# Honors and Awards

## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Powers Memorial Award</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Member Award</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert R. Berg Outstanding Research Award</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Service Award</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison Schmitt Award</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Award</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Award</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geosciences in the Media Award</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Professionals Exemplary Service Award</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vlastimila &quot;Vlasta&quot; Dvořáková International Ambassador Service Award</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert H. Dott, Sr. Memorial Award</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEG/AAPG Best Paper in Interpretation Journal Award</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. C. “Cam” Sproule Memorial Award</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John W. Shelton Search and Discovery Award</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George C. Matson Memorial Award</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jules Braunstein Memorial Award</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel Dengo Memorial Award for Best International Paper</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziad Beydoun Memorial Award for Best International Poster</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Awards

Best Student Paper Award........................................................................................................... 19
Best Student Poster Award ......................................................................................................... 20

Student International Awards

Carlos Walter M. Campos Memorial Award for Best International “Student” Paper .. 20
Ozan Sungurlu Memorial Award for Best International “Student” Poster ................. 21
HONORS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

It is a characteristic of professional scientists that they take great pride in their achievements. Although recognition of an individual’s accomplishments may take many forms, to be honored by one’s peers may be the most satisfying of all.

The Honors and Awards program of AAPG provides a means for recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions by professional geologists, especially in the area of exploration for petroleum and energy mineral resources, and by other professionals who further the goals and objectives of our science, our profession and our Association. The motivation toward scientific and professional achievement, which such recognition stimulates, is much to be desired.

The continued success of this program is dependent on the identification of those worthy of recognition. As the Association has grown, so have the number of awards and the purposes for which they are given. It is no longer possible for one small central committee to identify all those who should be considered. This is particularly true in the case of awards that are given in recognition of accomplishments that may not be widely known or are not restricted to Association members – such as the Grover E. Murray Distinguished Educator Award and the Geosciences in the Media Award. It is necessary that the assistance of the Affiliated Societies, Sections, Divisions and Associated Societies be enlisted.

It is for this reason that this summary of the Association’s Honors and Awards has been prepared, describing the purpose of the awards as well as the requirements and the manner in which various organizations and individuals can, and should, identify and nominate (with appropriate documentation) those they feel deserve recognition. To accomplish these objectives, it may be advisable for Affiliated Societies, Sections, Divisions, and associated societies to organize, by committees or other means, a monitoring of those activities for which awards should be considered, especially for the Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership, Geosciences in the Media, and Public Service awards. For a listing of past awardees, please refer to the Annual Report issue of the Bulletin, also located on the AAPG Web site at http://www.aapg.org under “Honors and Awards.” Nominations by individuals will be considered, but obviously those by organizations carry the most weight, especially when supplemented by individual support.

The Executive Committee, acting on a recommendation from the Advisory Council, requests that nominees not be publicized, and that this information be kept confidential until after selections have been made and approved by the Executive Committee.

SIDNEY POWERS MEMORIAL AWARD

The Sidney Powers Memorial Award is given in recognition of distinguished and outstanding contributions to, or achievements in, petroleum geology. It is AAPG’s most distinguished scientific award and is made at such times as the Executive Committee may designate, but not more than once in any calendar year.

Restrictions
The recipient must be a Member of the Association. A candidate must be living at the time of selection. The recipient is ineligible for consideration or receipt of the Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
Consideration should emphasize contributions to petroleum geology – not necessarily service to the Association. Contributions may have been in a variety of forms or combinations, such as a significant development in geologic concepts, advancement in discovery thinking, leadership in exploration and the development of explorationists, inspiration and academic preparation of petroleum geologists, etc. Publication is not a necessary criterion; it is recognized that in today’s competitive world, publication may not be feasible for many very able explorationists. Honorary Membership is not a prerequisite for consideration, but it may serve as a useful checklist for potential candidates.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for this award should be submitted, along with documentation, to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee in care of Association headquarters. The Committee’s recommendations will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which in turn will submit its selection on to the Executive Committee for final action.
Description of Award
The gold-plated medal features a bas-relief likeness of Sidney Powers and the name of the Association on the obverse side. On the reverse side are inscribed the words, “Awarded for Distinguished Achievement in Petroleum Geology,” along with the name of the recipient. The medal is mounted in multi-sided acrylic and will also receive an embossed certificate and a lapel pin tack. Honorary Membership is automatically bestowed upon recipients of the Sidney Powers Memorial Award if they have not previously received that honor.

History
The Powers Medal was first awarded in 1945 to Wallace E. Pratt.
Sidney Powers was a founding member and 14th president of the Association. He died in 1932 at the age of 42. Frank R. Clark, in his memorial to Sidney Powers, said, “Sidney Powers will be known by future generations for his able contributions to pure and applied geology, but, important as are his scientific achievements, his character was greater, because it typified service to others.”

Funding
The AAPG provides funding for the Sidney Powers Memorial Award.

MICHEL T. HALBOUTY OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award is given in recognition of outstanding and exceptional leadership in the petroleum geosciences. It is AAPG’s most distinguished leadership award, equal to the Sidney Powers Memorial Award. No more than one award is to be given per year.

