



VOL. LIII No. 4 Fourth Quarter 2023

Museum Undergoes Crew Change Shannon Retires as Executive Director

After working for almost three decades at the Petroleum Museum, **Kathy Shannon** officially retired on October 1, 2023. Taking over as Executive Director is **Bryan Grant**, who has served as Director of Rentals since 2020.

Shannon came to the Museum in 1995 as the Director of Education. With the addition of the Transportation Wing, she led the Museum's education focus toward science, capitalizing

on the scientific principles the Chaparral Cars exhibit embodies. She was chosen to lead the Museum as Executive Director in November 2004.

Under her leadership the Museum opened its Education Hall, giving education programs a dedicated space to prosper. The Mineral Gallery was added in 2012, highlighting beautiful mineral specimens from across the globe and deepening the Museum's focus on geol-

ogy. In 2016, the Museum celebrated the grand opening of its updated petroleum exhibits, an \$18 million renovation of the east and north galleries. She received the President's Award from Texas Association of Museums for the project. In August 2023, the Museum's STEAM Education Center opened as a state-of-the-art facility.

Shannon served as a leader in the museum and Permian Basin communities. She was a member of the Texas Association of Museums board, serving as president from 2011-2012. Prior to that, she served on TAMEC, the Texas Association of Museums Education Committee, and on the Permian Basin Museum Association. She continually prioritized education by serving on the Trinity School board and collaborating with the Texas Education Agency on revising the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) through the Texas Energy Council.

"It has been such a privilege and an honor to represent the Petroleum Museum for the last 28 years. I have been blessed with an amazing board and a talented staff and together we have done great things to advocate for the industry and enhance education in our community. I know the Museum faces an exciting future and will continue to grow and be an important part of our community," Shannon said.

In taking the leadership role, Grant noted, "It has been a privilege to learn and grow under Kathy's leadership during my time at the Museum. I look forward to working alongside our staff and board of directors to move the Museum forward into its next chapter while continuing to fulfill our mission to share the petroleum and energy story and its impact on our lives."



Grant's previous experience includes 20-plus years in operations and management supporting executives, sales personnel, and managers to foster positive customer relationships and improve internal operations for small businesses. During his time at the Museum, he has built lasting relationships with customers and businesses, worked collaboratively with other departments, and increased rental income to support the museum.

"Kathy Shannon has been the driving force behind the mission and growth of the Petroleum Museum for nearly 30 years. The Museum and community owe much to her steadfast leadership and advocacy," Grant said.

"I know the Museum faces an exciting future and will continue to grow and be an important part of our community," Shannon said.



PETR LEUM MUSEUM

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Bryan Grant *Executive Director*

Permian Basin
Petroleum Museum,
Library and
Hall of Fame
...exploration,
innovations
and legends...

Volunteer Harris: Learning Is Lifetime Endeavor



For 17 years, the Petroleum Museum has nurtured **Billy Harris's** love for education and the energy industry. A member of the Petroleum Museum Board of Trustees since 2006, Harris has supported and encouraged the Museum's growth and expansion to stay current with changing technology and trends.

"I've always supported education and would dive in when people asked me to do something where they thought I could be helpful," Harris said.

When nominated for the board, the petroleum engineer accepted. "I thought the Museum's mission to explain and educate people about the industry was very important. There is a lot of misinformation out there and it's getting louder."

A petroleum engineering graduate of Colorado School of Mines, Harris started out studying geology and still nurtures an interest in that field. Today, he works as an independent consultant with Lodestone Oil and Gas. When he was young, Harris said, he wanted to travel. "This is a global industry and it's taken me all over the world."

Harris's involvement with the Museum began with the opening of the Transportation Wing. During his tenure on the board, the Museum opened the Education Hall, updated all exhibits to reflect current technology, and recently opened the STEAM Education Center. During the renovation phase, Harris assisted in the technical content that became part of the new exhibits and provided direction on the geologic scenery and reef. He is a hands-on person, preferring to be on the field playing the game and not watching from the stadium seat.

His desire to educate people about the industry extends beyond the Museum's walls. "The industry has provided ways to make people's lives more comfortable and easier. It has lifted millions of people out of poverty by having affordable energy available to them."

