Candidates for AAPG office have been given the opportunity to respond briefly to the subject: “Why I Accepted the Invitation to be a Candidate for an AAPG Office.”

Their responses and biographical information were provided by each candidate and edited only for grammar, spelling and format.

This information is on the AAPG website through the election period. Online balloting will be available in the spring of 2014. Ballots will be counted on May 16, 2014.

Candidates were asked to limit their biographies to 350 words and responses to 500 words.

To watch videos of each candidate please scan the QR code below.
Why I Accepted the Invitation to be a Candidate for an AAPG Office ...

By Alfredo Guzmán

I accepted the invitation to contend for the position of president-elect of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists because I’ve been a member of AAPG since 1969, when I joined the organization as an undergrad student at Texas Tech University and where I was mentored by three AAPG past presidents – Grover Murray, who was the school president, Frank Conselman and Orlo Childs – and by my father, Eduardo J. Guzmán, who in 1967 had been AAPG vice president, which made me aware of how important it was to serve the organization from its highest position. I owe to AAPG a very large part of my professional development acquired through its schools, field courses, conferences, publications, committees, personal contacts, etc., and I want to give back to the organization a little of what it has given me, now that I have the time to commit for the several years that the position requires.

After having spent more than 40 years in industry doing research, exploring, managing, holding executive positions, as an industry regulator and as a consultant, I have the experience and skills needed for the organization’s top executive position.
RESULTS AND BENEFITS MUST BE REALIZED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

STEVE BRACHMAN
Exploration manager-Houston district, Petro-Hunt, LLC, Houston, Texas
Born 1955 Chicago, Ill.

Academic Degrees
M.S., geology, Penn State University, University Park, PA
B.S., geology, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL

Experience
1980-present Senior geologist, Wintershall Energy, Houston, TX
1984-90 Senior geologist, SOHIO Petroleum/EP Exploration, Oklahoma City, and Houston, TX
1981-84 Development geologist, Gulf Oil Co, Oklahoma City, OK and Kilgore, TX
Board of Directors, Andrews Technologies Inc.

AAGP Activities
Joined AAGP 1981
Member GPA, EMD 2014
General chair, AAGP ACE, Houston, TX

Why I Accepted the Invitation to be a Candidate for an AAPG Office...

By Steve Brachman
AAGP is the foremost professional and scientific organization for geoscientists in the world. I am highly honored to be nominated as a candidate for vice president-Sections. The strength of AAGP in the United States lies in our Sections. Each Section is unique, but at their core, have a strong group of motivated individual members and volunteers. I learned in leadership roles as committee chair, secretary, treasurer and president of the Houston Geological Society what individuals willing to donate their time and talents can accomplish. As general chair for the upcoming 2014 AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition in Houston, I again observe the remarkable achievements that a hard working group of volunteers can produce.

I believe in a strong partnership between AAGP and Sections. Two important keys to a successful partnership are communication and access to resources. I believe that one of my two paramount responsibilities as VP-Sections will be to facilitate clear communication between Section and AAGP leaders — and to ensure that communication goes in both directions. The other is to help Sections locate the resources they need within and outside of AAGP to accomplish their goals and facilitate their interests. AAGP has important immediate challenges but also many exciting opportunities. These include:

• Significant infusion of younger geoscientists.
• Rapidly evolving science in the form of new ideas, concepts and practical applications.
• Compelling new contributions to our knowledge base from industry, government and academia and a new willingness to share ideas.
• Geographic expansion due to interest in areas long ignored by industry.
• Large capital commitments to domestic exploration and production.

Each of these opportunities offers geoscientists and AAGP prospects for an optimistic future. I will work closely with the Sections and other AAGP leaders to enhance the role of our organization and our members — the results and benefits must be realized at the local level.

HANNES LEETARU
Senior petroleum geologist, Illinois State Geologic Survey, Champaign, IL
Born 1953, New York City, N.Y.