Restrictions
The recipient does not need to be an AAPG member. The recipient must be living at the time of selection. The recipient is ineligible for consideration or receipt of the Sidney Powers Memorial Award.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
Consideration should emphasize exceptional leadership demonstrated and exemplary service given to the petroleum geosciences and the Association. Candidates will have shown outstanding leadership and substantial service to the Association and petroleum geosciences as an elected official and/or through their substantial service on AAPG committees or will have shown distinguished leadership in and remarkable service to the petroleum geosciences in a corporation or company, academic or research institution, or position of government. Past presidency is not a prerequisite for this award. Honorary membership is not a prerequisite for consideration, but such membership is preferred for candidacy. Contributions may be in a variety of forms or combinations, such as demonstrated leadership in advancing the goals of the Association and/or the petroleum geosciences; articulated vision for future achievements of the Association and/or the petroleum geosciences; demonstrated leadership in the development and/or implementation of practical programs that enhance the benefits to members of Association and/or the petroleum geoscience community; demonstrated ability to lead the Association and/or petroleum geosciences to a major accomplishment or milestone; demonstrated leadership in the implementation of effective management strategies that serve to optimize the resources of the Association and/or the petroleum geosciences; and/or demonstrated leadership in the design and/or implementation of a sound business plan that maximizes the assets of the Association and/or petroleum geoscience community, while providing future opportunities to achieve major successes of the Association and/or petroleum geosciences, etc.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for this award should be submitted, along with documentation, to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The Committee’s recommendations will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which in turn will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

Description of Award
The gold-plated medal features a bas-relief likeness of Michel T. Halbouty and the name of the Association on the obverse side. On the reverse side are inscribed the words, “Awarded for Outstanding Leadership to the Petroleum Geosciences,” along with the name of the recipient. The medal is mounted in multi-sided acrylic.
and recipient will also receive an embossed certificate and lapel pin tack. Honorary membership is automatically bestowed upon recipients of the Award if they have not previously received that honor.

**History**

This award was made a part of AAPG’s honors by Executive Committee action in 1972. Initially it was a five-inch solid brass medal mounted on a marble base. It was changed to a plaque-mounted medal award in 1984. In 1988 the award name was changed from the Human Needs Award to the Michel T. Halbouty Human Needs Award. In 2005 the award name was changed to the Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award and amended by Executive Committee action in 2006.

**Funding**

Funding for the award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund, through a generous contribution by Michel T. Halbouty.

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**HONORARY MEMBER**

Honorary Member is bestowed upon those who have distinguished themselves by their service and devotion to the science, the profession of petroleum geology and to the Association. By Executive Committee action, this has been designated AAPG’s third most distinguished award. It is customary, but not mandatory, to make one or more awards each year.

**Restrictions**

This honor is restricted to Association Members.

**Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates**

Candidates for an Honorary Member Award should have distinguished themselves in service to petroleum geology and to the Association. Contributions to the science and profession of petroleum geology may be in particular areas or combinations of discovery thinking, application, exploration leadership, research, etc. Distinguished service to the petroleum industry may have brought favorable reflection on both the geologic profession and the Association.

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**Procedure for Recommendation**

Nominations for this award, along with documentation, should be submitted to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The Committee’s recommendations will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which in turn will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

**Description of Award**

This award is a walnut chest. When opened, the right panel displays the AAPG emblem. Beneath the emblem is a plate bearing the recipient’s name, the designation “AAPG Honorary Member,” and the year awarded. The left panel has a plate bearing the signed citation.

**History**

The Honorary Member award was established in 1919. It was elevated to third honors position and given “medal” status by Executive Committee action in 1974. The medal bore the AAPG seal on the obverse side, with the recipient’s name, the designation “AAPG Honorary Member,” and the year awarded on the reverse side. It was worn on a neck ribbon assembly. In 1982, the Executive Committee approved changing the award to a walnut chest containing the appropriate presentation data.

**Funding**

The AAPG provides funding for the Honorary Member Award.

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**NORMAN H. FOSTER OUTSTANDING EXPLORER AWARD**

The Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award is given in recognition of distinguished and outstanding achievement in exploration for petroleum or mineral resources, by members who have shown a consistent pattern of exploratory success, with an intended emphasis on recent discovery.

**Restrictions**

Recipient must be a Member of the Association; must be living at the time of selection; currently engaged
in exploration. Discovery may have occurred at any time in the nominee’s career. The intended emphasis is on relatively recent discoveries (within the past 15 years). Only one award may be given per year.

### Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates

Candidates for the Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award shall be individual explorers or leaders of teams who have either:

- Discovered a significant petroleum or mineral resource.
- Caused a significant petroleum or mineral resource to be developed.
- Created a new significant play to be developed in a new or mature basin.
- Caused the opening of a new petroleum or mineral resource province.
- Been a part of a team discovering a significant petroleum or mineral resource.
- Accomplished earth science exploration that can be demonstrated to be responsible for the discovery of a significant petroleum or mineral resource.

Recommendation for who should get the award:

- Individual for single discovery.
- Leader of a group for single discovery.
- Leader of a proven exploration team with significant discoveries.
- Not be given to companies or organizations

The award may be shared by an exploration team of individuals but shall not be given to companies or organizations. The “team” may be a multi-year team where original team members have gone on to other projects.

An explorer who causes a play to be developed or field to be discovered through the use of new technology will be eligible for the award. Consider only when there is a demonstrated direct connection between exploration/technology and a significant discovery by same explorer or team.

The award is presented to the leader (or an outstanding member) of a team who is an AAPG member, and the rest of the team members receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution to the discovery. Consideration can be given (by the AC at the time of selection) as to what to do with the presence of a non-member. There is no requirement for the non-member to be a petroleum geologist.

Many important resource development areas may have been previously drilled, but may have been unrecognized, uneconomic, or inaccessible for a variety of reasons. Thus, the award may be given for "rediscovering" and being the driving force in the development of these types of projects.

The term “significant discoveries” recognizes both relative and absolute size of a discovery. “Significant discoveries” in a mature basin may be large finds in the relative sense, whereas “significant discoveries” in an immature basin may be large in the absolute sense. In both cases, the discovery should affect what other explorers do in terms of where and how they explore. Examples are opening a new play or basin; developing/demonstrating the effectiveness of a new exploration technology; or demonstrating an original exploration strategy.