Although his term on the board is slated to end this year, Harris isn't finished with his projects. When the Museum's exhibits were updated, some of the core samples were stored.

"I want to see these brought out, identified, and re-incorporated into the current exhibits. I would like to get a group of geologists to complete that work, flushing out the full descriptions and history behind these specimens," he said.

The Museum will always strive to educate people. "Part of the mission is not just remembering the past, but educating people about the present and the future," Harris said. "Learning is a lifetime endeavor. It shouldn't stop, and I don't intend to stop."



Photos by James Durbin



Museum Hosts PBPA Reception

The Museum hosted the Permian Basin Petroleum Association's annual meeting in September where they celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Santa Rita No. 1.

Distinguished Lecturer Coming April 25

Septein is a philosopher and energy expert who believes that "human flourishing" should be the guiding principle of energy and environmental progress. He founded the Center for Industrial Progress in 2011 to offer positive, pro-human alternatives to today's green movement. He authored *The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels*, published in 2014 and arguably the most persuasive argument made for the continued use of fossil fuels. That book was followed by the bestselling book, *Fossil Future: Why Global Human Flourishing Requires More Oil, Coal and Natural Gas* in 2022. Alex also created EnergyTalkingPoints.com, a great source for powerful, well-referenced talking points on energy, environmental and climate issues. Plan to join us for this great opportunity to hear the positive impact of fossil fuels in our lives.

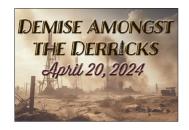
Upcoming Events: Mystery Dinner, BBLs

Save the Date: Mystery Evening Coming

Save the Date for a diabolically fun evening as we solve a *Mystery of Dastardly Deeds!* Join us as we venture back to the roaring twenties with a murder on our hands – a demise amongst the derricks!

Investigate and uncover clues...who did it...how did it happen...and why?

Mark your calendars for April 20 to come to a party...that everyone is *dying* to attend!



Mineral Gallery: A Look at Aragonite's History

ragonite is a carbonate mineral with the chemical composition of CaCO3. It is a polymorph of calcium carbonate meaning that it has the same elemental makeup as calcite but with a different crystal lattice that makes it form in different shapes. Typically forming in low temperature hydrothermal veins, it can also form in hot springs, as precipitates from chemicals in sedimentary rock, and in some cases as crystals in fossilized sea creatures. Aragonite forms under much more rare conditions than calcite and is significantly more scarce.

This mineral will be white or colorless when pure, but under certain circumstances, it may include trace elements that can color it blue, green, red or violet. The Wenshan mine in the Yunnan Province of China has produced many interesting specimens of aragonite. This specimen has a beautiful "sky-blue" coloration which is the result of trace amounts of copper salts. It was donated to the Petroleum Museum by **Dr. Rob Lavinsky.**

Come take a stroll through the Petroleum Museum's Mineral Gallery this holiday season and enjoy some of the most exquisite gifts of nature.



Aragonite Yunnan Province China

Stop by Museum Booth at NAPE Event

The Petroleum Museum will once again have a booth at the 2024 NAPE Summit at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. NAPE is the energy industry's marketplace for the buying, selling and trading of prospects and producing properties. Stop by and visit us on Feb. 8 or 9!



BBLs Bring Variety of Learning to Museum

Brown Bag Lunches (BBLs) at the Museum offer the public an opportunity to learn about a variety of topics in an informal setting. Guests bring their lunch, and the Museum provides drinks and dessert. BBLs are free and are sponsored by Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee.

December 12, 2023

The West Texas Winds will perform "Music of the Season." The resident woodwind quintet of the West Texas Symphony will put everyone in the Christmas spirit with a repertoire of classic Christmas music.

January 9, 2024

Casey Yates from the Permian Strategic Partnership (PSP) will delve into the organization, looking at its past, present and future focuses to strengthen and improve the quality of life for Permian Basin residents. Learn the reasons behind its formation and who is a member today.

February 13, 2024

State Sen. Kevin Sparks of Midland will explain the positives and negatives of the last state legislative session, including the special sessions. Be ready to ask your questions.

BBL Dates

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

December 12, 2023 West Texas Winds "Music of the Season"

January 9, 2024 Permian Strategic Partnership

February 13, 2024 State Sen. Kevin Sparks Update on the Recent State Legislative Session

STEAMing Through the Year...

