

### UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

**Department of Earth Science** The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

# Research and education at the Department of Earth Science, University of Bergen

Professor Atle Rotevatn Deputy Head of Petroleum Geoscience

## Department of Earth Sciences: facts & figures



✓ etc.



440 students currently follow a degree program at the department:

- 3 Year Bachelor programs in geoscience (~270 students)
  - Geoscience
- 2 Year Master programs (114 students)
  - Marine Geology and geophysics
  - Petroleum geoscience
  - Geodynamics
  - Quaternary geology and paleoclimate
  - Geobiology
- 3 Year PhD program: (57 candidates)
  - Individual projects; closely related to affiliated research centres and research groups













Infrastructure at the department of Earth Science

- Laboratory clusters
  - Mass spectrometry labs
  - Earth LAB
    - National infrastructure for sediment analyses
  - FARLAB
    - state-of-the-art national facility for light stable isotope analyses
  - 3D Seismic Labs
    - High-performance work stations for seismic interpetation, visualization, reservoir modelling and flow simulation
- Field equipment
  - Marine and terrestrial seismic aquisition
- Marine infrastructure
  - Including vessels, seimic equipment, ROV



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## **KEY AREAS OF RESEARCH**



2 post docs 12 PhD candidates 34 Master students

## Key research areas - Quaternary Earth Systems

- Glaciation history
- Marine geology
- Past climate changes
- Climate dynamics and forward modelling

## Key research areas - Geobiology

#### 8 PhD candidates 10 Master students



Deep Seafloor • Deep Biosphere • Deep Time & Roots of life

- Geodynamics of the Deep Seafloor,
- Deep Biosphere
- Life in Extreme Environments & Roots of Life
- Early Earth
- Earth System Evolution

## Key research areas - Geodynamics Group

- Rift and passive margin evolution
- Orogenic belts and exhumation histories
- Coupled tectonic and surface processes
- Seismology and seismotectonics

11 post docs 9 PhD candidates

## Key research areas - Petroleum Group

- Sedimentary and tectonic processes and architechture
- Seismic analysis: modelling, processing, inversion, rock physics and interpretation
- Subsurface mapping energy potentials (hydrocarbons and heat) and possible sequestration of greenhouse gases
  - Fascilitation of large a scale arctic seismic laboratory













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## Sedimentary processes and palaeoenvironments

## **Clastic sedimentology**

**Continental systems** Shallow marine systems Deep marine systems

### **Carbonate sedimentology**

Shallow marine tropical systems Shallow marine temperate systems **Pelagic systems** 



oreface succession, Upper Cretaceous Ferron Sandstone, Utah



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Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia



## Sequence stratigraphy and biostratigraphy

## Sequence stratigraphy

Sequence stratigraphic analysis of clastic systems Shoreline trajectory analysis

# Biostratigraphy and palynology

Studying pollen grains/marine microfossils to reconstruct past environments & datings Triassic & Paleozoic of the Barents Sea



Vikkng Graben sequence stratigraphic chart

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Scanning electron microscope image of different types of pollen grains



## Structural geology and tectonics

### **Fault evolution**

Models for fault evolution Fault scaling behaviour Segmentation and growth

## Geometry/architecture, and flow properties of faults and fracture systems

Faults, fractures and deformation bands Porous sandstones Carbonate rocks Basement rocks Weathered basement rocks



Extensional fault affecting Eocene carbonate rocks, Sinai, Egypt



Fault damage zone of deformation bands, Molly' s Castle, Utah





## Structural and sedimentological reservoir heterogeneity

### **Reservoir modelling and flow** simulations

## Sedimentological heterogeneities

Clinoforms Delta lobes

### **Faults**

Fault-controlled fluid flow Sub-seismic heterogeneities and effect on flow

## **Combined effects**

Effects of faults in different reservoir types Effects of sedimentological vs structural heterogeneities







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## Tectono-sedimentary basin analysis

### Earth systems focus on the coupling of:

Structural/tectonic evolution Depositional systems evolution Drainage evolution Surface processes/landscape evolution