### Procedure for Recommendation

Nominations for the Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award, along with documentation, should be submitted to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

### Description of Award

A framed certificate will be presented featuring the image of Norman H. Foster, and will contain the words, “Awarded for Outstanding Exploration,” along with the name of the recipient and year, as well as a description of the recipient’s exploration successes.

Awards for team members will be a standard AAPG certificate.

### History

The award was created in 2000, and amended in 2002, 2006 and 2008 by Executive Committee action. In 2011 the name of the award was changed from the Outstanding Explorer Award to the Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award. In 2019, the award was changed to the large, framed certificate only, replacing the original standing figurine.

### Funding

The AAPG provides funding for the Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award.
ROBERT R. BERG
OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD

The Robert R. Berg Outstanding Research Award is given in recognition of a singular achievement in petroleum geoscience research. It is AAPG’s fifth highest award, ranking beneath the Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award and above the Distinguished Service Award. Up to two awards can be given in any calendar year.

Restrictions
The recipient does not need to be an AAPG member, but the recipient must be living at the time of selection.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
Candidates for this award should have distinguished themselves with one or more advancements in the field of petroleum geoscience. The advancement(s) could be in the form of either:

- Proving, developing or advancing a theory.
- Demonstrating a new approach to solving a problem.
- Developing a new methodology or technology.
- Application of existing theories, concepts, approaches, methodology or technology to increased exploration or production of hydrocarbon resources.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations and documentation for this award should be submitted to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The Committee’s recommendations will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which in turn will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

Description of Award
This award is a plaque containing a medallion with a sketch of Robert R. Berg along with the recipient’s name and citation for distinguished contribution to advancement of petroleum geoscience.

History
The award was established by Executive Committee action in 2006, and it was first awarded in 2008.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund through generous contributions received by Robert R. Berg’s many friends and colleagues.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to Members who have distinguished themselves in singular and beneficial long-term service to AAPG.

Restrictions
More than one Member of the Association may be considered in any one year for this award, but Honorary Members should generally be excluded. Members must be in good standing.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
The emphasis should be on long-term and, at the same time, meaningful service to the Association. The term singular does not necessarily mean without precedent, but rather that the activity be specific as distinguished from general service (such as membership on committees).

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for this award should be submitted, along with documentation, to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The recommendations of the Committee will be submitted to the Advisory Council which will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

Description of Award
This award is a walnut plaque with the AAPG emblem in brass and a brass plate bearing the recipient’s name, the date, and citation.

History
This award was established by Executive Committee action in 1971.

Funding
The AAPG provides funding for the Distinguished Service Award.
GROVER E. MURRAY MEMORIAL DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

The Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award is given in recognition of distinguished and outstanding contributions to geological education. Only one award is to be given per year unless funding is approved by the Executive Committee when the award slate is approved. Contributions leading to consideration for this award will most often involve the teaching and counseling of students at the university level. Contributions to the education of the public and management of educational programs also may be recognized.

Restrictions
The recipient need not be a Member of the Association, and consideration is to be made without regard for national origin. The recipient must be living at the time of selection. If death of the recipient occurs after selection, the medal will be awarded posthumously. The award is made at such times as the Executive Committee may designate, at the recommendation of the Advisory Council, but not more than once in any calendar year unless funding is also approved by the Executive Committee.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
Consideration should emphasize contributions to the teaching of students, guidance of student research, research and scientific publications, university and community activities, and involvement in the activities of scientific/professional organizations.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for this award should be submitted, along with documentation, to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The Committee’s recommendations will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which in turn will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

Description of Award
This award consists of an oak double shadow box. The right panel displays a sterling silver medallion specifically designed for this award. The double-faced medallion is removable and bears the name of the recipient and date of the award. The left panel displays an AAPG medallion and a plate containing the citation.

History
This award was first proposed by Dr. Grover E. Murray in a letter to then-President Harrison L. Townes, dated May 19, 1993. In the letter, Dr. and Mrs. Murray agreed to provide funding to support the award, if approved. Approval was given by the Executive Committee on June 30, 1993.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund through a generous contribution by Dr. and Mrs. Grover Murray.

HARRISON SCHMITT AWARD

The Harrison Schmitt Award recognizes outstanding achievements of people who, for a variety of reasons, do not qualify for other Association honors or awards. The recipient is not required to be an AAPG member.

Examples of Past Awards
Examples of such awards are those given to Conrad and Marcel Schlumberger (posthumously) for their development of the electrical log; to Harrison Schmitt for his contribution as the first geologist to land on the moon and study its geology; to John Bookout for “excellence in exploration leadership;” and to Norman Foster and Ted Beaumont for their work on completing AAPG’s “Treatise of Petroleum Geology.”

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for this award should be submitted, along with documentation, to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. In the event that the Honors and Awards Committee and Advisory Council are not able to take action on the recommendation in a timely fashion, it will be referred directly to the Executive Committee of the Association for action.
Description of Award
This award is a plaque with the AAPG medallion and a plate bearing the name of the award, recipient’s name, the date, and citation.

History
In 2011 the name of the award was changed from the Special Award to the Harrison Schmitt Award.

Funding
The AAPG provides funding for the Harrison Schmitt Award.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
The Public Service Award is given to recognize contributions to public affairs by AAPG members, and to encourage geologists to take a more active part in such affairs. Granting of this award in any year is discretionary.