STARTING WITH THE HOLIDAYS...

Looking for ways to keep your child engaged during the Christmas break? Look no further than the Petroleum Museum! Our Education Department will host two STEAM Break programs this winter: *Toymaker's Workshop* will be held December 27-29, and *Winter WonderLAB* will be held January 3-5, 2024. Parents may sign up their child(ren) for either morning, afternoon, or all-day sessions.

STEAM Break: *Toymaker's Workshop* will feature hands-on holiday-themed engineering projects and creative exploration in the morning and popular Christmas movies, hot chocolate, engineering activities, and experiments in the afternoon. From engineering their own toy to making holiday circuits, students will have

a merry time exploring the world of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math).

STEAM Break: *Winter WonderLAB* will feature winter-themed experiments and inventive projects in the morning and popular Christmas movies, hot chocolate, engineering activities, and experiments in the afternoon. Students can explore chemistry and engineering by creating snowball launchers, making snow slime and much more!

Sibling discounts are available for STEAM Break programs. Petroleum Museum Members enjoy a 10% discount on STEAM Break registrations. Go online to www.pbpetro.org for more information.

STEAM Break is generously sponsored by **Ovintiv.**







Blasting Past Fall

Students had a blast this fall! From experimenting with tinyBots to engineering their own ornaments, students completed a variety of STEAM challenges at the Museum. Out in the community, our Education Department took spooky robots to Cruise for a Cause, brought science ablaze at Basin PBS Back to School Festival and Sibley Nature Center, and brought the solar eclipse to life at Goddard Junior High!





...AND ROLLING INTO SPRING

Gear up for a science-packed spring semester at the Petroleum Museum! Our *Building Bots Robotics & Engineering Funlabs* will kick off the spring semester in February! Students in kindergarten through sixth grade will explore the world of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) as they experiment with various robotics equipment including LEGO Spike Essential & Prime, Spheros, Ozobots, and Osmos while completing unique engineering challenges each month.

Students in kindergarten through second grade meet on the first Tuesdays of February, March, April and May while students in the third through sixth grade will meet on the third Tuesdays. Classes are held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Pre-registration

is required. Building Bots Robotics & Engineering Funlabs are generously sponsored by **Oxy.**

The spring lineup will continue with

the *Makers Gonna Make* community makerspace event happening on the second Saturday of each month. Students in first through fifth grade will have access to the makerspace from 10 a.m. to 12 noon while students in sixth through 12th grade will have access from 2 to 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity for students to work on school projects while also testing the limits of their own creativity. They can access a variety of makerspace gadgets including cardboard, tools, 3D printers, laser and vinyl cutters, and more! Pre-registration is required.

Our *STEAM Break* program will continue during spring break with two camps held during March 11-15. Parents have the option to sign up their young scientist for Magical Science in the morning and/or LEGO ZOOventures in the afternoon. The morning session will run from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and the afternoon session from 1 to 5 p.m. During Magical Science, students will explore their creativity as they learn the science behind magic through hands-on inves-

tigations and engineering projects. During the LEGO ZOOventures camp, students will work together to engineer their own LEGO zoo animal while exploring the engineering design process through interactive challenges. STEAM Break is generously sponsored by

Ovintiv.

We are excited to announce our new *STEAM Sprouts* six-week session: Storybook STEAM! Children ages 4 to 5 will experience the wonders of STEAM as reading and science collide! Each week, students will explore a new storybook and complete science and art projects centered around each book. Books include The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Rainbow Fish, Too Much

SM

Glue, and more! Pre-registration is required. STEAM Sprouts is generously sponsored by **SM Energy.**

Registration for spring programs opens January 3, 2024, for members and January 5, 2024, for non-members.



Thursday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.

Family Science Night Dives into Sea

Dive deep into science on **Thursday**, **January 25**, as you create your own Cartesian Diver, engineer your own shark, explore ocean currents, and much more! Channel your inner oceanographer from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at this free science-packed event.

Museum members enjoy the added bonus of early admission from 6 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit **www.pbpetro.org.**

Family Science Nights are generously sponsored by Chevron.

