



**OBITUARIES**

## Chris Edwards

By Vitor Abreu

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of Dr Christopher Mark Edwards – Chris Edwards to his friends. Chris passed away while on vacation in South America early in January this year. Chris is survived by his mother Olive, his sister Amy and his life-long friend and former-wife Laura.

Chris is well-known for his skills as a stratigrapher and developed an impressive career in our profession. His outstanding Ph.D. work with John Howell and Steve Flint in Liverpool caught ExxonMobil's attention, culminating with him joining the ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company in 2005. He had a strong impact from the start, developing new models for deep water fan evolution based on high resolution seismic stratigraphic mapping. His deep understanding of clastic reservoirs was noticed by other companies, compelling him to move to Norway to join the Specialist Services team of Statoil. Career progression in Statoil led him to move to London in a period of his life when he became more interested in the consulting world. ERC Equipoise was his choice for that new phase in his career, giving him the opportunity to branch out further.

Chris was also a field geologist. Anyone who saw his field notes will recall his precise and beautifully sketched measured sections – a testament to his passion for his profession and of his skills as a sedimentologist. We were always amazed by his keen observation skills and ability to summarise quickly elegant models of very complex geology.

On a personal note, over the years I had the pleasure to know Chris as a dedicated and brilliant seismic interpreter, as a great friend with a big heart who would always be there for you, and as a smart and energetic business partner. I feel very lucky to have seen him in so many different dimensions throughout his life. Perhaps the dimension which brings the fondest memories to all his friends was his acute sense of humour and contagious laughter. It was very hard to keep a serious face around him!

## Lou Macchi

Lou was born in London and his life-long interest in geology was inspired by a teacher in secondary school. In 1975, he obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Geology and Geography at Hull University (only the second person to have done so) where he also completed his PhD on the sedimentology of the Penrith Sandstone. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society and one of the first Chartered Geologists.

After Hull, he was staff tutor at Liverpool University, before becoming Manager of Reservoir Geology for a consultancy near Chester.

In 1988, he set up Reservoir Associates with two colleagues. The partnership soon divided into Reservoir Associates International run by Lou and Reservoir Associates North Sea run by his long-term friend and colleague Brian Cullen.

Lou worked on projects in 34 countries worldwide and on both the onshore and offshore UK. He was one of the first members of the original team in 2004 that developed

the Sea Lion play in the Falklands, resulting in the first well hitting oil. Many more wells were drilled and hundreds of metres of core obtained and Lou worked through them all, eventually seeing the early models validated. His beautifully-drawn core logs and reservoir models have underpinned the project others have taken forward.

His research into the geometries of sandbodies focused on fluvial, fluvio-deltaic and aeolian deposits but also included lagoonal, shoreface-shelf and turbidite systems, providing analogue information for use in predicting lateral dimensions etc. for reservoir-simulation purposes.

He was involved in setting up and co-ordinating multi-disciplinary research projects, involving several universities, to investigate the origin and geochemistry of chlorite and illite cements in the Southern North Sea.

He was a great field geologist and his field excursions were legendary, as was his ability to enjoy the “après geology” into the small hours, appearing next morning without any apparent ill effects. He ran field trips to the Tunisian Sahara so often that he became known by locals

as “Loup du Desert” - a pun on his name and the French for Wolf of the Desert.

His many adventures included hiding behind a sand dune all night when the Tuareg visited his camp in the Sahara, driving into Algiers as the tanks arrived when the army took control in 1992 and digging roads and crossing crocodile-infested rivers in Madagascar.

He had a rare ability to explain the complexities of his subject to both peers and students and could talk to anyone, irrespective of their background. Everyone has said how much they learned from him and how greatly they valued his technical and commercial understanding, his meticulous attention to detail, his positive, pragmatic attitude, his warm personality and his sense of humour.

A testament to Lou was the huge number of family, friends and colleagues who attended his funeral.

Lou's non-geological interests included walking in the Cheshire countryside where he lived with his wife Alison, spending time in the local pub, eating and drinking with friends and driving his Aston Martin.