Restrictions
The recipient must be an AAPG member in any class of membership. This award can be given without regard to previous awards.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
“Public affairs” is not limited to political action (although the activities may relate to areas of political concerns). Contributions are not limited to, but may commonly be in, education of the public, politicians, thought leaders, etc., on the application of geology to the general welfare. The field is not restricted to petroleum, but may also be given in recognition of such efforts regarding land use, conservation of natural resources, etc.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for this award should be submitted, along with proper documentation, to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The Committee’s recommendation will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which in turn will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

Description of Award
The award is a walnut plaque bearing the recipient’s name, the date, and citation.

History
This award was created in 1971 by Executive Committee action.

Funding
The AAPG provides funding for the Public Service Award.

PIioneer AWARD
The Pioneer Award is given to long-standing members who have contributed to the Association and who have made meaningful and significant contributions to the science of geology, worthy of recognition, but have not received other awards for those efforts.

Restrictions
The candidate must have been an AAPG Member for not less than 35 years (need not be contiguous membership) and be a member in good standing at the time of receipt of the award. The candidate shall not have received an award or be a current candidate for an award from the Association prior to receiving the Pioneer Award. The candidate must be living at the time of selection. If death of the recipient occurs after selection, the plaque will be awarded posthumously. No more than two awards shall be given each year. In addition, granting of this award in any year is discretionary.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for this award should be submitted, along with proper documentation, to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The Committee's recommendation will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which in turn will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final action.

Description of Award
This award consists of a plaque bearing the recipient’s name, including the date and place to be presented with citation “long and valued service to AAPG.”
**History**
This award was first proposed by the Advisory Council in 1996. Approval was given by the Executive Committee on October 2, 1996. Original funding was provided by the AAPG Foundation through a generous contribution in 1997 by Schlumberger Well Services. This fund was closed in 2012. The award is presented to AAPG Members only, and therefore cannot be funded by the Foundation.

**Funding**
The AAPG provides funding for the Pioneer Award.

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**GEOSCIENCES IN THE MEDIA AWARD**
The Geosciences in the Media Award is given in recognition of notable journalistic achievement that contributes to public understanding of geology, energy resources, or the technology of oil and gas exploration. The achievement can be in any medium. Granting of this award in any year is discretionary.

**Restrictions**
Whereas AAPG Members are not excluded, as a general rule it is expected that candidates would be professional journalists, writers, commentators, etc. It also is expected that writers for petroleum industry publications whose job it is to “contribute to the public understanding of geology, energy resources, or the technology of oil and gas exploration” would be excluded, unless there has been an extra effort that has been clearly beneficial by informing the general public.

**Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates**
Because this field presents an extremely wide range both as to subject matter and as to possible geographic influence, it is difficult for a central committee to make clear and equitable judgments. Therefore, if at all possible, documentation as to the degree of improvement in public understanding would be quite important and useful. Moreover, inasmuch as this is an AAPG award, the implication is that the public influence should be at least regional in scope (i.e., several states). Also, additional consideration and priority could be given to nominations whose impact can be judged to have a “multiplying effect” beyond the immediate locality or region.

**Procedure for Recommendation**
Nominations for this award should be submitted (with proper documentation) on or before June 1 of any year to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters. The recommendations of the Committee will be submitted to the Advisory Council, which will submit its selection to the Executive Committee for final approval.

**Description of Award**
The award is a walnut plaque bearing the words, “For notable journalistic achievement in communications contributing to public understanding of geology.”

**History**
The award was inaugurated in 1972 by Executive Committee action. In 2006 the name of the award was changed by Executive Committee action from the Journalism Award to the Geosciences in the Media Award.

**Funding**
The AAPG provides funding for the Geosciences in the Media Award.

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**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD**
The Young Professional Exemplary Service Award honors members who have promoted growth and awareness of AAPG through dedicated efforts that expand opportunities within the organization for young professionals. The award recognizes the importance of AAPG volunteers whose efforts help recruit, inspire and retain future geoscientists within the Association as well as to the organization and profession in general.

**Restrictions**
The recipient(s) must be an AAPG Member or Associate under the age of 35 and must be in good standing. More than one Member may be considered in any one year for this award.

**Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates**
The emphasis should be on meaningful service to the Association by a young professional. The recipient(s)
should have demonstrated excellence, enthusiastic participation, organizational creativity, leadership and passion for the activities of the Association.

The individual(s) must have served in a volunteer position within the organization for a minimum of three years, either at the local or national level. He/she must have assisted the YP Committee with their mission to aid AAPG in expanding young professionals’ outreach and opportunities within the organization and/or industry including, but not limited to: retention of students; collaboration with the local societies to establish greater continuity between Student and YP chapters and the local affiliated society; recruitment of new members; appointments to committees; and encouragement/guidance into leadership positions within AAPG.

Procedure for Recommendation

Members of the governing body of the Young Professionals Special Interest Group, as well as Section and Region leadership, will submit a minimum of five candidate recommendations (names and supporting biographical data/detail of volunteer efforts/accomplishment) to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters by Feb. 1 of each year. Upon acceptance of the nominees, the H&A Committee will submit name(s) to the Advisory Council, which will in turn submit its endorsement to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Description of Award

Individual(s) chosen will receive an engraved crystal award, which will detail the name of the individual, name of award and the year presented. There shall be no cash distribution. The recipient(s) also will receive a framed certificate bearing the name of the recipient, title of the award and date presented. The certificate will be mailed after the convention. Each award recipient’s name and photograph also will appear in the annual awards recognition.

History

This award was approved by Executive Committee action in 2015 and implemented in 2016.

Funding

AAPG provides funding for the Young Professionals Exemplary Service Award.

VLASTIMILA (VLASTA) DVOŘÁKOVÁ INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR SERVICE AWARD

The Vlastimila (Vlasta) Dvořáková International Ambassador Service Award is given to those who have promoted growth and awareness of the AAPG internationally and created opportunities for the Association to reach a wider audience of geoscientists. This award recognizes the importance of AAPG volunteers who promote the mission of services and products of the Association, and who foster cooperation with other geoscience organizations, as well as growing the organization and its cultural and ethnical diversity.

