

Energy Minerals Division

This year's EMD activity focused on increased participation by EMD leadership, continued efforts to fill vacancies within EMD leadership and worked with the Advisory Council and Executive Committee on issues of Association governance. EMD members participated in developing the program and presented numerous papers at both the 2013 Unconventional Resource Technology Conference in Denver and the 2014 ACE in Houston; and were actively engaged in both programs for 2014, and will be for 2015.

Highlights

- Membership growth of 3 percent between Dec. 31, 2012 and 2013, from 4,776 to 4,940, with an additional 47 new members at the end of January 2014.
- 2014 ACE Technical Program - AAPG Theme 2: Unconventional Resources - What Have We Learned So Far and Where Are We Going?
 - Five oral sessions – New Play Concept/Research, Evaluation Methods, International Plays, Tight Oil Plays, Shale Plays
 - Two poster sessions – Unconventional Reservoirs (I and II)
 - Two field trips – (1) Inside NASA Space Flight Center Houston; (2) Unconventional Petroleum Systems: A Geologic Transect Across Colorado
 - Two short Courses – (1) Handheld X-ray fluorescence: Theory, Calibration and Application to Mudrock Geochemistry; (2) Mudrock Petrology and Pore-Scale Imaging
 - EMD luncheon – The Future of U.S. Shale, Scott Tinker, Texas State Geologist
- Sponsorship of Oil Sands and Heavy Oil Symposium: A Local to Global Multidisciplinary Collaboration, a joint meeting of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and AAPG in Calgary, October 2014.
- Preparation of semi-annual reports of EMD's Commodity Committees like the 150-page report for Shale Gas and Liquids summarizing activity in dozens of basins globally in this area central to AAPG's technical and scientific mission.

- Publication of the article "Unconventional Energy Resources: 2013 Review in Natural Resources Research," and four columns in the *AAPG Explorer*.
- Publication of *AAPG Studies in Geology 64: Heavy-oil and Oil-sand Petroleum Systems in Alberta and Beyond*, edited by F.J. Hein, D. Leckie, S. Larter, and J. Suter. (May 2013)
- Publication of *AAPG Memoir 103: Critical Assessment of Shale Resource Plays*, edited by J.Y.D. Chatellier and D.M. Jarvie. product of a Hedberg Conference headed by the AAPG with the SPE and SEG, with EMD as a co-sponsor.
- Updating of the EMD procedures document to better represent roles of the leadership.

Through the Advisory Council and an ad hoc committee chartered by the AAPG Executive Committee, the EMD president worked to realign the governance of AAPG. EMD supports creation of divisions that expand the technical breadth of AAPG and meet AAPG and EMD missions to advance the science. The ad hoc committee will define options for creation of divisions, technical interest groups (TIGs) and special interest groups (SIGs), and for their integration into the governing bodies of AAPG. EMD will highlight recommendations to enhance conduct of its scientific and technical mission, such as:

- Following elimination of separate dues, AAPG should cover the cost of support staff, reducing the need for division leadership to spend time on financial rather than technical issues.
- AAPG should seek to put a division/TIGs/SIGs sponsor on as many conference sessions as can be justified, to acknowledge the contribution of members of those groups.
- AAPG should encourage divisions/TIGs/SIGs to sponsor and participate in relevant technical conferences and workshops held especially by affiliated societies.

The Advisory Council has considered merging the Advisory Council (on which divisions sit) and the House of Delegates (where they are not represented). Streamlining means fewer participants, raising concerns that led to creation of the HoD (leadership by a self-perpetuating cadre). But, are leaders staying because they love wielding power or because AAPG, Divisions, Sections and Regions can't recruit people to replace them? EMD will support governance of AAPG that

focuses as much on scientific and technical interests as on regional interests.

While it is a good time for EMD, there are challenges ahead such as enticing members to take on leadership roles, to keep up with industry trends in the commodities, to support EMD committees, and to participate in developing the technical programs that AAPG delivers. EMD faces budgetary shortfalls as noted. As the mission of EMD's Shale Gas and Liquids Committee has become a steadily larger part of the scope of the Association, acknowledgement of EMD leadership in this field has steadily waned, and sponsorship of sessions has been reduced. Unconventional plays are evolving around the globe, and EMD must maintain awareness of global activity, create products in which the technical contributions of EMD members can be realized, captured and rewarded, and thereby increase revenue for further EMD activities. EMD continues to advance the science and push the boundaries of alternative and unconventional resources. I am pleased with the progress made this year within the Division, and look forward to working with president-elect Fran Hein next year.

Jeremy Boak, EMD President

Division of Environmental Geosciences

The Division of Environmental Geosciences (DEG) continued improvements in mission, membership, budget, quality of publications, program and value to members, and in participation and visibility within AAPG for the organizational year 2013-2014. The DEG also acted as AAPG lead in developing a white paper on hydraulic fracturing for use by the general membership.

Mission

- The mission of the DEG continues to be:
- Educate the membership of AAPG and the general public about important issues that affect petroleum energy minerals exploration and production.
 - Communicate to the general public and government agencies the Association's commitment to protect the environment while developing the world's natural resources in a responsible manner.