



AAPG

DISCOVER

The Latin America Region Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Victor Ramirez, Latin America Region President

Welcome to the first edition of the AAPG Latin America Region Newsletter. This publication, along with our new website, Facebook page and Twitter accounts are just a few of our accomplishments since hiring Programs Manager Emily Smith Llinás in May.

Before that, and for many years, the Latin America Region relied on volunteer help from members of AAPG and local affiliated societies. Unfortunately, these volunteers' great contributions and initiatives were constrained by the lack of formal, in-region support and by the limitations of communications available in previous decades.

During 2012, Latin America Region leadership approached AAPG Headquarters about the need to strengthen our Region's body of volunteers with a paid staff member fully dedicated to Latin America Region tasks. We realized that having a dedicated employee would provide much needed support to the Region and its volunteer leaders.

Throughout many years of experience with my local association and six years working with AAPG, I have learned that volunteer leadership provides an invaluable opportunity to connect with highly trained and recognized colleagues to develop different skill sets and to foster our interest in petroleum geology. The volunteer work we find so rewarding however, is often limited by our professional and personal commitments and the inherent time constraints that result from juggling multiple responsibilities. Having a dedicated

staff member benefits the Region by providing order and continuity to our activities. After extensive discussions, we created the Latin America Region Programs Manager position in early 2013. Since hiring Emily in May, we have strengthened the Association's reach across the Americas, visiting key locations for technical exchanges, promoting formal relationships with governmental, academic and professional institutions and expanding our membership base. Most importantly, we've made great strides in showing both veteran and new AAPG members throughout the Region that we care for them and want to keep them involved with our Association.

AAPG Latin America is here to stay, and the presence of Emily, our new programs manager, demonstrates the Association's long-term commitment to our Region. We look forward to continuing to grow in the months and years to come. Please join me in welcoming Emily Smith Llinás.



Victor Ramirez

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Note.....	1
Region News Update.....	2
Leadership Spotlight.....	3
Students & YPs	4
Upcoming Events	6
Stay in Touch	6

REGION NEWS UPDATE

Latin America Region Shines at ICE 2013 Cartagena

When planning began for the International Conference and Exhibition (ICE), the AAPG Organizing Committee had an audacious goal—to make ICE Cartagena the “best ICE ever.” After a highly successful event featuring 2,100 attendees from 49 countries, a sold-out exhibition, 243 papers and technical presentations, three field trips and five short courses, some would argue that the committee had indeed achieved its goal.

But ICE Cartagena’s success goes far beyond the numbers.

In addition to its spectacular location in the historic city of Cartagena de Indias, what made this ICE unique was a series of sessions featured for the first time at an AAPG Conference. The Regulators Forum provided for an interesting debate about the challenges regulators face in establishing rules for non-conventional and offshore exploration and production. The National Oil Company Forum and International Oil Company Perspective provided opportunities for some of the world’s most influential energy sector executives to share their experiences and their vision for the future. Special Country Sessions provided an overview of the industry in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago.

ICE 2013 Cartagena also provided the opportunity to explore the environmental impacts of new technologies. “Hydrofracturing: fact or fiction” provided an overview of the science behind the technology, and a meeting with the Division of Public Affairs and Division of Environmental Geosciences gave leadership of the Region’s affiliated societies time to discuss how public perception and regulation affect exploration and production in their respective countries.

Each day of the event, ICE Cartagena attendees enjoyed enriching technical sessions followed by entertainment of equal high quality. The opening ceremony featured a performance by Fundación Música Por Colombia, a non-profit organization providing musical instruction to underprivileged children. Private parties hosted by Gran Tierra and the Asociación Colombiana de Geólogos y Geofísicos del Petróleo (ACGGP)



ICE 2013 Organizing Committee

*First row, L-R: Sergio Sarmiento, Jorge Calvache, Yohaney Gómez, Sylvia M. Couto Anjos, Victor Vega (General Chair), Emily Smith Llinás, Pedro Alarcón, Carlos Macellari
Second row, L-R: Flavio Feijo, Germán Bayona, Alfredo Guzmán, Carlos Santacruz, Victor Ramirez, Lee Krystinik, Antonio Velásquez, David Brown, Miguel Ramirez*

provided refreshments, music and spectacular views of the city. The premier social event sponsored by Pacific Rubiales was Party on the Plaza, where hundreds of ICE attendees and their guests experienced live music and folkloric performances and danced the night away.

Reflecting on ICE 2013, General Chair Victor Vega shared a sense of accomplishment, noting that he had received at least 100 messages from people who believed the meeting was highly successful.