Academic Degrees
1977 Ph.D., geology, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois
1978 M.S., geology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
1975 B.S., geology, State University of New York College, Fredonia, NY

Experience
2005-present Senior geologist, Illinois State Geologic Survey, Champaign, IL
1996-2005 Petroleum geologist, Illinois State Geologic Survey, Champaign, IL
1999-2001 Petroleum geologist, Illinois State Geologic Survey, Champaign, IL
1989-96 Adjunct faculty, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL
1982-88 senior geologist, Union Pacific Resources, Houston, TX
1978-84 Advanced exploration geologist, Getty Oil Company, Houston, TX

AAGP Activities
2012-15 Alternate council member, DPA
2011-14 Eastern Section liaison, Education Committee

Why I Accepted the Invitation to be a Candidate for an AAPG Office...

By Hannes Leetaru
AAGP’s outreach and professional development programs and the dissemination of geologic knowledge are what make AAPG a key resource for its members. I would never have become a petroleum geologist if it were not for AAPG. In 1977, Edd R. Turner, former president of AAPG, visited Syracuse University and brought to life what a career in petroleum geology is like by discussing his experience in the field illustrated by a real life project that he had worked on. Today the Visiting Geoscientist Program provides this same outreach to students across the entire globe. Edd inspired me to find a position in the industry and recommended, since Syracuse was not a petroleum geology feeder school, that I drive to Houston and knock on any door that has the word “petroleum” in its company name. I did exactly that and found a job at Getty Oil.
**VLASTA DVORAKOVA**  
Senior researcher - geophysicist, Czech Geological Survey, Brno, Czech Republic  
Born 1960, Kyjov, Moravia, Czech Republic

### Academic Degrees
- 1984: M.S., applied geophysics, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

### Experience
- 2003-Present: Senior researcher-geophysicist, Czech Geological Survey
- 1992-95: Independent research geophysicist, Kappa Ltd, Brno, Czech Republic
- 1984-92: Senior geophysicist, Geofyzika State Company, Brno, Czech Republic

### AAPG Activities
- 2017: AAPG Certificate of Merit
- 2015: AAPG Certificate of Appreciation, general vice-chair AAPG Europe Region Conference
- 2011: Honors & Awards Chair, AAPG Europe Region Conference

### Publications
- Over 65 company reports on geophysics (physical properties of rocks, seismic interpretation and reservoir geology including some reports on underground gas storages evaluation and modeling).
- Over 20 state geological survey reports and testimonies related to local government services, licencing process and petroleum resource potential assessment.

### Why I Accepted the Invitation to be a Candidate for an AAPG Office ...

**By Vlasta Dvorakova**

Based on my previous experience through service as an AAPG officer and meetings organizer, I feel that the time is right for me to work with the Executive Committee, Advisory Council, headquarters staff and members to accelerate AAPG’s journey to our next era.

My vision for the future of AAPG involves working toward a framework of transparency that can effectively embrace smaller units of AAPG such as the Regions and Sections.

Coming from Central Europe and speaking two of their dominant languages – German and Russian (in addition to my native language and English) – I feel closer to the people of the Regions in terms of understanding their mentality and cultures. This asset brings a sensitivity that I might use to help create a bridge to the central organization from the Regions and Sections. That bridge will make AAPG a more successful international organization.

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**JIM TUCKER**  
Consultant, Houston, Texas  
Born 1952, Lake Charles, La.

### Academic Degrees
- 1975: B.S., geology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 1974: M.S., geology, Rice University, Houston, TX
- 1972: Summer geologist, Mobil Oil

### Experience
- 1997-99: Consulting geologist, Geology
- 1996: Consultant geologist
- 1987: Offshore Technology Conference Committee, member and chair
- 1984: AAPG Middle East Region, secretary

### AAPG Activities
- 2005-12, 2001-02, 1985-88: HoD, delegate or alternate
- 1999-95: Bulletin, associate editor
- 1988-98: LA Basin Geological Society, president

### Publications
- Articles or abstracts on the Ouachitas, Southeast Turkey, offshore Ghana, prospect portfolio analysis, seismic inversion, subsurface temperatures and dip analysis.

### Why I Accepted the Invitation to be a Candidate for an AAPG Office ...

**By Jim Tucker**

I am honored to be nominated for treasurer and have the opportunity to contribute to AAPG’s future. My initial geological development was through formal education while a student member, followed by the advice and mentoring from experienced geoscientists during early professional work, and eventually from peers in AAPG and other professional groups. We join AAPG for the science and then discover how much we benefit from our colleagues.

