

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

David Blanchard, Africa Region President



Exciting times are here as the Region records continued improvement and new milestones in service delivery to members and the geoscience communities across Africa.

The past year of my tenure as president has recorded improvement in membership in several categories from previous years. The 2015 membership drive efforts resulted in a significant number of associate members transferring to Member.

Also, there has also been an improvement in the delivery of programs including the IBA, VGP and regional lectures. The IBA program in Africa benefitted from increasing diversity in country participation as a new team was added in 2015 from Algeria, while regional lectures were extended to northwest Africa with a lecture by Stuart Harker in Morocco as recorded in the Region's 2015 annual report.

Special thanks go to the Region leadership for their support and contributions in various capacities towards the execution of AAPG programs and events thus far into my tenure as president.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the Region's Visiting Geoscientists in student development via the successful implementation of the VG program since January 2015. Recognition and appreciation

for their service to AAPG goes to our Region's delegates who recently concluded their three-year terms in office:

- William P. Bosworth, Egypt
- Ramadan Aburawi, Libya
- Mohammed Hafid, Morocco
- Babatope Olaleye, Nigeria
- Kaushalendra B. Trivedi, South Africa

The newest member of the Region leadership team is IBA coordinator, Wasiu Odufisan, who takes over from Adelola Adesida in coordinating the annual IBA competition in the Region.

As my tenure enters its second year, we shall ensure continued improvement in the delivery of our programs. We shall roll out more events and utilize workshops as an avenue for delivering practical, timely technical content to our membership.

In fact, plans are under way to hold an AAPG Geosciences Technology Workshop (GTW) in March 2016 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. GTW Egypt 2016 will offer presentations and discussions focused on the hydrocarbon potential of the Sinai microplate and surrounding basins.

Registration is now open for this one-of-a-kind professional development opportunity.

In addition, short courses slated for 2016 are geared towards enhancing students' technical competencies and soft skills and supporting the career development of geoscience professionals across the Region. Check the website often for the latest information on AAPG events in Africa:

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<http://www.aapg.org/events/event-listings>.

I encourage all Africa Region members to stay active, get involved and invite fellow geoscientists to be part of this organization that provides opportunities for professional and personal growth.

As we work at building and improving the Region's leadership structure, we welcome you to take up roles in sub-committees for organizing events and become an active member by renewing your AAPG membership and encouraging others to enjoy membership benefits by joining the AAPG.

You can follow Africa Region's activities and events in this and future newsletters and on our website. Then, be inspired to stand for election as an Africa Region officer and member of the Africa Region Executive Committee. Until then, we welcome your suggestions on how we can make the AAPG Africa Region more relevant to you, and we look forward to serving you better.

## REGION NEWS UPDATE

## Bill Bosworth Receives 2015 Hartman Service to Students Award

Surprise is not easily achieved, especially when dealing with a savvy oil finder like William "Bill" Bosworth. But surprised he was when named winner of the 2015 James A. Hartman Service to Students Award at the student reception during ACE Denver.

For the past 15 years despite not having any "official" title, Bill was the critical link between students and young professionals (YPs) in North Africa and the AAPG Africa Region. Later as Egypt delegate to the AAPG House of Delegates and now as Africa Region president-elect (2015-17), he continues to be the rallying point for students and YPs in Egypt and across North Africa. Bill not only provides guidance, mentorship and leadership, but also helps to organize field trips and facilitate networking events for

students and early-career professionals.

When Bill arrived in Egypt in 2005 for his second tour of work, there were no student chapters. After only a few years, the AAPG Student Chapter count in Egypt is 15. As an example of his leadership from the 2011 IBA competition, when Internet and cell phones were blocked during the protests in North Africa resulting in a nationwide communication blackout, Bill's Apache office became the unofficial IBA data download and logistics center.

With his efforts and those of the Africa Region leadership, the Egyptian team was not only able to participate in the IBA regional event, they took first place honors in Africa earning the privilege of representing the Region at that year's ACE. Going to Morocco

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to collect their U.S. visa, the Egyptian IBA team arrived in Long Beach, Calif., on Friday night and presented to the IBA judges on Saturday.

An avid field geologist, Bill has organized and led numerous field trips across Egypt for the next generation of energy finders including trips to the Western and Eastern deserts, Gulf of Suez, Sinai, and Red Sea, focusing on hydrocarbon exploration in continental rifts. A quiet but tireless worker, Bill indeed is a rallying point for AAPG in North Africa.

He epitomizes the best qualities of AAPG Student Chapter supporters who volunteer for the intrinsic value of helping young

people around the world find their career vocation.

