academy in 1977 and received a B.S. in geology from Northwestern University in 1981. In 1981, he came to University of Texas where he worked at the Institute for Geophysics with Dr. Eric Rosencrantz at the older UTIG rented office space on Airport Blvd. His master's thesis included a study of the Colombian basin that integrated existing UTIG seismic lines - collected during the "Caribbean Tectonics" surveys of the late 1970's - with existing refraction data. The MS thesis provided information for two key

papers: the first was by Bowland and Rosencrantz in 1988 in GSA Bulletin: Upper crustal structure of the western Colombia Basin, and the second was by Bowland in 1993 also in GSA Bulletin: Depositional history of the western Colombian basin, western Caribbean Sea, revealed by seismic stratigraphy. The earlier paper documented the late Cretaceous oceanic plateau history of the area and the second paper documented the post-plateau sedimentary history. These papers complemented Rosencrantz's detailed studies of the Yucatan basin and Cayman trough that were published during this same period and provided a cornerstone of understanding the southwestern Caribbean plate. In December, 2018, the two papers have been cited by other authors a total of 156 times.

Chris was born in Spring Valley, Illinois, on July 21, 1959. He was married to Anne Smith Bowland on June 15, 1985, in Austin, Texas, and they lived in Plano, Texas, for 15 years, where they had three sons. While living in Plano, he worked for 13 years at Arco Oil and Gas and 2 years at Mobil Oil Company. In 2000, Chris began working for ExxonMobil, and the family moved to Tomball, Texas, where they reside to this day. He is survived by his wife, Jacque Anne Bowland; sons, Jonathan Austin Bowland, Jeffrey Addison Bowland, and Gregory Allen Bowland; Jeff's wife, Mallory Bowland; Gregory's partner, Samantha Patterson; and his grandchildren, Noah, Parker, and Aubrey.

Memorial derived from the Fall 2018 UT Alumni newsletter with additions by Paul Mann.