

Annual Report of the Visiting Geoscientist Committee, 2014-2015

The best news for 2014-15 was the record number of students reached with the program this year, almost 6000! And a record number of visits, 159! And a record number of countries and states visited! The Committee has expanded to include Coordinators for each Region and for each Section. These are:

Africa Coordinators:	David Blanchard and Samuel Akande
Asia Pacific Coordinators:	Herman Darman and Peter Baillie
Canada Coordinators:	John Hogg, temporarily; Frank Ryan and Monika Mojelski
Europe Coordinators:	Noelle Joy Purcell and Vlasta Dvorakova (†)
Latin America Coordinator:	Miguel de Armas
Middle East Coordinator:	Sa'id Hajri
Pacific Section Coordinator:	Michelle Judson
Rocky Mountains Section Coordinator:	Laura Mauro
Southwest Section Coordinator:	David Entzminger
Gulf Coast Section Coordinator:	Mary Broussard
Mid Continent Section Coordinator:	Doug Davis
Eastern Section Coordinator:	Ione Taylor

Other committee members include: Michael D. Campbell, Charles A. Caughey, Denise M. Cox, Emily Amber Fisher, Plamen Nikolov Ganev, and John Hogg.

Building on an existing group of 47 seasoned Visiting Geoscientists, we recruited **106 new VGs**, including **35 Young Professionals**.

We increased our number of international VGs from 17 to 90 and increased our domestic VGs from 30 to 69. Total number of VGs = 153. Sound good?

The worst news is that we have **336 Student Chapters globally** and as well as many schools without Chapters that would like to have a VG. We still do not have enough VGs in key areas of the world to give Universities a chance to have at least one Visit every two years. So more recruiting will be done in 2015-16.

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed within the VG program to develop a PowerPoint presentation about **"Surviving a Downturn"**. Dallas Dunlap chaired the committee including Brian Brister, Richard Ball, Lesli Wood, Steve Brachman, Marilyn Faber, Herman Darman and Michelle Judson. Their final product was finished in a record three months and has been distributed to the Visiting Geoscientists. It is also soon to be on the AAPG website.

The Committee has also initiated work on the VGP website and particularly the addition of maps to the VGP website. Nemeth used models developed by himself in Europe and Herman Darman in Asia Pacific showing the value of maps illustrating where the VGs are located, where they have visited, and where Student Chapters exist.

We also stressed the need to sort through VG topics by subject and Nemeth had compiled a detailed spreadsheet with the help of students from Eotvos University to assist Headquarters in getting this done.

Another improvement for the site will be the addition of a link for VGs to use to acquire materials for their talks. Other improvements were suggested for the website including links between the VGP site and the Student Focus sites.

Andras Nemeth and others have been promoting Special events where students from several universities come together and hear a VG and sometimes have a Short Course and a Field trip. These events have occurred in Eastern Europe and Latin America this year. We also promoted to organize site visits (drilling rigs, seismic) for students in the frames of VGP.

We also attempted to count visits taken by industry professionals, who do not want to be listed as VG but regularly visit their alma mater or other universities to provide a realistic picture of the oil industry to geosciences students. Such visits have been taken by many AAPG members for a long time. A new category "flash visit" was established to recognize these visits.

Our Annual Committee Meeting was held on 2nd July in Denver, with record number (30+) of participants, and new ideas arose about further expansion of the VGP. T-shirts, USB keys with material for VGs and freebees for students were distributed to the participants by Mike Mlynek.

Robbie Gries and Andras Nemeth, co Chairs

