

### AFRICA REGION PRESIDENT *David Blanchard*

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of previous leadership teams the Africa Region is well on its way to achieving goals set out some years ago. These include increasing membership in all categories, holding more student and YP events, opening new AAPG student chapters and establishing affiliations with local societies – plus increasing the frequency of events such as GTWs, DL and VGP talks and, ultimately, regional conferences.



Of particular note are the activities of YPs and student chapters in the Region, which are exerting their identity with a proactive approach to organizing the chapter structure, holding events and proclaiming themselves as the next generation of oil

and gas finders. The biggest increase in overall membership is in the student and YP categories, and they deserve all the support we can offer.

Another bright spot is the rise of Angola and South Africa activities; we hope AAPG members in those countries will continue in their endeavours. Egypt is another success story with 14 student chapters formed in the last four years and an active YP chapter that is spearheading an effort to recruit other YPs in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

I am proud and honoured to be a part of the current Africa Region leadership team and will do my best to grow the Region by providing services and events to members and the local energy communities.

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### REGION NEWS UPDATE

#### AAPG Angola Chapter Begins Quarterly Technical Seminars

With oil output nearing two million barrels per day, a vibrant oil and gas industry and the hiring of geoscientists on the rise, the establishment of the AAPG Angola Student Chapter couldn't have been more timely.

Since its inauguration in late 2013, AAPG Angola has been providing opportunities for geoscientists to gather and discuss technical issues and solutions. With companies looking to grow reserves in Angola, exploration is moving further offshore into increasingly deeper water in the Congo Basin. AAPG's Angola Student Chapter also has been among the drivers assisting in the provision of the much needed technology transfer within Angola's scientific community.

Focusing on the petroleum prospectivity of the distal end of the Congo Delta, Malcolm Francis of Schlumberger delivered a seminar in May 2014 to a mixed audience of geologists and geophysicists, drawing from his wealth of experience in the area for Schlumberger and Sonangol. This is the first of quarterly technical seminars planned by AAPG Angola Chapter's board, led by Antonio "Ginho" Ingles of Chevron Angola.

As Angola continues aggressive exploration and production growth plans, AAPG's Angola chapter will continue to provide mentoring, training, certification and technical network platforms for the numerous professional members within Angola, and allow for greater visibility of the country's attractiveness to potential investors. According to Ingles, the chapter will organize another field trip before the end of this year, following a very successful field trip to Mussulo Bay in 2013.



*Networking.*



*UAN geology and geophysics students.*



## AAPG AFRICA REGION HOSTS TERRY ENGELDER IN EGYPT



Terry Engelder during his stop in Cairo.



Terry Engelder being presented with a plaque by Abdel-Fattah at the meeting.

The regional lecture involving AAPG Distinguished Lecturer Terry Engelder was held successfully in Cairo in September and was the result of collaborative efforts between AAPG Africa Region and the Egyptian Petroleum Exploration Society. The focus of the talks was

on the U.S. Marcellus shale as an unconventional resource analogue. Attendees included representatives from governmental agencies and oil companies and members in the academia, including students. The meeting had over 300 attendees.

## West African students organize student conferences

“Exploring the Depth and Breadth of the Geosciences” was the theme of this year’s African Geosciences Student Conference, (AGSC) hosted by Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. The annual AGSC conference is designed for students, industry and resource professionals to learn, network and share novel and best practices within the geoscience and geophysics disciplines, with the goal of fostering bonds within the African geoscience community. The conference targets the creation of forums to facilitate discussions on important challenges relevant to environment, energy and earth sciences in Africa among African geoscience students.

Last May in Kumasi, Ghana, the student conference, which had AAPG and SEG among key sponsors, featured various activities including keynote addresses, special session presentations, student technical presentations, student competitions, networking events and a field trip. AAPG Africa Region past president Gilbert Odior delivered a talk on “finding and maintaining a geoscience job in Africa” at a special session. The first AGSC was organized in Lagos in 2013.

Following the AGSC were the NAPE and SPE student technical conferences in Nigeria in June.



Participants at the NAPE student conference in June, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.



Winners of the SEG challenge Bowl in Warri, Nigeria.



Student participants and invited professionals at the 2014 AGSC, Kumasi – Ghana.



## AAPG Student Chapter and YP Group Take Off in Western Cape



Members of the UWC Student Chapter and YP group.

The plan to start the first AAPG student chapter in South Africa commenced in April 2014 during the AAPG ACE meeting in Houston, Texas, with a mandate from the Africa Region leadership to promote AAPG activities and establish chapters. Initially it was viewed as a herculean task, but today it has become a reality. After a series of emails sensitizing students on AAPG and its programs, the inaugural meeting was held in July 2014 at the University of the Western Cape, with 26 registered members in attendance.

