

Monday, April 13, 2009

Westchase Hilton • 9999 Westheimer
Social Hour 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$28 Preregistered members; \$35 non-members & walk-ups

To guarantee a seat, you must pre-register on the HGS website and pre-pay with a credit card.

Pre-registration without payment will not be accepted.

You may still walk up and pay at the door, if extra seats are available.

HGS General Dinner Meeting

John Anderson
Maurice Ewing Professor
of Oceanography
Rice University

HGS General Dinner Meeting

Sustainable Development of the Upper Texas Coast: A Call for More Science and Less Politics

Hurricane Ike was a stark reminder of the risk of living on barrier islands. Yet, even as the loss of human life and material damage were still being assessed, city of Galveston officials and former United States presidents were talking about rebuilding a bigger and better Galveston. The fate of Bolivar Peninsula, however, remains more problematic.

What should be done to maintain a sustainable coast given restricted sand supply, increasing rates of sea level rise, and potential for increasing storm impact in the future?

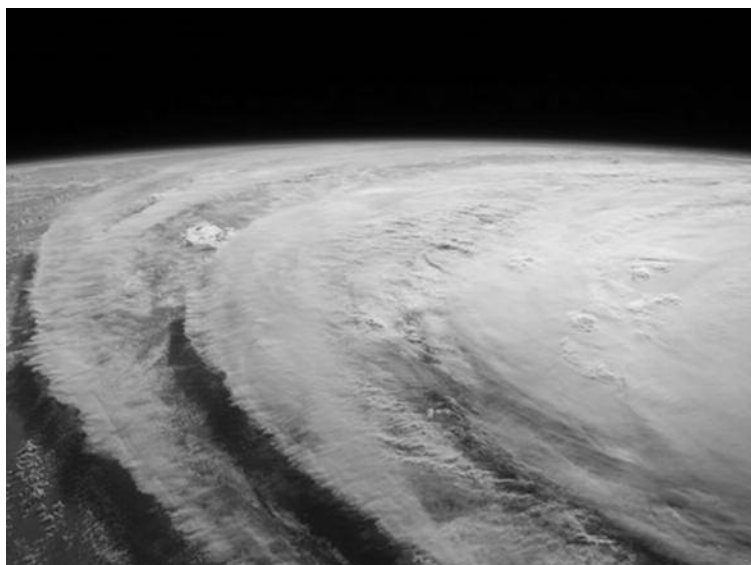
What is the future of the upper Texas coast, especially this century, and can Galveston Island sustain the unbridled development that existed prior to Hurricane Ike? The reality is that Ike is a stark reminder that the upper Texas coast is a highly unstable setting that will experience significant

change with or without future storm impact. This presentation will focus on the evolution of the upper Texas coast and on those changes that are occurring today. How do natural forces regulate these changes and what role have humans played in coastal change? What should be done to maintain a sustainable coast given restricted sand supply, increasing rates of sea level rise, and potential for increasing storm impact in the future? These questions were being posed long before Ike, but city and state officials were then largely ignoring the call for a more scientific approach to coastal development. The geological community must play a greater role in preserving our coast for future generations. ■

Biographic Sketch

JOHN ANDERSON is the Maurice Ewing Professor of Oceanography at Rice University. His research interests are in Antarctic ice sheet evolution, Quaternary geology of the Gulf of Mexico, and Texas

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coastal geology. Dr. Anderson has led 25 scientific expeditions to Antarctica and has spent over 30 years conducting research closer to home in the Gulf and along the Texas coast. Cambridge University Press published the culmination of his Antarctic research in a book *Antarctic Marine Geology*. The results of his and his students' research in the Gulf of Mexico



were published in SEPM Special Publication No. 79, *Quaternary Evolution of the Gulf of Mexico Margin*. In 2007, he published a book, *Formation and Future of the Upper Texas Coast*, and in 2008, he and his former students published a Geological Society of American Special Paper "Response of Upper Gulf Coast Estuaries to Holocene Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise." He has authored and co-authored over 180 refereed publications and mentored more than fifty graduate students. John received the Gulf Coast Association of Geological



Societies Outstanding Educator Award in 1992, was an AAPG Distinguished Lecturer in 2003, President of the SEPM in 2003-2004, and was the 2007 recipient of the SEPM Shepard Medal.