Restrictions

The recipient must be an AAPG Member or Associate and must be in good standing. In exceptional cases, more than one candidate may be considered in any one year for this award.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates

The emphasis should be on dedicated international service to the Association. The recipient should have demonstrated excellence, enthusiastic participation, organizational creativity, leadership, integrity, dedication, and passion for the activities of the Association. They must have played a leadership role in promoting and organizing international events (ICE, Regional conferences, workshops, and similar activities and initiatives), establishing greater connection and collaboration between the regional professional and academic societies and AAPG, thus aiding the Association in expanding its outreach and opportunities.

These may include but are not limited to; fostering relationships with industry based in the Regions; promotion, recruitment and retention of international students (through dedicated events, such as the Imperial Barrel Award), young professionals and new members; identify and promote appointments to committees; and encouragement/guidance of Region members into global leadership positions.
Procedure for Recommendation

Recommendations from both the general membership and Region leadership are welcome. Nominators will submit candidate recommendations (names and supporting biographical data/detail of volunteer efforts/accomplishment) to the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee via Association headquarters by Honors and Awards due date. Upon acceptance of the nominees, the H&A Committee will submit candidates to the Advisory Council, which will in turn submit its decisions to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Description of Award

The recipient will receive an engraved crystal award, which will detail the name of the individual, name of award and the year presented. The recipient will also receive a framed certificate bearing the name of the recipient, date presented. The certificate will be mailed after the convention. The award recipient’s name and photograph will appear in the Bulletin and/or other published source(s).

History

This award was approved by Executive Committee action in 2017.

Funding

AAPG provides funding for the Vlastimila (Vlasta) Dvořáková International Ambassador Service Award.

WALLACE E. PRATT MEMORIAL AWARD

The Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award honors and rewards the author(s) of the best APG Bulletin article published each calendar year.

Restrictions

The author(s) need not be a Member of the Association. If some of the material in the article has been published previously, there must have been substantive additional material in the AAPG Bulletin publication.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates

The elected editor will solicit recommendations from the associate editors; however, recommendations are welcome from all sources.

Procedure for Recommendation

Nomination forms, with publication reference of the article, should be submitted to the editor before March 1 following the year of publication. The editor will forward his recommendations to the Executive Committee for final action.

Description of Award

The award is $1,500 cash and a certificate bearing the recipient’s name, the title of the award-winning article and the appropriate bibliographical reference. Co-authors share equally.

History

The Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award was approved by Executive Committee action and the first award was made in 1982. The award was formerly a part of the President’s Award.

Wallace E. Pratt (1885-1981) was one of the world’s most distinguished geologists. He was a founder of the Association, served as its fourth president and was the first recipient of the Sidney Powers Medal. He was also awarded AAPG’s Human Needs Award and Honorary Membership. He was a Distinguished Lecturer, served on many committees and remained a constructive adviser and inspiration all his life.

Dr. Amos Salvador, in his memorial to Pratt, said, “But Wallace Pratt was not only a geologist; he was also a businessman, a scientist of broad interests, a humanist, a philosopher and a magnificent human being.”

Funding

Funding for the award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund through a bequest from AAPG member Fred W. Bartlett (1897-1982).

ROBERT H. DOTT SR. MEMORIAL AWARD

The Robert H. Dott Sr. Memorial Award biennially honors and rewards the author/editor of the best Special
Publication dealing with geology published by the Association.

Restrictions
The author/editor need not be an AAPG Member. The preponderance of material in the book must not have been published before. Co-authors or co-editors will share in the award. Authors of individual papers in a compilation are not eligible unless involved as an editor or co-editor.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
All Special Publications published by the Association within the biennial calendar years are considered for this award. The elected editor will solicit recommendations from the associate editors; however, recommendations are welcomed from all sources.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations should be submitted to the editor on or before March 1 following the year of publication. The editor will forward his/her recommendations to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Description of Award
The award is $500 cash and a certificate bearing the recipient’s name and the title of the award-winning publication. Co-authors/co-editors share equally.

History
The Robert H. Dott Sr. Award was created by Executive Committee action to honor and reward authors of original articles published by the Association dealing with petroleum geology. The first award was made in 1945. In 1980, the award was expanded to recognize both the best Bulletin article and the best Special Publication. In 1982 it was changed to apply only to the best Special Publication. In 1988 the name was changed from the President’s Award to the Robert H. Dott Sr. Memorial Award.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund through generous contributions from Robert H. Dott’s many colleagues, friends, and family as a lasting memorial.

SEG/AAPG BEST PAPER IN INTERPRETATION JOURNAL AWARD
The SEG/AAPG Best Paper in Interpretation Award is to honor and award the author(s) of the best paper in the Journal Interpretation.

Restrictions
The author(s) need not be an AAPG Member.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
The voting will combine input from the SEG and AAPG membership at large, reviewers, and the editors of the journal. Criteria for the Best Paper in Interpretation include the attributes of originality, innovation, potential impact, clarity, educational value and overall significance to the practice of geoscience interpretation.

Procedure for Recommendation
Following publication of the November issue each year, the SEG and AAPG memberships will be encouraged to submit best paper nominations from Interpretation issues of the year. The editor-in-chief, deputy editor, associate editors, guest editors and reviewers will be asked to submit nominations during the normal course of review. Nominations received by 15 January from the SEG and AAPG memberships and all editors and reviewers will be entered into the final voting. In the final voting, the editor-in-chief, deputy editor and current associate editors will vote for their choice of the top five papers. Voting points will be tallied and the editors will affirm their selection. This recommendation will be forwarded to the SEG Honors and Awards Committee and the AAPG Executive Committee for final approval.