The James A. Hartman Service to Students Award, established in 2006, honors those members whose support of students deserves recognition. The award is named after James A. Hartman, the principal founder of AAPG student chapters, the first chair of the student chapter committee, and a devout supporter of the program. This award commemorates Hartman's legacy and is the most prestigious award given by the AAPG Student Chapter Committee.

## AAPG Angola Chapter Quarterly Seminar

AAPG Angola Chapter held the quarterly seminar for April 2015 at the AAA building in Luanda. The event organized by AAPG Angola Chapter Board saw attendance from upstream geoscientists as well as students. Speaker Eivind Fromyr delivered the lecture "Geostreamers – The Preferred Broadband Solution for Imaging and Characterization."



Angola Chapter Seminar – Luanda, April 2015.

## 2015 Sequence Stratigraphy Short Course

Participants in the 2015 ExxonMobil Nigeria-AAPG Africa Region short course on Sequence Stratigraphy in group photo with ExxonMobil Nigeria GM Exploration, Andrew Ejayeriese (center), course instructor Gary Hampson and AAPG Africa Region leadership in Lagos, June 2015. The execution of the short course was in line with ExxonMobil Nigeria's goals to promote geoscience technical capacity in Nigerian universities through lecturer training. Thanks to ExxonMobil Nigeria for collaboration and full sponsorship of the program and for continued support of AAPG programs in Nigeria.



## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### Africa Region Appoints New IBA Coordinator



Wasiu Odufisan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Geophysics from the Department of Geology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife in 1992. He joined ExxonMobil Nigeria in 1994 and has had the opportunity to work in variety of assignments across Production and Development functions both in Nigeria and overseas. He completed

his master's and doctorate degrees in Business Administration (2003) and Management (2012), respectively, in the United States with key focus on leadership, communication, and strategic management and protection of innovations.

He also completed diplomas in Childhood Education (2001), Child Psychology (2002) and Sex and Drug Counseling (2004) in the United States. Since 1998, he has delivered over 40 distinguished lecture seminars and workshops to schools in Nigeria as part of his contributions to the development of the

society. He is passionate in working with others to help develop the younger generations.

He joined AAPG in 1997 and has been contributing to student development through the Visiting Geoscientist Program. Succeeding Adelola Adesida as IBA coordinator for the Region, he will be actively involved in the planning and execution of the local IBA competitions and will oversee the year-on-year improvement of the competition across the Region with full support from the Africa Region Office.



## STUDENTS AND YPS

### Visiting Geoscientist Program

Developed in 1974 the VGP program is designed to give students a chance to meet practicing geoscientists and to discuss geoscience career options. Speakers present a technical talk in their area of specialization and discuss career options, the best way to plan a geoscience career path, and changes and challenges in the job market. More than 200 colleges and universities have participated in the program, which continues to grow through the interest and efforts of AAPG and the geoscience industry.

In 2015, the VGP Committee expanded to include coordinators for each Region in addition to the AAPG Sections. AAPG now boasts of 153 Visiting Geoscientists globally. In the Africa Region in 2015, Dave Blanchard and Professor Samuel Akande (Nigeria) were appointed coordinators overseeing the VGP affairs.

The program took off smoothly in January 2015, beginning in Kenya and Nigeria and extending to Morocco, Egypt, Angola and South Africa. Following restructuring and the recruitment of new members including YPs, the Africa Region now boasts of fifteen Visiting Geoscientists for FY 2016 and VGP budgets have been approved that will provide funds for travel and associated items related to the program since travel distances and access can pose a challenge for VGP volunteers to reach universities. To request a Visiting Geoscientist go to: <http://aapg.to/VGrequest>.



VGP Nigeria – University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Visiting Geoscientist Wasiu Odufisan at a student lecture, May 2015.



Visiting Geoscientist Ray Leonard at University of Western Cape, South Africa, August 2015.



VGP Morocco – University Mohamed VGP lecturers and students in a group photo with Visiting Geoscientist Stuart Harker of Morningside Petroleum Geology Consultancy, May 2015.

### 2015 AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Competition

Congratulations to Team University of Western Cape for representing the Africa Region at the global finals of the competition in Denver, in June 2015.

The IBA program continues to contribute immensely to the development of postgraduate geosciences training in Africa Region. Our thanks go to mentors and sponsors for assisting in the building of geoscience technical competencies of our students through the successful execution of this year's competition.



Group photo of the winning team – University of Western Cape, South Africa with AAPG Africa Region vice president, Femi Esan.