“We achieved most of our targets with the exception of total number of attendees, and I feel that we delivered a quality product with a diverse set of options and also provided the students with a unique experience,” Vega said.

Becoming the “best ICE ever” is hard to qualify, but even geoscientists will agree that ICE 2013 Cartagena was a memorable event.

Latin America Region Thriving; Officers Laud Presence in Bogotá

Activities in the Latin America Region have risen steadily in recent years, thanks to a succession of highly dedicated officers and volunteers working with industry and AAPG Headquarters staff. However, the Region’s current leadership cites the addition of Bogotá-based Programs Manager Emily Smith Llinás with helping them take their initiatives to new heights.

Since May, the Latin America Region has welcomed three new Student Chapters and three new YP Chapters. Also in that time, the Region has developed a formal leadership structure, filled seven empty seats

with Latin America Delegates to the AAPG House of Delegates and conducted AAPG’s first bilingual election.

Other “firsts” for the Region include publishing an e-newsletter, website, Facebook page and Twitter account. Enhanced communications and other initiatives, according to Region President Victor Ramirez, have helped extend AAPG’s reach across the Americas, developing relationships with other associations and expanding the membership base.

“Having Emily available is a great benefit to our volunteers – geoscientists who love AAPG but whose professional and personal commitments limit the amount of time they can spend working on Latin America Region initiatives,” said Ramirez. “The presence of a programs manager enhances the capacity we have to develop and offer more AAPG events and activities.”

In addition to helping the Region leadership fast track numerous projects, Smith Llinás has utilized her bilingual and cultural skills representing AAPG and the Region at the Association’s highly successful ICE in Cartagena, Colombia, and at additional industry events including OTC Brazil, the Colombian Oil & Gas Congress and AAPG’s Annual Convention and Exhibition in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

“Emily brings not only an impressive combination of experience and energy, but a deep understanding of both American and Latin American cultures” said Region past-president Miguel Ramirez. “That’s extremely important as we reach out to our affiliated societies across the Region.”

Upcoming activities clearly demonstrate the Region’s increased capacity with the addition of a programs manager working alongside Region leadership and Headquarters staff. Plans for 2014 include Geoscience Technology Workshops in Trinidad & Tobago, Brazil and Mexico; Education Weeks in Peru and Colombia; a Latin America Student Leadership Summit; and a series of SWITCH the Movie showings followed by technical discussions.



*EMILY SMITH LLINAS
Programs Manager, Latin America Region*

“We have made great strides in showing both veteran and new AAPG members throughout the Region that we care for them and want to keep them deeply involved with our Association,” Victor Ramirez said.

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Meet your 2013-2014 Leadership Team

Steering Committee Members



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Vice President Patricio Marshall addresses the group at the 2013-2013 Latin American Leadership Team meeting in Cartagena in September 2013.

Pictured L-R: Kurt Bayer, delegate; Patricio Marshall, vice president; Flavio Feijo, DPA representative; Miguel Ramirez, past president; Jorge Calvache, past treasurer; Miguel de Armas, delegate; Pedro Alarcon, treasurer; Carlos Santacruz, past IBA coordinator.

STUDENTS AND YPS

Enthusiastic Young Professionals (YPs) and Students Spice Up ICE 2013

By Antonio Velásquez – YP Lead, Latin America Region

After four years, AAPG ICE returned to Latin America and was held, for the very first time, in Colombia. A perfect description for the Cartagena meeting could be **massive and passionate participation of young people.**

An unprecedented number of activities for YPs and students were carried out with huge success, and delivered an unforgettable conference experience to both groups. Undoubtedly, the impact of this ICE on a generation of young geoscientists will be far-reaching.

Here is a quick summary of the main activities carried out during ICE:

- **YP Meet-N-Greet:** 200-plus Young Professionals met with more than 40 professionals, including big names in the oil and gas industry, who shared their experiences and networked while enjoying refreshments.