FALL ROUNDUP

Pioneer Supports
Teachers with Funds

We extend a special thank you to Pioneer Natural Resources and Abell-Hanger Foundation for providing our **Education Department with** funding to support teachers in our local school districts. This will help us provide real world experience with STEM activities in our Summer Science Camps and offer hands-on professional development opportunities for local educators. The Museum will be able to provide valuable resources to our educators that directly impact thousands of students in the Permian Basin.



Viewing Eclipse At Goddard Jr. High

The Museum's Education Department had the amazing opportunity to collaborate with Goddard Junior High Science Department and REACH Network to offer a community wide solar eclipse viewing party. Participants were able to create Moon Phase torches, pinhole viewers, solar bracelets, and much more! With over 200 in attendance, the event was a great success for the entire community!

A Holiday Experiment to Keep Little Scientists Busy

SALT CRYSTAL SNOWFLAKES

MATERIALS

- Salt
- Mason jars (1 for each snowflake)
- Pipe cleaners
- Clothespins
- Water



PROCEDURES

- 1. For 3-4 jars, you will use an entire container of salt. The key to getting this to work properly is to add tons of salt. The water must be over-saturated with salt.
- 2. Boil 3 cups of water. Turn off the heat and stir the salt into the mixture until it won't dissolve any more and you have salt grains at the bottom of the pot. You will know you have enough salt when it starts to form a sheet of salt on the top of the water. If you don't have enough salt, this activity won't work properly.
- 3. Let the kids design their own snowflakes using the pipe cleaners. Just make sure the snowflakes can fit through the mouth of each jar and that it has a long stem in order to secure the snowflake with your clothespin.
- 4. Once the snowflakes are designed, pour the hot water into the mason jars and then add your snowflake to the jar, leaving the long stem outside the jar. Secure with your clothespin.
- 5. Set your jars by a sunny window and leave them there at least 2 days.



THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT

What is the science behind this simple salt experiment? A supersaturated solution! A supersaturated solution is a mixture that can't hold any more particles. Like with the salt here, we have filled all the space in the water with salt and the rest is left behind. Water molecules are close together in cold water, but when you heat the water, the molecules spread away from each other. This is what allows you to add more salt to get that supersaturated solution. It even appears cloudy.

YOU Made This Year Successful for Museum

We've had a great year because of YOUR generosity!

In August, we opened the STEAM Education Center, which is a testament to the positive impact of your support. This significant achievement allows us to encourage, elevate, and educate all who pass through the doors of this institution. We continue to strive to create new and exciting ways to share the petroleum and energy story and its impact on our lives.

Your generosity and belief in the Museum's mission make it possible for us to inspire interest in the sciences and promote a positive view of the industry for every age student from preschoolers to adults.

YOU can help us continue the legacy of

everything the Petroleum Museum represents by considering a donation. Your contribution may be designated as a gift to the annual fund which allows us to meet our most pressing needs, the permanent endowment for long-term security, or for the purchase of education materials for quality student engagement. If you choose to donate, check for matching funds through your employer.

We are dedicated to preserving our cultural history, promoting science education and serving as an advocate for the petroleum industry. We hope you will join us in this unique and important mission.

You may send a gift by mail to the Petroleum Museum. To donate online, scan

the QR Code below or log on to our secure website at www.pbpetro.org. For questions, please contact Luanne Thornton at 432-683-4403 or Ithornton@petroleummuseum.org.

Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season.



Membership Gives Perks All Year Long

Welcome to our newest and renewed members from August 2 to November 9, 2023.

Contributing Family

Keriana Beck Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brito Jim Brooks Lauren Ceballos Diamond K Petroleum Pratibha Bandari & Sridhar Enuganti Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Favrot Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Ferrell Carrie & Johnny Foreman Blanca Garcia

Laurie Garcia Mr. & Mrs. Dan Grabowski Tiffanie & JD Ganado Katie & Josh Grissam Mr. & Mrs. Craig Hansen Peter Hidalgo Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Hopkins Mr. & Mrs. Darryl James Ethel & Jeff Jeffries Lauren & Jerry Jorgenson Jamie & Dustin Kite Joe Kuhnert **Lucky Services** Pat & Brit Meadows Amy & Blake Pitcock Victoria Printz Nadeen & Blake Ramsouer Jeremiah Stewart Leslie Uchytil Lee & Steve Wallace