The meeting discussed the purpose and benefits of belonging to the world's largest geology association. Since chapter inauguration, membership of the UWC AAPG Student Chapter has grown astronomically from the initial 26 recorded on 28 July to 57 members on 16 September 2014.

The formal presentation of the student chapter executives and introduction to the young professionals was held on the 16 September 2014 at the University of the Western Cape. The president showcased the activities and vision of the chapter for the next year, which includes acting as an active development and networking hub for members, YPs and experienced professionals. The planned events include lecture series in October, bi-monthly talks and visits to high schools to motivate and encourage learners (Exciting World of Geology), field trips, conference participations and active participation in the prestigious IBA competition.



Members of the UWC Student Chapter and YP group.

## MUK SC EXHIBITS AT CAREERS FAIR, REACHES OUT WITH 'THE EXCITING WORLD'.



Hillary Mumbere presenting the 'Exciting World'.

AAPG's Makerere University (MUK) student chapter, in collaboration with Makerere University SEG's student chapter, facilitated the organization of a careers and exhibit fair at the Nabisunsa Girls School in June. The fair themed "Inspiring girls, connecting futures" was an opportunity for chapter members to reach out to the students through a rocks exhibition and the "Exciting World of Geology." The "Exciting World" is one of the ways by which AAPG YPs have been reaching out to high school students, helping them make better informed decisions on a future career in the geosciences.



2014 NAPE-AAPG Local Student Chapter Leadership Summit – Student chapter representatives in group photo with AAPG AR student chapters coordinator, vice president, YP coordinator and programs manager.



Networking at the YP inauguration at University of the Western Cape.



## AAPG and NAPE

### A unique milestone in affiliation



The Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) officially became an affiliate of AAPG in 1994. Marking the affiliation, then – AAPG President Toby Carleton was hosted during the NAPE’s annual international conference and exhibition, which took place at the Eko Convention Centre, Lagos, in November 1994. Six years following this event AAPG Africa Region structure was created, and its first leadership team, headed by Nahum Schneidermann, was formed.

Since 1994, the 20 years of affiliation of both associations has been of mutual benefit to each society and has resulted in several landmark collaborations such as the Field Immersive program, AAPG/NAPE YP events, student chapter collaborations, donations of journals and books to tertiary institutions, regional conferences (DOWAC), Distinguished Lecture Program, technical and professional seminars/exchanges and membership drives, among many others. In 2013 the AAPG Africa Region office was established with very significant support from NAPE.

Despite numerous collaborative achievements, both societies still have more to offer – and there can be no better time than now to capitalize on the successes and milestones recorded so far.



AAPG President Scott Tinker at the NAPE Conference in Lagos, November 2008. Tinker’s travels to Nigeria followed visits by AAPG presidents Toby Carleton (1994), Dick Bishop (1998) and Robbie Gries (2000, 2001), who visited as both president-elect and president.



Scott Tinker meeting with geology students during his visit to Nigeria in 2008. This meeting seeded the Field Immersive Program. Photo courtesy of NAPE.

## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### 2014-16 Africa Region Leadership Team Assumes Office

The AAPG Africa Region has a new leadership team. The team, led by President David Blanchard will lead the Africa Region until June 2016. The Africa Region, which has seen unprecedented growth since 2000, is set for even greater levels of growth and accomplishments in this new dispensation. In 2013 membership figures rose to 3,062, from a total membership base of 450 in 1999.

Following affiliation with NAPE, the Africa Region became affiliated with five other geological societies in Africa, including the Egyptian Petroleum Exploration Society, the Geological Society of South Africa and most recently the Ghana Institution of geoscientists in 2012. Working independently or collaborating



David C. Blanchard  
President



Bill Bosworth  
President-Elect



A. Femi Esan  
Vice President



Antonio Ingles  
Secretary



Ajibola Oyebamiji  
Treasurer

with affiliates, the Region has held several geoscience technical programs, including field trips in Angola, Nigeria and Egypt, conferences, seminars, summits and workshops.

The Region also has seen growth and improvement of several of its

programs, including the Imperial Barrel Award Competition, student chapters, Distinguished Lecture programs and YP programs. Africa Region past president Gilbert Odior has been recognized and

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LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Sola Bakare  
Editor



Gilbert Odior  
Imm. Past President



Nosa Omorodion  
Advisory Council



Bayo Akinpelu  
DPA



Doja Ojelabi  
IBA committee



Tunde Okuboyejo  
YP Leader



Olatunbosun Afolayan  
Student Chapters



Chioma Okafor  
Membership



Lere Olopade  
DLP Committee



Adelola Adesida  
IBA Coordinator



Delia Kuye  
Programs Manager

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appreciated for a job well done during his two-year term, during which the Africa Region office and AAPG Angola Chapter were established, and during whose tenure the Region witnessed increased participation in the Imperial Barrel Award competition, not forgetting the introduction

of the Local Student Chapters Leadership Summit (LSCL-S), which has been boosting student participation in the Region, and the distinguished and regional lectureship events in Lagos, Egypt and Tunis, which have provided platforms for knowledge sharing and networking.

