

Visiting Geologist Program Committee
2005 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Date and Venue: 21 June 2005, Bannerman/Walker Room of the Grand
Hyatt
Hotel, Calgary, Canada

Meeting Summary:

I. Documents:

Documents were distributed to participants:

- * Meeting agenda prepared by Chuck Caughey, with recommendations for handouts to be prepared for each VGP visit, a VGP speaker kit, and additions to the VGP homepage (attachment 1)
- * Memo to the VGP Committee prepared by Mike Mlynek, including financial history, summary of VGP visits, schedule of VGP visits in 2004-2005, and listings of VGP participants by location, category or discipline, and titles of talks (attachment 2).

II. Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet.

Chuck Caughey opened the meeting at 7:10 AM, noting that he was Acting Chair of the AAPG VGP Committee. Other attendees then introduced themselves, ending with AAPG President-Elect Pete Rose.

III. Chair Presentation:

Chuck Caughey- mentioned the need to increase the number of visits made, showed that the trend for visits is down from years past. (Need to get a digital copy of Chuck's powerpoint presentation for AAPG records.)

Chuck presented a series of slides showing membership of the VGP Committee, total VGP visits by year for 2000-2005, and distribution of VGP visits by location in the US and abroad. Participants noted the lack of recent visits to major US states (e.g., New York, Massachusetts) and countries (e.g., India, Germany, Brazil). A breakdown by number of visits per VGP indicated that the total was nearly evenly divided among "road warriors" with 10 or more visits, "frequent flyers" with 5-9 visits, and "regulars" with 2-4 visits. The "singles" with only 1 visit accounted for only 5% of the total, although this class constitutes 21% of the VGP lecturers. Another 25% of the VGP community has never made a campus visit.

The following discussion noted the need to (1) broaden VGP visits to include universities in important countries and US states that have been missed in recent years, (2) energize the "single visit" and "inactive" VGs to make more visits, and (3) enlist more VGs.

Especially need a better push in Europe and Australia.

IV. VGP Brochure:

Mike Mlynek noted the need to revise the VPG brochure, which is badly out of date. The suggestion was made in following discussion to shorten and simplify the brochure, reducing it to 1 page (front and back) and referring readers to the website for details.

Pete Rose emphasized the importance of the brochure as a stand-alone document that will encourage universities to make contact for a VGP visit. Pete suggested a schedule for getting the brochure out in August (before the fall semester), with revision to occur annually in April-May.

Don Lewis questioned whether we should include information about the speakers at all, stating we should advertise the “program”, and get to the actual speakers later.

Bob Shoup recognized that students do not know about AAPG as a deeper problem, and he suggested that the flyer describe the breadth of AAPG programs (Distinguished Lecturers, insurance, student activities, etc.)

Denise Cox said that we need to reach out to academia with the brochure as well as email and phone calls.

It was decided that the new brochure would be created by Mike Mlynek, Bob Shoup, Rebecca Dodge, Chuck Caughey, and the Student Focus Coordinating Committee.

V. Visits:

One spike in visits made mentioned was Rima’s visits’ in Indonesia last year, as well as Robbie Gries’ visits in 01-02.

John Hogg noted the success of the VGP in Indonesia, which was second only to the US in VGP visits, and he asked about using that model in other areas. Chuck stated that success in Indonesia relied on using local AAPG and Student Chapter leaders. Success often depends on connections with local societies and presidents. The response from university faculty and administration was always enthusiastic because the contacts were already made. Chuck suggested leveraging this as a best practice in other areas, accessing local AAPG and Student Chapter leaders to arrange VGP visits. In following discussion, Mike Mlynek offered to compile a list of university contacts and keep it current.

Rebecca Dodge noted that VGP’s still need help making contacts, and Pete Rose suggested a 2-pronged approach: VPG’s can take the initiative on their own to make some university contacts, and Mike Mlynek can provide AAPG support in making broader contacts with the brochure.

Jean Hamilton commented on the volunteer culture versus the demands of the business, and companies' reluctance to let VG's spend time on the program. Initiating visits by the VG may be unreasonable.

Denise Cox said that the VGP Committee can provide a 3rd prong in initiating VGP visits. Denise stated that some of the VG's could help make phone calls and set up contacts for visits, perhaps this would be a subcommittee.

Rebecca Dodge noted that the primary contact should be the faculty sponsors for the AAPG Student Chapters, and Geology Club sponsors, or even the seminar scheduler for Universities without a Student Chapter.

Peter Lloyd stated that elected AAPG leadership in the regions can be a 4th prong. As a focal point in each region, AAPG officers have the local contacts to bring VG's together with universities. Peter noted that VGP visits assist in developing AAPG Student Chapters. There are only 5 student chapters in Western Europe and none at all in France, but the Distinguished Lecture program is active. Peter suggested enlisting Distinguished Lecturers as Visiting Geologists. Chuck strongly supported the idea, noting very successful VGP tours of Indonesian universities by AAPG DLs.

Bob Shoup suggested that requests be tracked for future review and asked about the number of AAPG Student Chapters. Mike Mlynek responded 134, and he will provide a list to the committee.

Mike Party- asked that I email link to the VGP webpage to students, student chapters, and other geoscience departments.

Chuck made the suggestion of having a committee site or page that could be used to post materials for the committee to use.