Description of Award
The recipient will be given two engraved plaques, one by AAPG and another by SEG. The plaques will not be identical. Co-authors will be mailed a certificate and will be recognized as co-authors in the Bulletin and/or other Association recognition source.

History
The award was approved by the AAPG Executive Committee on May 18, 2013.
Funding

The award will be funded as part of the joint journals annual expense with no cash award.

J. C. “CAM” SPROULE MEMORIAL AWARD

The J.C. “Cam” Sproule Memorial Award is given to recognize and reward younger authors of papers applicable to petroleum geology.

Restrictions

The sole author, or lead author and recognized co-authors, do not need to be an AAPG member but must have been 35 years of age or younger at the time of the paper’s submittal. The paper may have appeared in any publication of the Association, or that of an Affiliated Society, Section, Region or Division. It must deal with petroleum geology.

The award has been given to the same author more than once (1993-94 and 2009-10). On several occasions, the award was given to teams of co-authors, all of whom were under age 35. In 2010, the award process was modified to allow consideration of lead authors under age 35 years whose co-authors are over age 35 years. This is in recognition of the fact that a majority of AAPG publications consist of teams of multiple authors. In such cases, the co-authors over age 35 years would receive a Certificate of Appreciation, although the award would be to the recognized lead author under age 35 years. This was approved by Executive Committee action on September 26, 2009.

If the same Bulletin paper is voted to receive both the Sproule and Pratt awards, that paper will receive the Pratt award; the Sproule award will go to the paper receiving the second-highest number of votes.

An author may receive the Sproule award for a paper and the Dott Award for a Special Publication in which the paper is published.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates

Because eligible papers are published in the journals of Affiliated Societies, Sections, Regions and Divisions as well as in the AAPG Bulletin and Special Publications, it is imperative that editors of, and subscribers to, these journals assist the AAPG elected editor in identifying outstanding papers for consideration. Since there are so many specialized fields pertinent to petroleum geology, the determination of eligibility of a particular paper may be difficult. In cases of uncertainty, final determination will be the responsibility Executive Committee.

Procedure for Recommendation

Nominations, together with copies or reprints of the papers and any other supporting data, should be submitted to the elected editor before March 1 of the year following publication. Following a vote by the associate editors of the Bulletin, the elected editor will submit his/her recommendations to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Description of Award

The award is $500 cash and a framed certificate bearing the name of the recipient, the title of the award-winning article, and the appropriate bibliographical reference. Co-authors under the age of 35 years share equally in the cash award and will receive a framed Certificate. Co-authors over the age of 35 years will not share the cash award but will receive by mail a Certificate of Appreciation. They will also be recognized as co-authors in the Bulletin and/or other association recognition source.

History

This award was approved by Executive Committee action in 1970.

Funding

Funding for the award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund through a generous contribution by the Sproule Family of Calgary, Canada, as a lasting memorial to John C. Sproule, 47th president of AAPG (1963-64).

JOHN W. SHELTON SEARCH AND DISCOVERY AWARD

The John W. Shelton Search and Discovery Award is given in recognition of the best contribution to the “Search and Discovery” website in the past year and presented at the annual meeting of the Association.
Restrictions
The recipient need not be an AAPG Member. If some of the material in the contribution has been published previously, substantive additional material must be included in the Search and Discovery version.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
The award is to honor and reward the author(s) of a Search and Discovery contribution(s) considered to be the most outstanding.

The basis for determining the outstanding contribution to Search and Discovery is originality of concepts and/or techniques; applicability to and impact on exploration for and/or development of hydrocarbon resources and/or energy-mineral resources; clarity in presentation; and quality and added value of illustrative material.

Procedure for Recommendation
Nominations for the award come from members of the Search and Discovery Editorial Board and technical editors. The AAPG elected editor, geoscience director and Datapages manager are also invited to participate in the nomination process. The administrative editor for Search and Discovery is responsible for both the nomination process and the final recommendation for the award to the Executive Committee.

Description of the Award
The John W. Shelton Search and Discovery Award is $1,000 cash and a certificate bearing the recipient’s name, the title of the award-winning contribution and its appropriate web address. Co-authors share equally.

History
This award was established in 2009 to honor the creator and champion of the Search and Discovery website, John W. Shelton. With this online media AAPG is able to provide members worldwide with timely searchable technical papers. John W. Shelton is the originator and leader of AAPG’s internet publication program. He is considered the “father” of AAPG’s digital library. From his vision and dedication many members benefit, and AAPG’s global reach is greatly extended.

Funding
Funding for this award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund.

GEORGE C. MATSON MEMORIAL AWARD

The George C. Matson Memorial Award is given in recognition of the best AAPG paper presented the previous year at the AAPG annual convention.

Restrictions
The recipient of the George C. Matson Memorial Award is not required to be an AAPG Member. Selection of the winning paper is made only from among papers presented in AAPG technical sessions and AAPG joint technical sessions at the annual meeting. Since a significant part of the scoring is based on quality of presentation, only the individual presenting the paper receives the award.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
The Matson Award Committee is an integral part of the AAPG Convention Committee structure, and its chair is appointed by the convention general chair.

The Matson Award Committee chair chooses a group of judges who select the winning paper according to the quality of scientific content and excellence of presentation.

Procedure
The committee’s decision is conveyed by the chair to the convention general chair as soon as possible following the convention. The general chair then informs the AAPG president, who notifies the winner.