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Sustainer

Rosalind Redfern Grover Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Stallings

Director

Chevron



Memorials

Memorial contributions to the Petroleum Museum are deposited in the permanent endowment fund, unless donor advised, to provide ongoing tribute to the individuals recognized in bold. Donors are listed below the honoree. Contributors from August 3 to November 9, 2023, were:

> IN MEMORY OF... G.W. Brock Cheryl Cotner

Deb Bohac Reed Gilmore Priscilla Gilmore Willis H. "Bill" Gilmore, Jr. Deb Bohac James C. "Jim" Henry Mr. & Mrs. Morris Burns Roy C. Williamson, Jr. Patricia Black Barbra & Trey Grafa Paul van Wagenen Nancy Cooper

Betty Gilmore

Notable Dates

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 9

Makers Gonna Make!

Community Makerspace

10 a.m. to 12 noon for K-5th graders

2 to 4 p.m. for sixth through 12th graders

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

DECEMBER 12

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series

Music: Wext Texas Winds 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.

Sponsors: Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable

Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee

DECEMBER 24-25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Museum will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

DECEMBER 27-29

STEAM Break: Toymaker's Workshop

Holiday Camp for first through sixth graders

Half-day and all-day sessions available.

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

Sponsor: Ovintiv

JANUARY 2024

JANUARY 1

Happy New Year!

Museum will be closed for New Year's Day.

JANUARY 3-5

STEAM Break: Winter WonderLab

Holiday Camp for first through sixth graders Half-day and all-day sessions available.

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

Sponsor: Ovintiv

JANUARY 9

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series

Casey Yates: "Permian Strategic Partnership"

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.

Sponsors: Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable

Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee

JANUARY 13

Makers Gonna Make!

Community Makerspace

10 a.m. to 12 noon for K-5th graders 2 to 4 p.m. for sixth through 12th graders

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

JANUARY 25

Family Science Night

"Under the Sea"

6:30 to 8 p.m.

 $\rm 6~p.m.~Early~Admission~for~MEMBERS~ONLY$

Hands-on Science Experiments and Activities

Free Admission Sponsor: **Chevron**

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 6

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades K-2nd

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

Sponsor: Oxy

FEBRUARY 10

Makers Gonna Make!

Community Makerspace

10 a.m. to 12 noon for K-5th graders

2 to 4 p.m. for sixth through 12th graders

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online visit **www.pbpetro.org.**

FEBRUARY 13

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series

Speaker: "State Sen. Kevin Sparks"

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.

Sponsors: Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable

Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee

FEBRUARY 20

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 3rd-6th

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

Sponsor: Oxy

MARCH

MARCH 5

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades K-2nd

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

Sponsor: Oxy

MARCH 9

Makers Gonna Make!

Community Makerspace

10 a.m. to 12 noon for K-5th graders

2 to 4 p.m. for sixth through 12th graders

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

MARCH 11-15

STEAM Break

"Magical Science & LEGO ZOOventures"

Intersessional Camp for first through sixth graders.

Half-day and all-day sessions available.

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

Sponsor: Ovintiv MARCH 12

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series

Speaker: TBA

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.

Sponsors: Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable

Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee

MARCH 19

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Grades 3rd-6th

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

Sponsor: Oxy

MARCH 25

STEAM Sprouts: Storybook STEAM

Mondays for six weeks. Ages 4-5.

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. OR 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register

online visit www.pbpetro.org.

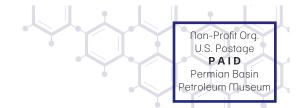
Sponsor: SM Energy

For more information about any of these programs or events, contact the Petroleum Museum at 432-683-4403 or www.pbpetro.org.



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Museum Bit & Bytes is published quarterly by the Petroleum Museum. For more information call 432-683-4403 or visit the website at pbpetro.org. 12/23



SHOP FOR UNIQUE GIFTS this holiday season at the Petroleum Museum Store! Income from store sales supports the Museum's annual operations and programs. Buying gifts with us enables you to give twice this Christmas. Museum Members always receive **15 percent off** purchases. We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Or, shop online at **pbpetro.org/shop** anytime.

Our Mission: We will share the petroleum and energy story and its impact on our lives.