

conferences. EMD Vice-Chairs for upcoming 2012 conferences are in development. Technical support of planned AAPG Europe efforts is also well into the developing stage.

EMD was also well represented at the various section meetings through the outstanding work of our EMD councilors in assembling technical sessions and related activities.

Several EMD sponsored or co-sponsored publications were completed and have been released and distributed, resulting in good sales. They include:

- (1) *Carbon Dioxide Sequestration in Geological Media – State of the Art*, AAPG Memoir
- (2) *Gas Hydrates: Energy Resource Potential and Associated Geologic Hazards – AAPG Studies in Geology 59*

Final work is being completed on several EMD sponsored or co-sponsored publications including:

- (1) *Atlas of Coal Geology 2nd Edition – AAPG Studies in Geology*,
- (2) *Coal Assessment of the Gulf Coast – AAPG Studies in Geology*
- (3) *Shale Petroleum Reservoirs – AAPG Special Publication*
- (4) *Energy Resources for Human Settlement in the Solar System and Earth's Future in Space – AAPG Special Publication*

New publications originating from the EMD include *Heavy Oil/Bitumen Petroleum Systems in Alberta and Beyond – AAPG memoir*

Discussions are ongoing on piloting a GIS-3D object oriented database synthesis of the Athabasca oil sands. A geothermal energy publication is also being planned and proposed by the Chair of Geothermal Energy Committee. A new publication also is being planned by the Chair of the Uranium (Nuclear Minerals) Committee.

EMD Committee Chairs also submitted summaries of their energy commodity reports for publication in the scientific quarterly journal *Natural Resources Research* on a biannual basis. EMD members have been cooperating as deputy editor with the publisher for a number of years.

Fully documented future plans for each of the Technical Commodity Committees regarding GTW's, publications, conferences, short courses, and website maintenance have been developed and communicated to the AAPG Executive Committee. Overlaps of areas and responsibilities continue to be evaluated.

The AAPG EMD has originated and developed a new "Web Portal" that provides a web-based environment that quickly connects members to significant

web-based content available on their technical fields of interest available within the EMD. This Web Portal is a member- interactive/support feature that provides for advanced connection to information on exploration and development of carbon-based energy, nuclear-based energy, and, for monitoring purposes, the renewable energy available in the environment to meet the needs of EMD as well as the AAPG membership and its Division, those members of the DEG and DPA. It also provides technical information on the environmental geosciences involved in each of the EMD Commodities as well as support from the DPA on matters related to ethics and professional training.

The joint EMD/DEG Renewable Energy Committee continues to provide heads-up information to EMD and DEG members regarding wind, solar, biofuels, hydropower, etc., through monitoring (1) the development of these resources, (2) their economic framework, and (3) the likelihood of the continued growth of the individual energy resources in contributing to the overall energy needs in the U.S. and overseas.

### Recommendations

AAPG EMD activity has increased substantially over the past five years due in a large part to the world's need for additional energy resources. The EMD has added councilors for each of the regions, enlarged our role at multiple AAPG meetings, expanded our website offerings, and continued to sponsor AAPG-approved external conferences. The EMD Executive Committee has responded by continuing monthly conference calls that includes the full Executive Committee, technical chairs, and councilors this past year to more effectively coordinate the business of the Division.

We continue to believe this will help us to be much more effective as we further expand our activities to include participation in Geoscience Technology Workshops, external events with affiliated and sister societies (such as SEG, AIPG, GSA, and SPE), and in regional activities tied to the global expansion of AAPG.

EMD currently maintains an AAPG bank balance that can be applied to short-term funding of technical services and publication support of direct interest to the AAPG and AAPG EMD membership. The AAPG EC basis for supporting a sufficient AAPG EMD bank balance is still in final development, although this is no longer necessary because EMD's income from publications and meetings is no longer

needed for sole support of the EMD. In its place, anticipated and budgeted EMD needs now emanate from the AAPG via an approved yearly EMD Budget, prepared by EMD and approved by AAPG.

