

HOT COURSES INSPIRE:

# HOW A GEOLOGY BOOK CAME TO LIFE

Reflections by  
Dr Jon Rotzien

Anyone who's put together a technical training course for the oil and gas industry knows that it takes a lot of time. And it often takes a lot more time to put the course together than it does to execute the course. Many would say the effort is comparable to what it takes to teach a semester course at university. A typical training course is right around 2-5 days on average, but some courses are multiple weeks long.

My course with HOT in Stavanger in June 2019 was three days long, and throughout the course we covered 10 modules, each with an exercise and associated readings. In all, we covered over 600 PowerPoint slides and about 100 pages worth of exercises. Some exercises included meter-long photopanel of outcrops that had to be scaled down from real life so that we could "bring the reservoir analogues into the classroom." Participants say they like a good challenge in training courses, so that's what I try to deliver.

Three days is a short time to cover and to pass on to professionals what I've learned about deepwater reservoir characterization so far during my career.

But the HOT course in Stavanger did allow me to reflect on the process of assembling all of the material, preparing the lectures, highlighting the key information, and designing exercises that would make the content stick with the professionals.

For years, I'd entertained the thought of writing a deepwater volume, but this was the first time I'd imagined it'd be possible. I had a lot of good material. Many individuals had helped and advised me along the way to build a comprehensive course, so I knew it was a good amalgamation of industry and academic perspectives. Not just one perspective, but many perspectives. And it became apparent that in order to write a definitive volume on deepwater, it was going to take diverse perspectives from professionals in industry, academic, research and government roles. It had to be a big team effort.

Soon after Stavanger, I spoke with the key mentors and advisors I'd briefly spoken to in the past about such a project – Cindy, Javier, Rich, Octavian – who later became our editorial team. Then, when the pandemic hit, and travel was taken away

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from many of us, it seemed obvious to dive right into this project. This was the opportunity to write the book. It makes a lot of sense in hindsight to do the book when we did it, but we didn't really know how long the pandemic lockdowns would last. People were looking for a way to stay engaged with their friends and colleagues around the world. I spoke with many colleagues around the world, and we ended up with the best team of 62 individuals from nearly 20 countries. We had contributors from nearly every key energy market.

There were very difficult challenges during certain stages of writing the book, times when it seemed like the book wouldn't get completed the way we had designed it, but in the end, we delivered every chapter on time and with 200 more pages than expected (we had planned 600, but ended up with just over 800)! It turns out it's not just a small number of us with great enthusiasm for deepwater and its future, but at least 62 of us think there are really

good opportunities in deepwater now and well into the future. I'm excited to have this book as a key reference for my courses with HOT, because it examines key themes in reservoir characterization from top specialists in the fields of geology, geophysics, engineering and economics. As an author team, we are proud of our new

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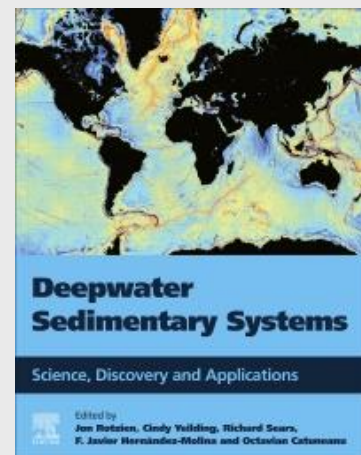
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volume and thankful for Elsevier's help and beautiful design of the book and its layout. It was so great to celebrate the

book's publication at IMAGE '22 in Houston with many of the authors who had come in from all over the world to hold a copy. We hope to have the opportunity to write a second volume in the future, as some aspects of the science and business of deepwater will look quite different than they do today. One chapter that is particularly forward-looking is Chapter 21: The Next 100 Years of Deepwater, authored by C. A. Yeilding, R. A. Sears, Z. M. Donovan and F. J. Hernández-Molina. Be sure to check it out!

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Jonathan Rotzien is a contemporary scientist and business owner with substantial expertise in deep-water stratigraphy and reservoir characterization. He has worked for BP, Devon, Shell, and Hess in various offshore exploration roles. Jon holds a BA degree in Geology from Colorado College and a Ph.D. in Geological and Environmental Sciences from Stanford University. He specializes in mapping sedimentary environments and has extensive experience in oil & gas drilling, mapping expeditions, and consulting worldwide. Jon has published research on topics ranging from volcanism in the US to deep-water stratigraphy in different regions. He has taught at several universities and received numerous honors and awards for his work. Jon has also served on evaluation and advisory boards for various institutions.



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