Newly elected Africa Region President David Blanchard expressed delight at the

progress made thus far in the Region and promises to build on the achievements of his predecessors. Joining David in forming the steering team are Femi Esan (vice president), Antonio Ingles (secretary) and Ajibola Oyebamiji (treasurer) alongside delegates, AAPG committee members and programs coordinators.

THE AAPG STUDENT EXPERIENCE

One of the vital functions of AAPG is to provide resources and programs for students at both the graduate and undergraduate level. These programs provide opportunities for students to have contact with the professional geoscience community and access unique learning opportunities. With the benefit of full student sponsorship by Chevron, all student members of the Association enjoy free subscription to AAPG's monthly publications – the Bulletin and Explorer. Students also benefit from discounts on field trips, courses and conferences. Student members also profit immensely from our student chapter programs and the Imperial Barrel Award competition.

Meet David Anomneze, a postgraduate student of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria, who has been an active student member and volunteer of the Africa Region for eight years.

On his student experience with AAPG, David said:

I joined AAPG in 2006, during my undergraduate studies in geoscience and attended my first Nnamdi Azikiwe University AAPG Student Chapter annual technical meeting in the second quarter of the same year. With my involvement in AAPG right from my days as an undergraduate,



Anomneze

I have been exposed to diverse learning opportunities including free online courses, short courses and access to the AAPG Bulletin. The association brought to me, the most passionate aspect of the geoscience career, which was combining geoscience concepts with integrated technology.

I had the opportunity to be a part of the first AAPG-NAPE Student Leadership Summit, which assisted in the development of my leadership skills and broadened my mind to how much I could achieve in a leadership position. Through my AAPG interactions I also have been developing a good spirit of professionalism and the organization has positioned me to think beyond just being a geologist, but a geologist with a passion for professionalism following standards, respecting principles, thinking critically, setting goals and achieving them by making use of strategic prioritization.

On her AAPG experience, Janet Nayebele, student chapter president of Makerere University, Uganda said:

After my enrollment in undergraduate study at the university in 2011, I made up my mind to not only pursue textbook knowledge but also seek the experiences outside the classroom, which would make me a well-rounded geologist and so I made up my mind to join AAPG, where I served as year two representative (2012-13) of our student chapter, vice president

(2013-14) and now president of the student chapter.

I have maximally utilized the opportunity to develop my leadership abilities and I have cultivated strong ambition in achieving goals towards becoming a good team leader where I have been inspiring female students. I am one of the recipients of the 2014 AAPG L. Austin Weeks grants. I express my deepest appreciation to AAPG as the grant came just in time and has been of much benefit to me. I have used the grant to acquire a laptop for my studies and the running of our student chapter activities. The amount also covered expenses for my final year project's field study which covered sedimentary and petroleum systems in the Albertine Graben. Thank you AAPG.

With AAPG I foresee greater advancement in geoscience activities and discoveries in Africa. The conferences, technical meetings and trainings organized separately by AAPG or in collaboration with affiliates and sister societies have been of immense benefit to the African geoscience community.

\* If you are struggling to foot the bills just after graduation, you can consider using the student-YP bridge, which allows you to continue AAPG membership for two years at a \$10 fee per year.



STUDENTS

### Meet Africa Region's Student Chapters Coordinator: Tunbosun Afolayan

**Tell us about yourself.**

I work as a production seismologist/geologist for the Shell Nigeria Exploration and Development Company, and in addition I coordinate the affair of the student chapters of the AAPG professional association in the Africa Region.

**Describe a typical workday.**

A typical workday begins with me going over my list of "project" to-dos from previous day and aligning my thoughts on how to accomplish my tasks. Working in an integrated studies team implies that I always need to bounce my professional opinions through various disciplines, ensuring that we capture as much as possible, all aspects of the subsurface uncertainty and mitigation plans before arriving at a scientific, data-supported conclusion. As a geologist, the initiation of any subsurface study starts with us, and as dynamic as the earth is, that is what is also required of our thinking cap.

I end the day trying to think of what I have closed out and move the work in progress to the next day.

**How would you deal with typical workday challenges?**

Challenges in the workplace are sometimes nice to have because it tests my deep understanding of my project tasks and deliverables. So dealing with that includes:

- Seeking utmost clarity on the task deliverables from my team lead.
- Taking a step back to basic geologic/engineering principles and how it applies to my challenge.
- Seeking a different perspective from a fellow geoscientist/petroleum engineering colleague, which we all know is hardly the same and that helps to add a totally different dimension.
- Talking to my internal/external stakeholders to align with their expectations.
- And giving my professional judgment and result to the task at hand.