At the end of the last fiscal year, EMD recorded approximately 1,366 members, which had represented about 5% of the AAPG membership. This number has remained fairly constant over the past five years despite the booming industry activity in unconventional gas and considerable effort by the EMD leadership to attract new members. The inability to increase membership was tied to several factors including the annual \$20 dues payment and the lack of recognition as to what EMD offers. With the opening of the membership in April 2010, EMD currently reports more than 2,300 members and is rapidly growing monthly with increased knowledge of the enhanced AAPG membership benefits and opportunities now available.

Changing the name of the EMD, to better reflect its emphasis on AAPG membership interest and to more fully develop information and scientific knowledge within the full spectrum of energy-resource fields, is an additional initiative for the EMD membership to consider. Although the change in the name of the Division may represent an important change from the past, the overall goal remains the same—to become an indispensable source of information to AAPG members concerning the various types of energy resources that are available other than conventional oil and gas. The EMD leadership is fully committed to working with its members, the other Divisions, and AAPG to achieve this goal in the foreseeable future.

**Frank E. Walles, EMD President**

## Division of Professional Affairs

The Division of Professional Affairs (DPA) is the community within AAPG that focuses on the professional practice of energy resource geoscience, and upholds the AAPG Code of Ethics. Its mainstay is the certification of petroleum geologists, geophysicists, and coal geologists.

The DPA community consists of geoscientists who are committed to standards of competence, to ethical behavior and to professionalism. Those commitments are furthered and verified through its certification program. Domestically, the DPA is the only organization that specifically certifies the educational background, work experience,

and ethical standards for those whose professional practice lies within the petroleum industry.

DPA members actively inform themselves and all AAPG members about the external issues that impact our profession, in particular government legislation and regulatory policy. They represent their profession in engaging with lawmakers and regulators regarding matters of professional practices and professional concern.

### **Membership and Internal Affairs**

The DPA is the largest of the three AAPG divisions with 3,067 members as of June 30, 2010. During the 2009–2010 time frame the division, in its efforts to secure new members, continued holding Town Hall meetings, which were initiated in 2008–2009. The most recent of these Town Hall meetings was held in Oklahoma City with the main event consisting of an excellent presentation by David Curtiss, director of the AAPG's GEO-DC office. Michael Root and Mark Gallagher were instrumental in organizing that event.

Also, the Division implemented a new membership level of "Board Certified" in the recent past. This higher level of certification requires continuing education. In conjunction with this addition, the Division has also implemented a web-based tracking system for use by its members to keep track of the number of Professional Development Hours (PDHs) or CEUs and other related relevant information needed for reporting same, though it has been offline for a time due to changes in the AAPG website. There are currently 26 Board Certified DPA members.

The Division also implemented and released at the end of last year the first of a series of online ethics courses. During the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes presented his ethics lecture, "Dilemmas of Trust" for video recording to add to the DPA online course list. It will be available early next year.

This represents a growing list of value-added services that are being made available to DPA members for little or no cost. The Division feels that this membership service, and other core services made available to DPA members, will not only benefit its members but also others, i.e., non-DPA, AAPG professionals. In that vein, several state boards of licensure/registration, as well as the division's "Board Certified" designation that was previously mentioned, have mandatory continuing education requirements that include a minimum of 1.0 Professional Development Hours in ethics, annually.

Online ethics courses are free for those who are DPA members and for all others there is are modest fees (much less than attending a real time business meeting and presentation when considering perhaps a luncheon, its cost, its availability, time spent traveling to the luncheon and associated costs, etc.).

Additionally the DPA continues its affiliation with National Association of State Boards of Geology, the group that has developed, maintains, and updates the examinations that determine whether a geologist is minimally qualified to publicly practice geology in 30 U.S. states and 1 U.S. territory (Puerto Rico), all of which have state/jurisdictional licensure/registration authority governing those geologists who publicly practice geology. Rick Ericksen is the DPA representative to that group, but was unable to attend this year's meeting due to a conflict with another DPA meeting.

