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Through its Benjamin Franklin Awards program, initiated shortly after the Institute's founding, the Institute provides public recognition of outstanding science and encourages excellence in science and technology. It is one important way that the Institute preserves Franklin's legacy.



## *2005 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth Science*



### **Sequence Stratigraphy and Global Changes in Sea Level**

*A Symposium honoring*

**Professor Peter R. Vail**  
Rice University

**Wednesday, April 20, 2005**  
**9:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

The Towne Building  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
222 South 33rd Street

## Short Biographies

### PROGRAM

**9:30 AM** Coffee: 336 Towne Building  
**10:00 AM** Symposium: 337 Towne Building

### SPEAKERS:

**John C. Van Wagoner**  
ExxonMobil Corporation

**André Droxler**  
Rice University

### RESPONSE:

**Peter R. Vail**  
Rice University

**12:30 PM** Reception – Hayden Hall Lobby  
Across the walk from Towne Building



Earth Science Cluster Participants  
Fred Scatena, University of Pennsylvania  
Robert Varrin, University of Delaware  
William Bonini, Princeton University

Co-sponsored by  
**The Franklin Institute**

**The Department of Earth and Environmental Science**  
**The University of Pennsylvania**

Additional support provided by  
**ExxonMobil Exploration Company, Houston, Texas**

### **John C. Van Wagoner**

Born in Bayshore, NY, John Van Wagoner graduated from College of Wooster (BA, Geology, 1972) and Rice University (Ph.D., Geology, 1977). Joining Exxon Production Research Co., in 1976, he is currently Senior Research Advisor in the Reservoir Geometry and Continuity Division at ExxonMobil Upstream Research Co. in Houston. His broad experience in stratigraphy and carbonate/siliciclastic facies led him to contribute to development of sequence stratigraphy. He's a team leader for the breakthrough research Shapes Project, that uses experimentation, numerical simulation, field work, seismic interpretation, and physics to develop a new sedimentology. If successful, the project will include new geologic modeling tools for exploration, development, and production geoscience.

### **André Droxler**

André Droxler was born and raised in Switzerland, receiving degrees from the University of Neuchâtel in 1978 and from the University of Miami (Ph.D.) in 1984. He joined Rice University in 1987. His research, spanning time scales from late Quaternary into the Cenozoic, is mainly focused on studying carbonate and mixed siliciclastic/carbonate deposits on slopes and basin floors surrounding modern carbonate platforms, barrier reefs, isolated banks, and atolls in terms of processes, evolution, and paleoceanographic and climatic records. The strength and uniqueness of this research is based upon merging the expanding knowledge and understanding from the two research scientific communities, carbonate sedimentologists and open marine

### **Peter R. Vail**

Born in New York City, Peter Vail graduated from Dartmouth College (BA Geology 1952) and Northwestern University (Ph.D. 1956). From 1956 to 1986 he worked with Exxon Production Research Company and predecessors. Joining Rice University in 1986, he is currently the Maurice Ewing Professor of Oceanography Emeritus. Vail has developed sequence stratigraphy, bringing stratigraphic geology and seismic interpretation together. His original concepts of chronostratigraphy and cyclic deposition of sedimentary rocks resulted in development of global sea level curves, which fundamentally changed the approach to stratigraphy. Awarded many honors, he recently received The Penrose Medal from the Geological Society of America and The Sidney Powers Award of the AAPG.