### Outcrop, subsurface, numerical

**modelling** Interaction of tectonic/structural and depositional systems



Conceptual model of slope channel systems across salt tectonic sea floor topography



Cretaceous syn-rift deposits, Wollaston Forland Basin, East Greenland



Slope channels systems; spectral decomposition + RGB blend



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## **Reservoir geophysics**

### **Reservoir/petroleum geophysics**

Geophysical reservoir characterization Seismic processing and imaging Seismic modelling Rock physics

### Integration of data types

Quantitative integration of 4D seismic, electromagnetic and production data



Conceptual display of integrated EM and seismic data



Seismic modelling of depositional geometries (from Bakke et al. 2013)

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## Seismic acquisition and processing

### Seismic acquisition and processing

Marine 2D OBS Onshore

### Particular focus on polar regions

Svalbard Barents Sea



Seismic acquisition during SVALEX field course



Seismic acquisition in Svalbard

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## **Example projects**











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Understanding the time represented by siliciclastic sedimentary deposits

PhD student: Tore Aadland Project start date/duration: 2014-2017 Supervisor: William Helland-Hansen

### **Project Outline**

Understanding how time is represented by sedimentation in the stratigraphic record is a major challenge in sedimentology and stratigraphy.

We are developing methodologies to understand ancient sedimentary deposits in terms of the sedimentation rates we know from modern environments.







## Syn-rift border faults: architecture and flow

Project leader(s): Atle Rotevatn, Project start date/duration: 2014 -**Personnel:** T Kristensen, DCP Peacock, Rob Gawthorpe, H Fossen

### **Project Outline**

- Aim: to characterize the structure and variability of major, basin-bounding normal faults and their associated damage zones
- Outcrop-based detailed fault zone characterization in East Greenland, Svalbard, Suez
- Implications for fault seal/leakage, migration



## MultiRift Project

Project leader(s): Rob Gawthorpe + Co-I from Imperial, UoM + UiO Project start date and duration: 01/08/2012 – 31/12/2016

Funding: PETROMAKS + industry; 24m NOK

Personnel: 4 postdocs and 5 PhDs

### **Project Outline**

- Overall aim is to develop a fundamental understanding of how pre-existing structures in both basement and cover influence the evolution of normal fault segments and fault networks in multi-phase rifts
- To determine the role of pre-existing structures in controlling rift topography, sediment sources, major sediment transport pathway
- To quantify the effects of erosion, deposition and mass redistribution at the Earth's surface on fault evolution and rift basin morphology







## Syn-Rift Plays Project

# **Project leader(s):** Rob Gawthorpe + Co-I from UEA, UoL, UoA, UdL **Project start date and duration:** 01/01/16 – 31/12/19

**Funding:** PETROMAKS 2 + industry; 26m NOK

Personnel: 2 postdocs and 3 PhDs

## **Project Outline**

- Overall aim is to increase understanding of processes controlling location, geometry and stratigraphy of syn-rift reservoirs and elements of subtle syn-rift plays in rift basins. Focus on:
  - Shoreline depositional systems
  - Deep-water depositional systems
- Outcrop analogues and shallow cores from the Corinth Rift provide quantitative datasets on location, geometry and heterogeneity of these systems and controlling processes
- Apply to case studies of syn-rift plays on the NCS







## Seismic reservoir characterization – inverted data:

1~

**IRPM PREDICTIONS** 

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Predictions weighted by how well the model fits the data.



One or more properties used as input to IRPM.





## Inversion of seismic waveform and CSEM data

Project leader: Morten Jakobsen. Project duration: 2014-2017 Funding: NFR, Petromaks2



**Pl's:** Morten Jakobsen (UoB), Trond Mannseth (Uni Research) **Researchers:** Alena Ayzenberg (UoB), Svenn Tveit (Uni Research)

**Aims:** Develop integral equation methods for modelling and inversion of seismic waveform and electromagnetic data; joint inversion.

Selected publication: Jakobsen, M. and Ursin, B., 2015. Full waveform inversion in the frequency domain using direct iterative T-matrix methods. Journal of Geophysics and Engineering, 12, 400-418.

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## **Opportunities with FORCE**

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## NORSALT