Further, the DPA continues to interact with other professional and certifying organizations (SIPES and AIPG) on mutual projects. We are in the process of updating and developing, in conjunction with SIPES, new model contracts for use by geoscientists in the course of their professional practice.

The Division's Executive Committee also holds monthly telephone conference calls to promote continuity within the Division of its ongoing projects and in turn each member of the EC initiated telephone calls to committee chairs to ensure that progress was being made on the activities of each. It is anticipated that these conference calls will continue in the future. This year, conference calls to the DPA Councilors were also initiated between the two annual Council meetings. In addition, the practice of holding a Councilor's breakfast at the section meetings was initiated with the Mid-Continent Section meeting last fall.

Lastly, the Division also made available to the AAPG general membership a legislative tracking service that monitors state and federal legislation that may have the potential of impacting their professional practice of geology in the U.S. This legislative tracking service, tied with the GEO-DC office, has been an invaluable tool to keep abreast of legislation on all levels and provide timely reports to the geoscientist professional so s/he may contact their respective lawmaker to express support or non-support of legislation that may impact their livelihoods.

### **Government Affairs**

The Division, through its Government Affairs Committee has remained very

active in numerous related areas. The committee has maintained a very active role with participation in the continuing successful development of the Geoscience and Energy Office in Washington, DC (GEO-DC), in conjunction with the AAPG Governing Board of GEO-DC. DPA's financial support, sponsorship, and participation in this office continues to be a major commitment provided through the DPA Council. Carl Smith was the committee chairman for several years, but handed over the position to Deborah Sacrey at the beginning of the calendar year.

The revised AAPG Statements that guide all our efforts in government affairs are in place along with new Statements that are continually being conceived and developed. As noted in a previous annual report of this Division, there now exists a procedure in the development of new Statements as well as a procedure to regularly review and update these Statements. The committee released a new statement for publication, "Access to Onshore Federal Land" and has endeavored on a rewrite of the existing Statements, to be released early next year.

The DPA continues to successfully participate in the Congressional Visits Days (CVDs) the last one being held in mid-May of 2010, with about 10 AAPG members participating.

With the advancement of Deborah Sacrey to GAC Chairman, the decision was made to discontinue the Washington Advocacy Group sub-committee, which arranged the CVDs, as David Curtiss is able to handle the arrangements through the GEO-DC. Plans are underway to participate in a "GeoCVD" this fall.

The DPA has also been represented with a booth at the National Conference of State Legislators, held in Philadelphia in July 2009. The DPA decided that the cost did not warrant the exposure that AAPG received at this event, and future participation was cancelled. Plans are underway to develop a "Local CVD" short course, were members can receive training to represent the AAPG at the state and local level instead.

The DPA also became involved in offering supporting letters or other official commentary for issues that arose concerning the dissolution of the California PG Board, changes considered for the Texas PG Board regulations affecting Texas PGs, and the introduction of a Louisiana PG act to the state legislature. Rick Ericksen, as chairman of the State Registration and Licensing Committee, was instrumental in monitoring and responding to these issues.

## Ethics and Education

The DPA continues to promote short courses on ethics. In addition to its development of online ethics courses the Division has been active in promoting the current Distinguished Lecturer (DL) on ethics, District Judge Lynn Hughes. The judge is retiring as a Distinguished Lecturer this year, and we are in the process of nominating a new one. The procedure for selecting and funding these lecturers was defined; the AAPG Ethics Committee (composed of DPA members only) has been given the role of selecting ethics DLs. As mentioned earlier, Judge Hughes' talk was videotaped at the AAPG ACE in New Orleans for use as an online ethics course.

The Reserves Training Committee under Dan Tearpock has been very active. They are developing courses, online forums, etc. that can be offered online to enhance the abilities of geoscientists in reserves estimation and compliance issues related to regulatory authorities.

## Conventions and Publications

We sponsored a varied program at the ACE in New Orleans, offering two short courses, sponsoring the Discovery Thinking session, and holding a forum on the ethics of AAPG Statements at the DPA Luncheon and as an afternoon session.