AAPG activities where the treasurer can contribute include, but are not limited to, the following:

- There is significant strength in our global geoscience organization. Many of our members’ professional activities grow out of meetings and events sponsored by affiliated Societies, Sections and Regions. The AAPG needs to support these professional groups wherever possible in science, education and professional practice. We must involve our early-career colleagues in local, regional and global geoscience activities during their student and early employment careers. This provides them mentoring and career guidance and the Association benefits from their fresh outlook and enthusiasm.

- We recognize that dues and other payments from some areas around the world are difficult and costly, with funds transfer fees adding considerably to the expense of members’ memberships. Our offices outside North America can help with this, but we need to work on this problem. The corporate group memberships will help here and hopefully can be increasingly tailored to many more members’ needs.

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See **DVORAKOVA** pg 6  
See **TUCKER** pg 6
GUZMÁN continued

AAPG is in the process of becoming a truly worldwide organization, and as an international member I have the background and understanding of the issues that can help move the organization in its globalization process. I also understand the challenges regarding the organization's demographics and can help improve the status—particularly regarding age distribution, participation of women and students, for example.

With my 44 years experience in AAPG I have a keen understanding of the organization, I know the membership and have very good working and personal relations with the leaders of the Regions, the Divisions and Sections. During my tenures as president of the Latin America Region, vice president-Regions and chair of the Cancún AAPG International Conference and Exhibition, I met and worked close with many of AAPG's headquarters staff. I know the organization's programs, I have a good understanding of its financial issues, and of the multiple challenges it will be facing and I have ideas on how to improve our bottom line.

In conclusion I have the necessary attributes and leadership skills required to preside successfully over the world class organization that is the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

HOGG continued

Why I Accepted the Invitation to be a Candidate for an AAPG Office...

By John Hogg

AAPG! What an invaluable organization, with outstanding programs and services, and a very dedicated staff.

With humility, I’m honored to have been nominated by the Advisory Council and selected by the Executive Committee to run for the position of president-elect.

I began volunteering for AAPG in 1982, at the annual convention in Calgary, my hometown, and at that time I never would have thought years later I would have the opportunity to be the general chair of the 2005 Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE) in Calgary, and then general chair of the 2010 AAPG International Conference and Exhibition (ICE), let alone now running for president-elect. During all my years in Calgary, I’ve also been a long-time volunteer in my local affiliated Society, the CSPG and served my fellow Canadians as their president.

My career as a petroleum geologist has been focused on exploration. I am currently vice president of exploration and operations at MGM Energy, an independent company boldly exploring in the Canadian Arctic. Exploration, and new discoveries that result, are energizing and drive me everyday.

Geology led me into this vocation and into AAPG as a young professional, and from there I have never stopped working to build a better AAPG for the members.

For me, first and foremost, AAPG is about science — applied science, which originates from our practicing industry members, as well as pure science from our academic members. AAPG’s audacious goal, “to be indispensable to all professionals in the energy-related geosciences worldwide,” is a great future state, but to become “indispensable worldwide” is about more than science. Collegiality, mentorship, volunteering, professionalism and services — including publications, conferences, GTWs and educational opportunities overall — are very important to each of us, and we need to continuously develop ways to produce even better programs and services.

If I am elected your new president-elect, I have a number of areas that I want to work with you in advancing:

• Disseminate more; we now have the Bulletin, Search and Discovery and the inaugural Interpretation magazine this fall. How do we focus on adding more value from these important resources for our members?

• Empower our Young Professionals; encourage them to build new programs and services for their current and future needs?

• Establishing of technical interest groups; not quite Divisions, but more than committees; can we grow the membership by bringing members together through shared enthusiasm of our scientific, technical or diversity interests?

• Build on our Regions and Sections; how can AAPG help these geographically focused groups become even more valuable by working as cohesive teams?

• Make our diverse membership more relevant to each other.

By John Hogg

HOGG continued

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By John Hogg

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• Empower our Young Professionals; encourage them to build new programs and services for their current and future needs?

LEETARU continued

My interest in being active in AAPG was strongly influenced by John Amoruso and Robbie Gries, both former presidents, who taught me that volunteering in AAPG has to be part of my career as a petroleum geoscientist. These two individuals and many other AAPG volunteers have influenced me to aspire to become vice president-Sections of our Association. My career has spanned working in both exploration and development at Getty Oil Company and Union Pacific Resources and as a research scientist at the Illinois State Geological Survey. Throughout this entire time period I have relied on AAPG for training, mentoring and geologic information. In the beginning I was mentored by AAPG members and now I am one of the mentors for the next generation of petroleum geoscientists.

