

Greg Baniak (baniak@ualberta.ca)
Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
University of Alberta, Canada

July 8, 2011

Dear AAPG Foundation Board of Trustees:

Re: *AAPG Grant-in-Aid Gustavus E. Archie Memorial International Grant*

I am Greg Baniak, a current PhD student of the geology program at the University of Alberta. I am writing you this letter to sincerely **thank you** for selecting me to be one of the recipients of **Gustavus E. Archie International Memorial Grant!**

My current research is aimed at the continued expansion of our understanding of reservoirs influenced by bioturbation within carbonate and siliciclastic strata. The three cases studies used for this research include: (i) Upper Jurassic Ula Formation, Norway (siliciclastic); (ii) Mississippian Debolt Formation, Alberta (carbonate); and (iii) Upper Devonian Palliser and Wabamun Formations, Alberta (carbonate). The goal of my research is to generate new conceptual models for burrow-related modification of reservoir flow media within carbonates and siliciclastics. Specifically, I will parameterize the influence bioturbation has in altering the petrophysics of the reservoir by focusing on factors such as burrow density, connectivity, and orientation. Analysis of processes, such as dolomitization, that lead to biogenic enhancement of the reservoir permeability with carbonates will also be analyzed. Following this last point, the generous monies given to me by the AAPG grant will help fund my research towards obtaining isotopes, thin sections, and SEM data from burrow-mottled carbonate samples this summer. This research will then be presented at the upcoming AAPG ICE conference this October in Milan! The supervisors for my project are Drs. Murray Gingras and S. George Pemberton.

In addition to my own research, I have also experienced many of the wonderful opportunities AAPG offers graduate students and wish to express my gratitude. Examples of these opportunities include my participation in the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award in 2010. Other examples include my attendance at the annual conferences in New Orleans and Houston these past two years. In fact, my poster at the recent conference in Houston received 4th place in the student competition!

In closing, I am genuinely thankful for being chosen for this grant! I truly believe that this accomplishment will be another stepping stone towards what will hopefully be a rewarding and exciting career as a petroleum geologist.

Sincerely,



Greg Baniak