Pete Rose asked for ideas on how to increase the number of VGP visits as well as increase the number of VG's.

Chuck suggested 1) enlisting all AAPG Distinguished Lecturers to make VGP visits, and 2) charging each member of the committee to recruit at least one additional Visiting Geologist. Pete recommended identifying alumni and sending a letter from him asking them to visit their university. Mike Mlynek noted that the AAPG member database does not have sufficient data, and Pete suggested using the DPA files, which are accurate and complete. A next step could be using a temp to go through the records and input the University into the database.

Denise Cox noted that former Grants-in-Aid recipients are also candidates.

Mike Party also suggested contacting the top ten or so people who presented papers at the Annual or International meetings and recruiting them. One idea presented was adding a form to the judging forms, or a letter of invitation to the top paper presenters.

A revised brochure is another way to increase VGP visits. Chuck also suggested a letter from Pete as AAPG President encouraging inactive VGPs to make visits. Pete agreed and asked that a draft be prepared for him.

Chuck next addressed the idea of making a career presentation available on the website for VGs to use in visits. Denise Cox offered to compile slides into a presentation on careers. John Hogg later volunteered to assemble a set of slides to cover the role of AAPG in a geoscience career as an addition to the presentation.

VI. Visit Guidelines:

Pete Rose suggested making a 1-3 page memo on guidelines for a VGP visit. Denise said that this should be electronic and available on the website, and discussion indicated that the memo should be available in both paper and electronic forms.

For VGP handouts, Pete will reprint 1000 copies of "Guiding Your Career as a Professional Geologist." Rebecca Dodge recommended putting this on CD and showing links to student information at AAPG.org. Rebecca Dodge recommended taking materials on the AAPG environmental program, and it was noted in discussion that materials should include all AAPG divisions as (DEG, DPA, EMD). Also include a copy of the Explorer and Bulletin, and perhaps a CD-ROM detailing student programs. It was also requested that Mike Mlynek keep all of the requests for visits.

VII. Cost vs. Performance, Funding:

Pete Rose addressed the group before leaving for other committee meetings. He noted that AAPG will focus on committee structure throughout the organization, reviewing each for cost vs. expectations of performance. The "Committee on Committees" is key to this process, and John Hogg represents the VGP in that group. In addition, Bob Countryman provides liaison between the VGP Committee and the AAPG Executive Committee.

Pete noted the "enormous importance of the VGP" and charged the committee to double the size of VGP participants this year. Contact efficiency of the VGP is about equal to the Distinguished Lecturer program, and AAPG "will support the VGP with everything we have". In return, he wants to see performance.

Rebecca Dodge asked about funding for the VGP. Pete stated that the VGP is a stepchild of the Distinguished Lecturer Program and the Offshore Technology Conference, an arrangement that will be reviewed to assure VGP funding in the future. Mike Mlynek noted that this covers administrative costs only, and VGP visits are self funded by participants and/or their employers.

Rebecca Dodge noted the need to track "in kind" costs for the program. Rick Fritz later noted that the VGP operates on "soft money," and there will be problems if OTC revenues ever fall short. He suggested that the AAPG Foundation be approached or else the VGP needed to find a large donor.

VIII. International visits:

Chris Heath reported that he just finished a survey of service companies regarding geoscience careers and desired traits for new employees. Chris also compiled a list of universities worldwide with geoscience programs that he is preparing to update and will provide to AAPG. Denise Cox suggested that the VGP Committee utilize leadership in the AAPG International Regions to update and utilize the list to arrange VGP visits. Bob Shoup recommended that membership of the committee include a representative from each International Region.

IX. New VG's and talking points:

Later discussion indicated the need for recent graduates on the committee to represent the views of those still in school.

These need not make VGP visits until they had sufficient experience working in industry.

Denise Cox remarked that the VGP needs to clearly identify what students want, and suggested a simple bulletin board promoting VGP visits to learn:

- * Money for your research
- * How to get a job

Dan Smith noted that a VG visit should include discussion of environmental sensitivity and the work of the DEG. It should also show where the world gets the energy that it needs and the current crisis in energy exploration, dispelling myths of renewable energy as a short term solution.

X. Committee Leadership/Name:

Chuck asked for nominees to chair the VGP Committee, noting that he could only accept the position of Committee Chair on an interim basis because of his work obligations. John Kaldi and Rebecca Dodge offered to serve as Vice Chairs during the interim period, with additional support from Denise Cox.

Chuck noted that several international universities have Geophysics Departments, and he suggested that the program be renamed "Visiting Geoscientist Program" to embrace all disciplines. Meeting participants agreed unanimously, and Chuck will forward this proposal to Pete Rose.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

American Association of Petroleum Geologists

Committee: **Visiting Geologist Program**

as of June 9th, 2005

The function of the Committee on Visiting Geologists Program is to provide college and university students worldwide a balanced picture of geosciences in the petroleum, energy minerals, and environmental industries; provide information about careers in the geosciences; present a positive image of a geoscience professional; and encourage geoscience career options for young scientists of high caliber. These goals will be achieved through direct student contact during college and university visits by active geoscientists.

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Committee Code: 222
Committee Count: 14

Total Records: 14



VGP Committee Meeting 21 Jun 2005

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