

Geoscientists Without Borders: Schlumberger Leads the Way

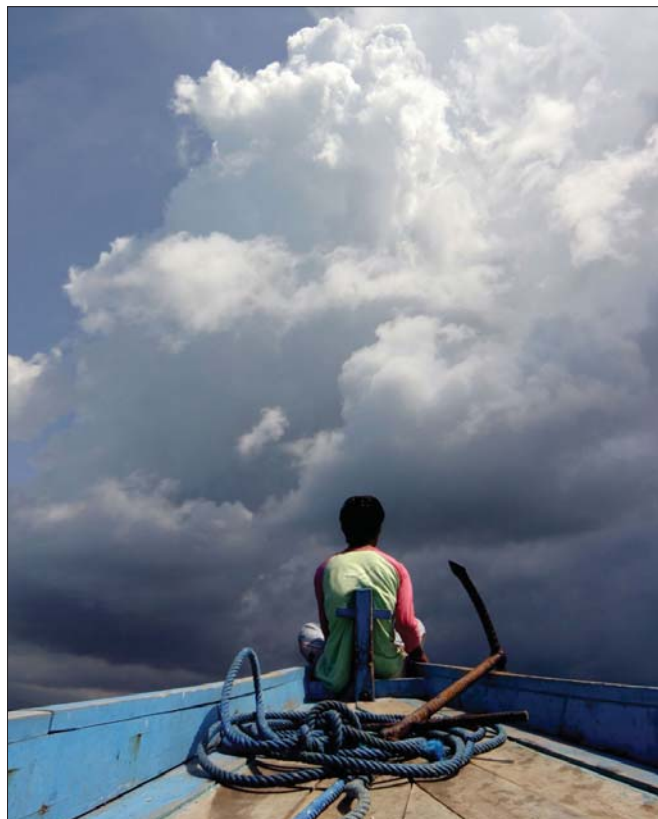
Change often follows a disaster. Most of the SEG membership still remember the horrors of the December 2004 Indonesian tsunami, some from personal experience. The fishermen in Banda Aceh, Indonesia now face the sea as they work on the beaches, constantly watching for another deadly wave. They changed. They are more prepared.

No one knew that tsunami was going to change more than the beach landscapes and lives of those in its path. The tsunami was also going to change the SEG—a change for the better.

The harbinger of this change was a call to action by then-President Craig Beasley in the January 2005 issue of *TLE*. He urged SEG members to help, stating “...we have a significant contribution to make as geophysicists.”

SEG is now pleased to announce the establishment of a new program, Geoscientists Without Borders that will transform Beasley’s vision to reality. Made possible by a founding commitment of US\$1 million from Schlumberger, this program will benefit disadvantaged communities by providing necessary funding for projects that serve those in need through targeted applications of geophysical and geoscience technologies. These humanitarian projects will create a lasting legacy and a brighter future while raising the profile of applied geoscience.

Dalton Boutte, executive vice president of Schlumberger and president of Schlumberger subsidiary WesternGeco, expressed the goal of the program well in his announcement of the founding commitment to the SEG Foundation, “When we looked at the technologies we have developed in the oil and gas sector and the potential benefits to humanitarian efforts, we were interested in enabling these applications



A fisherman watches the horizon off the western coast of Thailand, two years after the deadly tsunami.

SEG AND SEG FOUNDATION
THANK THE
“FOUNDING SUPPORTER” OF
GEOSCIENTISTS WITHOUT BORDERS

Schlumberger

Advancing Geophysics Today — Inspiring Geoscientists For Tomorrow



SEG Foundation vice-chair Bill Barkhouse congratulating Schlumberger Executive Vice-President Dalton Boutte after his announcement of Schlumberger's \$1 million commitment to Geoscientists Without Borders at the 2007 SEG Annual Meeting.

through interaction with the academic community, students, and the SEG Foundation. We are proud to be able to help establish a program that will focus on humanitarian applications of geoscience and inspire students to use their skills in the geosciences to make the world a better place."

A new SEG committee, the Geoscientists Without Borders Committee, has been established to guide the development of policy and procedure for this new program. Though many of the details are yet to be established, one aspect that is clear is the important role that students and universities will have in the success of the program. Project awards will link disadvantaged communities with the resources necessary to effectively apply the relevant geoscience technology. In many cases, the resources will be best provided by university programs: namely, expertise from faculty and application by students.

SEG Student Sections will have a unique opportunity to add their impact and influence to SEG and to communities in need. The students will bring benefits to their own lives through the experience of planning and executing such projects. According to Gabriel Borges, outgoing president of the SEG Student Section at the University of Oklahoma, "The program represents a great opportunity for geoscience students to provide an early contribution to the professional community while building their technical skills and assuming a leadership role in the global fight for human dignity in these disadvantaged communities."

The project award application process will be established by the committee over the next several months. Qualifying projects will be required to demonstrate that they will deliver humanitarian benefits through application of geophysical and geoscience expertise. These benefits could include a wide range of projects, such as locating fresh water supplies, pollution remediation, natural hazard detection, man-made hazard mitigation, sustainable resource development, and related education. Those interested in applying for grants or offering their services as mentors should monitor the SEG Web site, particularly <http://www.seg.org/foundation>.

The Schlumberger commitment of \$1 million over five

Donor Spotlight: Gary and Lorene Servos



Gary and Lorene Servos have established an SEG Foundation endowment for the "Gary and Lorene Servos Scholarship in Applied Groundwater Exploration." Their \$50 000 commitment will be fulfilled through a multiyear pledge, to be matched under the SEG matching gift program. This scholarship, or research project award, will be awarded annually starting in 2009 with a likely initial value of \$6000. It will be open to students worldwide. Servos explained their generosity by saying, "Lorene and I are committed to the important work of the SEG Foundation. We believe passionately in the critical role that applied geophysics has played and will continue to play in meeting the challenges faced by society. Fresh water will become ever more important, and we are proud to be able to make a difference in this field."

Gary and Lorene must be on the right path, because shortly after announcing their scholarship, SEG Past-President Terry Young, and his wife, Nadine, announced their intent to make a personal financial contribution of \$10 000 to increase the endowment of the Servos scholarship.

years was made to the SEG Foundation major gift campaign, *Advancing Geophysics Today, Inspiring Geoscientists for Tomorrow*. Gary Servos, board chair of SEG Foundation, explains why this new investment in the future of geophysics is so important, "SEG Foundation has a long history of supporting students and universities engaged in the study of applied geophysics. We are proud to work with Schlumberger to raise this engagement to a new level. Geoscientists Without Borders will strengthen university programs, introduce students to the practical and humanitarian benefits of geophysics and geoscience, and make a difference to the quality of life in many of the world's most disadvantaged communities."

In short, SEG members will rise to Craig Beasley's 2005 challenge and bring positive impact to the world—one project at a time.

—RHONDA JACOBS
Geoscientists Without Borders Program Administrator