Profiles of Geoscientists

Susan Landon
Petroleum Geologist
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Education:
BS, Knox College (Geology)
MS, SUNY Binghamton (Geology)

Job Description:
Petroleum Geologist

Advice to Students:
"My only advice to a woman who is interested in petroleum geology is that there are tremendous opportunities."

Video Transcript 1:
"I have a career that is flexible enough that it sort of becomes part of every dimension of my life. My hobbies are mountain climbing, skiing, travel, and it's hard not to incorporate those sorts of activities into looking at the rocks, the geomorphology, the earth history that I'm being exposed at the same time. My family - my husband is an astronomer, so we heavens and the earth covered in our - in our partnership and it gives us an opportunity to have similar backgrounds and be able to experience and enjoy things together because of the fact that we both have scientific backgrounds."

Video Transcript 2:
"The petroleum industry has gone through a revolution in the last ten years. The proliferation of PC computing and the declining cost of the hardware and software associate with PC computing has allowed small companies and even independents like myself to compete on a level playing field with the major oil companies. The kind of technology that even just a decade ago you needed a mainframe to really access. Now we have it on our desktops."

Video Transcript 3:
"I guess that my enthusiasm for working with professional societies is directly related to my desire to give something back to my profession. Geology has been very good to me. I've made a very comfortable living, I've had fun, I've traveled, and I've grown, intellectually with the geoscience community. And so to me, participating in the professional societies gives me that opportunity to give something back to the career in general."

Video Transcript 4:
"My only advice to a woman who is interested in petroleum geology is that there are tremendous opportunities. I may have gotten my job because I was a woman, but I didn’t keep my job because I was a woman. And I haven’t been successful in my career because I’m a woman."

**Biography:**

Ms. Landon received a Bachelor of Arts degree in geology from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and a Master of Arts degree in geology from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Her thesis was entitled "Environmental Controls on Coral Growth Rates on Reefs of the Lower Florida Keys." She joined Amoco Production Company in Denver, Colorado, in 1974 as an exploration geologist and was involved in oil and natural-gas exploration and development in the Rocky Mountains, Basin and Range, and Alaska. In 1987, she was instrumental in causing Amoco to drill a 17,851-foot test in central Iowa to assess the potential of the Precambrian Midcontinent Rift. In 1987, she was transferred to Houston, Texas, as Manager of Exploration Training. She left Amoco in 1990 to begin a career as an independent geologist in Denver. She is actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the United States and also teaches industry courses (preferably someplace exotic). She is past Treasurer of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and past President of the American Institute of Professional Geologists. In 1998, she is President of the American Geological Institute. She and her husband, an astronomer, enjoy traveling, hiking and skiing.