As vice president-Sections I will continue supporting AAPG efforts to improve member access to professional development and relevant geologic information. I also will make certain that the resources are in place for these programs. My AAPG activities include organizing a Hedberg conference, convening a summit on Teaching Petroleum Geology, helping convene a joint London Geological Society/AAPG conference, being co-general chair of an Eastern Section meeting and an officer for this same section, and being a member of numerous AAPG committees. These give me a good perspective on the diverse activities of AAPG and the challenges that we face fulfilling AAPG’s missions including outreach, professional development, encouraging research and the dissemination of geologic knowledge. Our membership has diverse needs that vary greatly from young professionals to those members working as consultants or for independents, major oil companies and national oil companies.

As AAPG becomes a more international organization we must always remember our rich heritage and continue to provide members with a vibrant society that offers a compelling reason for AAPG membership.

BRACHMAN continued

I have had the privilege over the past 30 years to know and work with some of the giants of our industry and believe that we have an obligation to honor their contributions by insuring that AAPG continues to be a forward-looking organization. I am pleased to accept the opportunity to run for AAPG office in the hope that I can help contribute to their legacy.

By John Hogg

HOGG continued
DVORAKOVA continued

I would work to make AAPG more agile and responsive to member needs and thus enhance AAPG relative to other organizations. I will work to ensure that they, Regions, Sections and Societies, continue to experience the value that AAPG provides. AAPG has become a strong and respected organization through their participation and the financial support from industry and donors.

During the past decade, AAPG has been able to balance new services for members through the expansion of regional offices and a string of wise fiscal decisions. Moving forward, AAPG must continue to be vigilant with a combination long-term budgetary forecasts and fiscal constraint in the decision making process. Moving forward, the lengthy global recession makes it more important than ever that AAPG manage profit and loss closely and evaluate the budgets and agendas based on lessons learned.

My affiliation with the AAPG is one that has involved the combination of different skills under the auspices of a professional organization. As a scientist I can recognize value of scientific topics/events to attract members and/or participants while as a manager I know the ways and means to implement ambitious and challenging plans. I do have the ability to communicate, inspire confidence and lead. Over my career I have experienced both geoscience and technology from industrial, governmental and academic perspectives, working in all of those sectors.

I am a good fit for the candidacy of AAPG treasurer. Not only because of the combination of the professional, organizational and negotiation skills, but also because I grew up and lived in an environment of permanent shortages, financial and otherwise. This brush with austerity developed skills for managing and maintaining financial balance. This was the way I worked in the Europe Region and this is a skill I believe global AAPG needs, too.

Personally, I can imagine that my father, an economist, would have dreamed about his only daughter following her professional interests that have broadened beyond a career in geosciences that he saw only at the very beginning. In some way this is his heritage and my way to thank him for his support and training.

TUCKER continued

• Although the specific treasurer duties are primarily financial, our most valuable asset is the time that members volunteer for the activities of the Association and for the profession. We must act quickly when we recognize opportunities to use that volunteer time more effectively in communications, improved membership information for our Sections and Regions and other areas of member service.

I have been fortunate during my career, working a wide-range of geological regions with many fine colleagues, to live in numerous locations, and have seen many ways that local and global professional societies can serve members and enrich their professional development. My objective is to incorporate these successful practices from our members, to develop an even better association.

All officers of our Association as the Executive Committee continually evaluate the effectiveness of our organization during their terms. In all matters before the Executive Committee, I will base my decisions on the following tests:

• Does this benefit our members?
• Does this benefit the AAPG? If so, near-term, long-term or both?
• Does this benefit the profession?

All members hopefully strive for the AAPG goal “to be indispensable in the energy-related geosciences worldwide.” Keeping this in mind, we will have the strongest and most effective geoscience society possible. Every interested, qualified geoscientist on the planet should join AAPG. We must employ the combined efforts of all our members for the development of our science and profession.

I am grateful for the nomination as a candidate and excited at the prospect for further service. I look forward to applying my experience in local, regional and global geoscience activities to the challenges of the treasurer’s position.