**You've been an AAPG Africa Region volunteer for some years. Can you tell us what inspired you to volunteer for the Africa Region and share some of the activities you have been involved in and your major accomplishments as a volunteer for the Africa Region?**



Tunbosun Afolayan

Volunteering has become a way of life for me, especially when it involves empowering or being empowered. Joining the AAPG society

as a volunteer didn't require a lot of convincing. I saw the call for service to develop the YPs as a group in the Africa Region and I readily figured I could try to do it. It was a relief to find out that AAPG as an organization does not have a lot of hierarchal clumsiness that paralyzes most professional organizations. So it was a "Team, let's get to work approach" and that has been one of my mainstays as a volunteer for the Association.

It's been about four years since my journey as an active AAPG volunteer began so I haven't been in many activities that I can't recount. I had a tremendous time working on the YP committee, developing the global YP handbook, executing activities, planning conferences, etc. I am currently having a swell time working with the students and grateful for the opportunity.

Working with students keeps me on my toes, because I get asked about interesting and mostly untypical questions. The students in the Africa Region are so full of energy and initiatives that they only need the guidance that seeing the bigger picture brings. I am most impressed with them.

No major accomplishment yet, but my current fave is the LSCL-S that we have held for the students. I look forward to the next edition.

Also, I would like to mention that the opportunity to serve is being made easy by working with admirable and trend-setting AAPG presidents and executive teams, they are indeed a "Yes, we can team."

**In view of your accomplishments, what is your advice to students and STU-YPs out there?**

Find your passion and drive, work it and give your best while continually exploring opportunities at personal and professional development.

Limit your level of fear and timidity to the barest minimum. Believe in God and yourself, and explore life.

Give back.

### 2015 IBA SEASON BEGINS

In 2013, 23 schools across Africa registered for the 2014 IBA competition, from which the University of the Western Cape, South Africa emerged winner. University of the Western Cape represented the Region at the global competition in Houston, Texas in April 2014 during AAPG's Annual Convention & Exhibition.

Tunisian participant Mohammed Nejmoui of the faculty of science, Tunis El Manah University commented positively on the 2014 competition and said, "The IBA was a great and tremendous experience for me. Participation in the competition gives students the unique opportunity to acquire important technical and presentation skills. I highly recommend students considering a career

in the upstream oil and gas business to participate."

Giving his comments regarding the 2014 competition, Chris McLean of University of the Western Cape added, "As part of the team representing South Africa in the 2014 IBA competition, I can say that it was an eye-opening experience into the workings of the petroleum industry. It is a great method of bridging the gap between academic research and industry application of petroleum geology. I would highly recommend this program to any student looking to pursue a career in oil and gas exploration."

Nejmoui and McLean expressed their gratitude to IBA sponsors, mentors, program



McLean



Nejmoui

coordinators and the leadership team of AAPG Africa Region for helping to make the 2014 competition a successful event, which impacted positively on the lives of participants.

Africa Region IBA continues to see increasing student participation from across the continent, and is an important contribution to the development of geoscience technical manpower across the Region. Registration for the 2015 Africa region IBA competition officially commenced on 15 September 2014 and will be open till 12 December 2014. All Information about the 2015 competition can be found at IBA.AAPG.org.



## STUDENTS CHAPTERS

### Congratulations to our newest student chapters:

- Assiut University, Egypt – July 2014
- University of the Western Cape, South Africa – August 2014

## 2014 AAPG FOUNDATION GRANTS RECIPIENTS

### Grants-in-Aid

Institut Francais Du Petrole Grant  
Chinazo Ejeke  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria

### The 2015 Grants-in-Aid application is now open.

Visit [AAPG.gia.confex.com/aapg\\_gia/2015/cfp.cgi](http://AAPG.gia.confex.com/aapg_gia/2015/cfp.cgi) to apply.  
Application closes 15 February 2015.

### L. Austin Weeks Grant Recipients

Mohammed Raafat Abo-Hashim – Al-Azhar University, Egypt  
Saheed Shittu – Ladoke Akintola University, Nigeria  
Janet Nayebale – Makerere University, Uganda  
Salami Abiodun – Obafem Awolowo University, Nigeria  
Ahmed Ahmed Mustafa – Suez University, Egypt  
Babalola Olufemi – University of Lagos, Nigeria

## STAY IN TOUCH

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AAPG Africa Office  
47a Femi Okunnu Estate  
Lekki Peninsula, Lagos

Email: [dkuye@aapg.org](mailto:dkuye@aapg.org)  
Phone: +234-8094704599

[Regions.AAPG.org/Africa](http://Regions.AAPG.org/Africa)  
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