2015 AAPG Africa Region IBA Sponsors



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### APPEX Regional 2015

Whether you are looking to buy, sell or farm out E&P deals, expand into new areas, find new partners, make high quality contacts, or stay on top of what's happening in the industry, previous delegates will tell you, APPEX is the place to be.

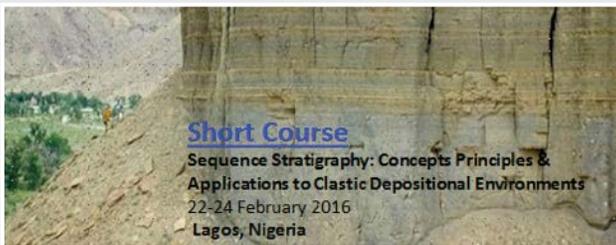
Join us during the late-morning session on 5 November for the deal update, "Deal Flow in a Low Price Regime – What's Happening in the Portfolio Transfer Market in Africa," presented by Toyin Akinosho, publisher for the Africa Oil & Gas Report.

To review the APPEX Regional program or learn about sponsorship go to: <http://aapg.to/appeXregional2015>.



### NAPE 2015

Join us for the 2015 NAPE International Conference and Exhibitions in Lagos Nigeria as NAPE celebrates 40 years. Visit AAPG exhibition booth and the NAPE-AAPG YPs at the YP booth. Visit [www.nape.org.ng](http://www.nape.org.ng) for more information.



The course is designed for geoscientists, geophysicists, biostratigraphers and engineers a fundamental understanding of the principles and applications of sequence stratigraphy, and how to apply them to exploration and production projects. The course will also benefit graduate students interested in learning the principles, concepts and methods of sequence stratigraphy. To register go to: <http://aapg.to/arsc2016strat>.

## Hydrocarbon Potential of the Sinai Micro-Plate and Its Surrounding Basins

18-19 March 2016, | Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt

This interdisciplinary two-day workshop will provide participants the opportunity to describe and discuss the Sinai basins from a holistic perspective, to consider predictive exploration models for the less explored regions and perhaps gain new insights for those areas thought to be already mature. Experts on the Eastern Mediterranean-Levant, Nile Delta, Gulf of Suez, Northern Red Sea, Gulf of Aqaba-Dead Sea, and Sinai interior basins will lead the sessions. The workshop is organized by the AAPG Africa Region and the Egyptian Petroleum Exploration Society.



## Distinguished Lecture Series, AAPG Africa Region

25 February 2016 – 9 March 2016

Distinguished Lecturer: Gary Hampson, Imperial College London



Gary J. Hampson is an Associate Professor in Sedimentary Geology in the Department of Earth Science and Engineering at Imperial College London. He holds a bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge and a doctorate in Sedimentology and Sequence Stratigraphy from the University of Liverpool. After undertaking post doctoral research at the University of Würzburg,

Germany and Imperial College London, Gary was appointed to a lectureship in 2000. He teaches clastic sedimentology, sequence stratigraphy, and petroleum geology at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and is currently director of the internationally renowned Petroleum Geoscience Master of Science course at Imperial College London (since 2013.)

To host Hampson at your local society meeting, contact Delia Kuye at: [dkuye@aapg.org](mailto:dkuye@aapg.org).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our new Student chapters.

- Al Hikmah University, Nigeria – June 2015
- Usman Danfodio University – July 2015

The 2015 AAPG Foundation grant recipients are:

### Student Chapter Grants

- Al-Hikmah University NMGS Student Chapter, Nigeria
- Alexandria University AAPG Student Chapter, Egypt
- Cairo University AAPG Student Chapter, Egypt
- Federal University of Petroleum Resources AAPG Student Chapter, Nigeria
- Federal University of Technology Owerri AAPG Student Chapter, Nigeria
- Ladoke Akintola University of Technology AAPG Student Chapter, Nigeria
- Makerere University AAPG Student Chapter, Uganda
- Suez University AAPG Student Chapter
- University of Lagos AAPG Student Chapter

### L. Austin Weeks Grants

- Oghenekioja Abele, University of Benin
- Christianah Adelokun, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology
- Fatimat Atanda, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology
- Edefe Ominigbo, Federal University of Petroleum Resources
- Mohamed Othman, Suez University

*\* If you are struggling financially after graduation, consider using the student-YP bridge, which allows you to continue AAPG membership at \$10 per year for the next two years. Renew your membership online.*

If you would like to contribute to the AAPG Foundation, please visit their website at:

<http://foundation.aapg.org/>



## STAY IN TOUCH

Send us your articles, ideas and comments.

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