At meetings, the President represented the Division at the annual National Conference of State Legislatures; the Eastern, GCAGS, Mid-Continent, Pacific, Southwest and Rocky Mountain AAPG

Section meetings; two Congressional Visit events; and the Oklahoma City town hall meeting. The section meetings typically have DPA short courses and a DPA or All-Division luncheon.

We have several publications initiatives. The DPA newsletter, *The Correlator*, has continued in-depth articles by Bob Shoup and "The Play of the Day", co-written by Bob and Dan Tearpock. However, Bob stepped down as editor, and the president served as ad hoc editor while a search ensued. The new editor, Chandler Wilhelm, was identified late in the year. All issues were published online and in print. *The Correlator* also serves as a vehicle to enlighten readers on issues and related information concerning debatable science "facts" and other similar matters.

## Incoming Officers and Councilors 2010–2011

President-Elect Marty Hewitt, Vice President Bill Goff, and Treasurer Dan Billman are the new incoming officers for 2010–2011. Continuing from 2009–2010 are President Dan Tearpock, Secretary Paul Pause and Past President Paul Britt.

Incoming councilors for Gulf Coast are Stewart Chuber, Bill Meaney, Tim Bennett, and Chandler Wilhelm; Eastern Section, David Morse has replaced Dan Billman who moved up to Treasurer; Mid-Continent is Joel Alberts; and Southwest Section is Gregg Norman. A Rocky Mountain

councilor is still being sought to replace Bill Goff who became vice president.

## Awards Presented

At the DPA Awards Dinner held in New Orleans, the awards were presented: Life Membership to Bob Shoup, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Distinguished Service to Deborah Sacey, Houston, Texas and Mike Party, Midland, Texas; a Certificate of Merit to Clifford Clark, Centennial, Colorado; and Past President to Rick Ericksen.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my thanks to those who served as committee chairs and as Councilors throughout this year and especially to those alternates who stepped up to fill unexpected vacancies. Also to Royce Carr and the other members of the Board of Certification, who perform one of the most critical functions of the DPA with little recognition.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Norma Newby, Manager of Divisions; Mike Canich, Vice President; Paul Pause, Secretary; Mike Fogarty, Treasurer; Dan Tearpock, President-Elect; and especially Past President Rick Ericksen who went above and beyond the call of duty in handling issues of support for California, Texas and Louisiana licensing issues that came up during the year.

**Paul W. Britt, President**

# Reports of the Regions and Sections

## Africa Region

### Region Business Plan 2009–2010

Africa Region defined priority action items from the Business Plan for 2009–2010. These included the following – the first six were implemented to various degrees of success while the rest three could not be pursued:

- Conclude establishing country representation to coordinate AAPG activities in the countries of Africa and to join Region leadership
- Firm up strategies for implementation of membership (especially Active) recruitment drive efforts
- AAPG Student Chapters: strengthen existing Chapters and establish new ones, initially with focus on countries

with existing AAPG-affiliated societies/organizations

- Develop Business Education Partnerships - with Industry (International/National Oil Companies, other oil & gas operating and service companies) and academia (geosciences tertiary institutions)
- Contribute to the finalizing and execution of MOU for the AAPG Regions
- Formulate/design projects for improving communication infrastructure - especially with all associated African geosciences societies/organizations.
- Establish AAPG Africa Region Council – as Ex-Region presidents plus Existing Region Executives.

- Contribute effectively to the finalizing and execution of the proposed AAPG GCS (Global Corporate Structure) transformation process.
- Establish more AAPG-affiliated societies/organizations especially in "frontier" countries and raise numbers to target 10 by mid-2010.

### Region delegate and officer nominations and elections

- Africa Region nominations committee was formed out of the past- and sitting presidents during 1Q-2010 to usher in nominations and elections for Region leadership's new officers for the period 2010–2012.
- Offices of president-elect, vice president, and secretary/treasurer will be contested.