Description of Award
The name of each recipient is engraved on the beautiful, large silver Matson Cup, which is retained at AAPG headquarters. The recipient is given a plaque on which an engraved miniature replica of the silver cup is displayed. Co-authors will receive a certificate.

History
This award was established in 1957.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund, through a generous contribution of the Matson family as a lasting memorial to George C. Matson.
JULES BRAUNSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD

The Jules Braunstein Memorial Award is given in recognition of the best poster session paper presented the previous year at the AAPG annual convention.

Restrictions
The recipient of the Jules Braunstein Memorial Award is not required to be an AAPG Member. Selection of the winning poster session paper is made only from those poster sessions sponsored by AAPG.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
Judging is conducted by a Braunstein Award Committee, to be appointed by the convention’s general chair and the chair of the Braunstein Award Committee. In the event of a tie in the total score, the paper scoring highest in “Originality: New concepts or new interpretations?” is declared the winner. In the event of a secondary tie at that level, the paper scoring highest on “Significance and usefulness” is declared the winner.

Procedure
The committee’s decision is conveyed by the chair to the convention general chair as soon as possible following the convention. The general chair then informs the AAPG president, who notifies the winner.

Description of Award
The Jules Braunstein Memorial Award is $500 cash and a walnut plaque bearing the name of the winner and the title of the paper. Co-authors share the cash award equally, each receiving identical plaques.

History
This award is named in honor of Jules Braunstein, whose contributions as an industry geologist, professor of geology and an indefatigable worker for local, regional and national geological organizations were outstanding. This award for the best poster session is especially appropriate in honor of Mr. Braunstein, since it was he who in 1975 recommended and arranged for the first poster sessions to be presented at an AAPG annual convention. (That happened at the 1976 AAPG Annual Convention in New Orleans).

Mr. Braunstein proposed that the Association immediately establish a best paper award, but concern over the long-range success of poster sessions as a strong and viable part of the annual meetings led the Association to determine that a less formalized award called the General Chairman’s Award be given and paid for out of convention funds until such time as poster sessions became established. Poster sessions were an immediate success, and now more poster session papers are given than are given orally. Following Mr. Braunstein’s death in 1983, many of his friends, especially in the Gulf Coast area, suggested that the Association formalize the poster session paper award and name it in his honor. This award was established in 1984 by the Executive Committee and the Trustees of the AAPG Foundation.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided by the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund, through a generous contribution from the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies as a lasting memorial to Jules Braunstein.

A.I. LEVORSEN MEMORIAL AWARD

The A.I. Levorsen Memorial Award recognizes the best paper presented at each AAPG Section meeting, with particular emphasis on creative thinking toward new ideas in exploration. The award is presented at the Section meetings for papers presented at the previous year’s meetings.

Restrictions
The recipient need not be an AAPG Member; selection is made from among all papers presented at a particular Section meeting. Since a significant part of the scoring is based on quality of presentation, only the individual presenting the paper receives the award.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
Each Section is responsible for establishing a judging committee to serve at the Section meeting. Papers are judged by this committee according to creative thinking, organization, delivery and visual aids.

Procedure
The selection of the judging committee is conveyed by the Section to AAPG headquarters for preparation of the award.
Description of Award
The award is a diamond shape crystal displaying the AAPG emblem and Section name. The crystal is mounted on a wood base with a gold plate inscribed with the recipient’s name, year and name of the award-winning paper.

History
This award is perpetuated by the A.I. Levorsen Memorial Award Fund, established in 1966 by Dr. Levorsen’s friends, who wished to create a lasting memorial to him.

Funding
Funding for the original award was provided by the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund through generous contributions from many of Dr. Levorsen’s friends. In 2007, Dr. Levorsen’s son, Robert Levorsen, provided a generous contribution to enhance and update the award through the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund as a lasting tribute to his father.

GABRIEL DENGO MEMORIAL AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL PAPER

The Gabriel Dengo Memorial Award is awarded in recognition of the best AAPG paper presented at the previous year’s International Conference and Exhibition.

Restrictions
The recipient of the Gabriel Dengo Memorial Award is not required to be an AAPG Member. Selection of the winning paper is made only from among papers presented during the International Conference and Exhibition.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
The chair of the International Paper Award Committee is appointed by the conference’s general chair.

The committee chair chooses a group of judges who select the winning paper according to the quality of scientific content and excellence of presentation.

Procedure
The committee’s decision is conveyed by the chair to the general chair as soon as possible following the meeting. The general chair then informs the AAPG president, who notifies the winner.

Description of Award
The recipient is given an engraved plaque with a miniature replica of a silver trophy cup, suitable for hanging on the wall. The name of each recipient is engraved on a silver trophy cup, donated by AAPG Honorary Member Pinar O. Yilmaz, which is retained at AAPG headquarters. Since a significant part of the scoring is based on quality of presentation, only the individual presenting the paper receives the award. Co-authors, if any, are mailed a certificate and are acknowledged in all press releases/publications announcing the winner.

History
This award is given each year through the generosity of the Dengo family, in memory of Gabriel Dengo. Gabriel Dengo was one of the "gentlemen geologists" who became a geologist for the love of field geology, for mystery of the earth and to belong to an era of total devotion to the science of geology. He was a role model to hundreds of young geologists and was a superb friend and associate to many.

This award was established as the International Paper Award in 1990 by Executive Committee action. The name of the award was changed to the Gabriel Dengo Memorial Award beginning with the 2001 award.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided by the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund, through a generous contribution by the Dengo Family as a lasting memorial to Gabriel Dengo.

ZIAD BEYDOUN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL POSTER

The Ziad Beydoun Memorial Award is awarded in...
recognition of the best AAPG poster session paper presented at the previous year’s AAPG international conference.