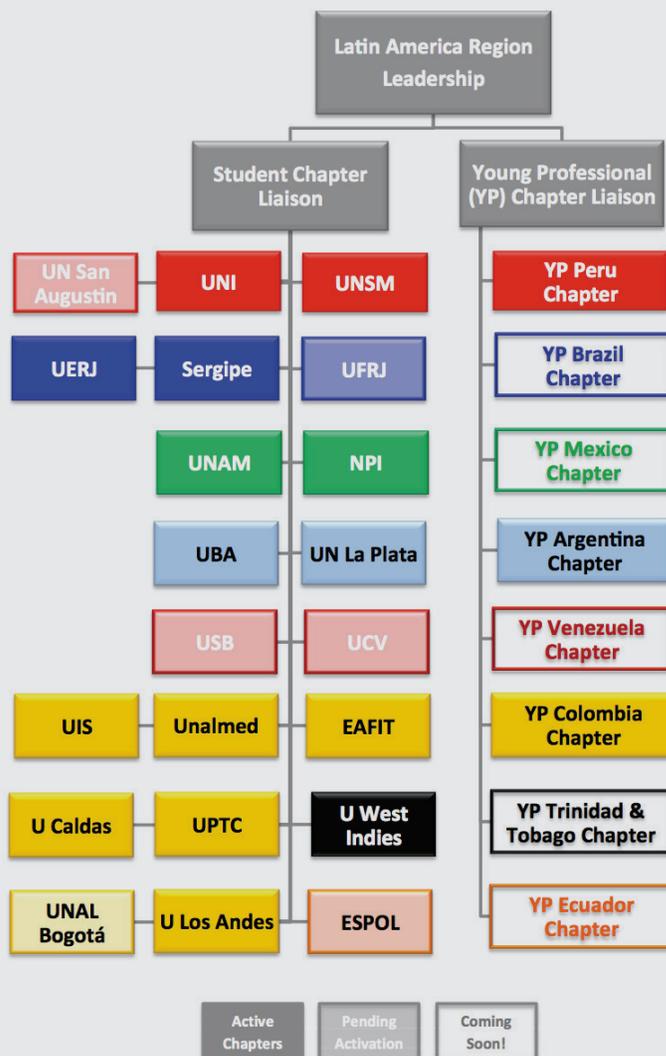
- **Art of Interviewing and Career Path:** Featured for the first time at ICE, this activity targeted geoscience students and featured a “speed dating” format in which industry professionals spent 10 minutes per table, rotating frequently to speak with as many people as possible. The event was originally limited to 100 people, but more than 200 attended and participated actively, sharing their career plans and asking how recruiters hire people in the “real world.”
- **SCLS:** The Student Chapter Leadership Summit (SCLS) included 60-plus students from 15 universities throughout Latin America. Organizers used both games and lectures to address leadership dynamics, career planning and guidance for creating and maintaining AAPG Student Chapters.
- **Student Reception:** Following ICE tradition, the ICE Student Reception was held the last night of the conference and involved the presentation of awards to the winners of the ICE Networking Challenge, as well for the best student poster and oral presentations.

New Student – YP Leadership Structure Developed for Latin America Region

By Antonio Velásquez – YP Lead, Latin America Region

The excitement surrounding the Cartagena ICE meeting, and increased attention from the Region on the value of belonging to AAPG, have resulted in renewed interest in AAPG activities from enthusiastic YPs and Students.

This has led Region leadership to split the Latin America YP/Student Liaison role into two separate positions, as well as to create more YP Chapters in every country that has Student Chapters. The diagram right illustrates the new structure. Widespread commitment to YP and Student programs demonstrates a promising future for the AAPG in Latin America.



Congratulations to Our New Student Chapters

- National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico – October 2013
- Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia – October 2013
- Universidad de Caldas, Manizales, Colombia – July 2013

Looking to Expand Your School's Library?

Take advantage of AAPG's Student Chapter Book Gift program, an initiative that provides chapters with up to \$250 in AAPG publications ordered from the online AAPG Store. The Book Gift award is available to newly formed Student Chapters. Active chapters can participate every three years. This year's Book Gift applications are due 15 December. To apply, complete the application form available at students.aapg.org/13_14_student_bookgift.pdf.

Calling All Universities: Sign up for 2014 IBA

The global Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) competition is fast approaching. Deadline for entry is 13 December. This year's Latin America Region semi-finals will be held in Rio de Janeiro, 21 February 2014. For more information, visit the IBA website at www.aapg.org/iba

UPCOMING EVENTS

22-24 January 2014

Sequence Stratigraphy Short Course, Dr. Leonardo Borghi
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
Organized by the Associação Brasileira de Geólogos de Petróleo.
www.abgp.com.br

9-11 March 2014

GTW Trinidad & Tobago
*Deep Horizon and Deepwater Frontier Exploration
in Latin America and the Caribbean*
Hyatt Regency Trinidad Hotel
Hosted by AAPG Latin America Region and the Geological Society of Trinidad
& Tobago – GSTT
www.aapg.org/gtw/2014/trinidad_tobago

Have Something to Report?

Do you have something to share with the Latin America Region?

Send us your articles and upcoming event information, tell us your AAPG experience, and email photos for publication in the Discover – Latin America newsletter and our website. Send submissions to latinamerica@AAPG.org

STAY IN TOUCH

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