Restrictions
The recipient of the Ziad Beydoun Memorial Award is not required to be an AAPG Member. Selection of the winning poster session paper is made only from those poster sessions sponsored by AAPG.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
Judging is conducted by an International Poster Award Committee. The chair is appointed by the conference’s general chair of the conference.

Procedure
The Committee’s decision is conveyed by the chair to the general chair as soon as possible following the conference. The general chair then informs the AAPG president, who notifies the winners.

Description of Award
The Ziad Beydoun Memorial Award is $500 cash and a walnut plaque bearing the name of the winner and the title of the poster. Co-authors share the cash award equally, each receiving a certificate mounted on walnut. The award is presented at the annual convention.

History
Ziad R. Beydoun was a prominent geologist in the Middle East and is largely responsible for surveying and mapping the region’s rock successions. He spent his life in the field, mapping a vast region never before seen, mostly in the desert.

This award was established in 1990 as the International Poster Award by Executive Committee action. The award’s name was changed to the Ziad Beydoun Memorial Award with the 2001 award.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided by the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund, through generous contributions by Saudi Aramco Corporation, Pinar O. Yilmaz, Mrs. Muntaha Saghieh-Beydoun and many other friends and colleagues of Ziad R. Beydoun as a lasting memorial.

STUDENT AWARDS

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

The Best Student Oral Presentation Award is given in recognition of the best student paper presented at the previous years’ annual convention.

Restrictions
The award recipient is not required to be either an AAPG Member or a member of a Student Chapter. However, the work presented must have been done while the presenter was/is a student.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
The best student oral presentation falls under the responsibility of the Matson Award Committee chair, who is appointed by the convention’s general chair. The Matson Award Committee chair chooses a group of judges who select the winning student oral paper according to the quality of scientific content and excellence of presentation. These results are compiled by the Student Chapter Committee, and the award is presented by the committee to the recipient.

Procedure
The committee’s decision is conveyed to the Student Chapter Committee following the AAPG annual convention.

Description of Award
The Best Student Paper Award is strictly a cash award, with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners receiving $2,000, $1,500, $1000 and $500, respectively. No plaques or certificates are awarded. All presenters who travel to the meeting will receive a $200 travel stipend.

History
These awards were funded each year through an annual contribution from Shell to the AAPG Foundation. In 2006 Shell increased the total amount of award funds, which had allowed matching university funds and higher travel stipends to be awarded in addition to the
prize monies. In 2018, Shell changed its contributions and specified how funds were to be applied as currently outlined in the description.

**Funding**
Funding is not permanent for both awards and is currently received through an annual contribution provided by Shell and subject to change. Funding is not provided by the AAPG Foundation.

**BEST STUDENT POSTER AWARD**
The Best Student Poster Award is given in recognition of the Best Student Poster presented at the current annual convention.

**Restrictions**
The award recipient is not required to be either an AAPG Member or a member of a Student Chapter. However, the work presented must have been done while the presenter was/is a student.

**Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates**
The best student poster presentation falls under the responsibility of the Braunstein Award Committee Chairman, who is appointed by the convention general chair. The Braunstein Award Committee chair chooses a group of judges who select the winning student oral paper according to the quality of scientific content and excellence of presentation. These results are compiled by the Student Chapter Committee, and the award is presented by the committee to the recipient.

**Procedure**
The Committee’s decision is conveyed to the Student Chapter Committee immediately following the session.

**Description of Award**
The Best Student Poster Award is strictly a cash award, with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners receiving $2,000, $1,500, $1,000 and $500, respectively. All presenters who travel to the meeting may also receive a $200 travel stipend. Award money and digital certificates are provided post event.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AWARDS**

**Carlos Walter M. Campos Memorial Award for Best International Student Paper**
The Carlos Walter M. Campos Memorial Award for Best International Student Paper is given in recognition of the best AAPG international student paper presented at the international conventions.

**Restrictions**
The recipient of the Carlos Walter Campos Memorial is not required to be an AAPG Member.

**Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates**
Judging process is overseen by the AAPG Student Chapter Committee.

**Procedure**
The committee’s decision is announced by the Student Chapter Committee chair.
Description of Award
The Carlos Walter M. Campos Memorial Award for Best International Student Paper is $500 cash and a certificate.

History
This award is named in honor of Carlos Walter Marinho Campos, who was an outstanding contributor to petroleum geology of Brazil and for the continuous dedication in training geological professionals at Petrobras.

This award was established in June 2001 by the AAPG Executive Committee.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided by the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund, through a generous contribution by Petrobras Corporation.

Ozan Sungurlu Memorial Award for Best International Student Poster
The Ozan Sungurlu Memorial Award for Best International Student Poster is given in recognition of the best AAPG international student poster presented at the international conventions.

Restrictions
The recipient of the Ozan Sungurlu Memorial Award is not required to be an AAPG Member.

Guidelines for Consideration of Candidates
The judging process is overseen by the AAPG Student Chapter Committee.

Procedure
The committee’s decision is announced by the Student Chapter Committee chair.

Description of Award
The Ozan Sungurlu Memorial Award for the Best International Student Poster is $500 cash and a certificate.

History
This award is named in honor of Ozan Sungurlu, who was vice president of exploration at the Turkish Petroleum Corporation and was instrumental with the affiliation of the Turkish Association of Petroleum Geologists with AAPG. Ozan Sungurlu was a role model to many young geologists, creating opportunities for them to get the international education and modern geological thought overseas.

This award was established in January 2001 by the Executive Committee of the Association.

Funding
Funding for the award is provided by the AAPG Foundation Awards Fund through generous contributions by the Sungurlu Family, A.M. Celal Sengor and Pinar O. Yilmaz, as a lasting memorial to Ozan Sungurlu.