



AAPG

Eastern Section

May 16, 2016

Dear ES-AAPG Member,

May is the month of each year that represents renewal and new life for us all living in the Eastern Section. It is that time of year when I patiently wait for those insanely stubborn Wisteria blooms which never come (too much nitrogen in the soil I am told). More importantly, it is the month when a new crop of highly-educated, ambitious young geoscience professionals emerge from the hundreds of universities around the east. Graduation finally is here for all those students from Wisconsin to New Jersey, Maine to Georgia. In aggregate, there will be literally thousands of young professionals competing for a wide range of geoscience positions from petroleum, to environmental, government, and academia. Career placement departments in all of these universities have been working overtime with professors and students attempting to find meaningful jobs for all of our geoscience grads. Some will be fortunate and land a position with a vibrant growing company or perhaps with a geological survey. Many will choose to continue into a graduate program, thus greatly increasing their education, research skills, and future marketability. Unfortunately however, many will find it difficult if not impossible to get that long awaited job.

Oil and gas companies across the country are reacting to market conditions and cutting budgets, programs and staff. Many of the major oil companies appear weekly in news headlines announcing dramatic deep cuts going further than anyone would have imagined a few short years ago. We all know this industry downturn can't go on forever, but the wait is brutal. Although oil and gas jobs are in short supply there may be more plentiful opportunities in the environmental field. AAPG's Division of Environmental Geosciences has many helpful resources for graduates looking for a career in the environmental geosciences. Check out the [AAPG website](#) for more information.

So what is the message being sent to the new grads who may feel like they are being pushed from an airplane without a parachute? Thoughts of uncertainty may be whirling through their heads. "Perhaps this is a clear signal to change career path?" or "Did I get the wrong advice?" or "How can I possibly compete with so many others in the same boat?" As a geoscience professional who has gone thru these cycles I can say that the reward of staying in the game is well worth the battle at hand. If you are passionate about the geosciences and are tenacious in your search for a job, you will be successful and will eventually find employment. It may take a while and you will be turned down again and again, but the truth is we are living in a world that has an unrelenting thirst (and need) for cheap energy. There is no end in sight to the growing demand for all kinds of energy resources, particularly fossil fuels, and there will always be a need for well educated, hard working creative geoscientists. The key is staying in the game.

In the Interim...

Perhaps now is a good time to take a training class you have been thinking about. Consider working in a related field until things begin to improve in the market. Talk to other geoscientists at local society meetings, develop your professional network, or offer to help out with data collection or other tasks just to get a foot in the door. Volunteer at AAPG meetings, you will be amazed at the number of lasting contacts you will make. Keep up with your AAPG membership (now is time to renew for 2016-2017); take advantage of reduced dues and meeting registrations while you are in this transition. Get permission from a past employer to write a paper for the AAPG journal or to present in September. The important thing is to stay as busy and relevant as you can. And if you need to just take a job to make ends meet for the interim that is fine too. It will look better on your resume to have continuously worked or been busy taking classes or training, than to have to large gaps of unemployment. Be willing to take risks and get out of your comfort zone, talk to other geoscience professionals wherever and whenever you have the opportunity.

YP/DPA 'Pass the Baton' Event

Last week in Pittsburgh, our Young Professional (YP) Liaison Merrill Stypula and DPA President Mike Canich held an event called 'Passing the Baton.' As the name implies the event was meant to shed light on experienced professionals passing the baton, in this case advice, to young professionals. The event was well attended by over 20 YPs and EPs, and featured a panel of five EPs, each telling stories of their career journey and offering advice on how to weather the downturns in the petroleum industry. The EP panel was moderated by Dan Billman, with each of the seasoned professionals answering a variety of questions about the numerous challenges they faced in their careers, and how they survived the up and down cycles with which we are all too familiar. Bob Trevail told of how he moved from oil and gas to working for the provincial government (geological survey) for several years. Then when more opportunities arose in private industry he returned to working for a petroleum company. Lee Avary explained how she arrived at the WV Geological survey and eventually retired from that position after many fulfilling years of research, data collection and compiling information about the petroleum potential from around the state. In addition to the many technical reports and papers written while at the WVGES, the hallmark project for Lee was the widely known and referenced Appalachian Oil and Gas Atlas for which her contributions were momentous. Jeffrey Bruce spent the last half of his career overseas in Southeast Asia and explained the unique challenges and opportunities working for a major oil company in a foreign country. Doug Reif described the challenges of moving to 'where the work is' with a family, and shifting from large to small, then back to large company, several times throughout his career. There was a fair amount of discussion about taking risk, and getting outside of your comfort zone.

'Pass the Baton' Video soon to be made available to all Student Chapters

Dan Chandonais, who is our Student Chapter Liaison, contracted a professional videographer to record the entire event so that it could be shared with all of our student chapters. Hopefully soon, students across the Eastern Section will take the opportunity to view this useful and informative video to help prepare themselves for the challenges ahead as they enter the job market. And speaking of opportunities, all of you who are members of AAPG have the opportunity to access the wide variety of resources available on the AAPG website. There are hundreds of Search and Discovery presentations, past technical journal articles, DPA playmakers forum videos from recent events, and endless other scientific research resources that you as an AAPG member can freely access.

45th Annual Eastern Section Meeting in Lexington, KY – Deadline for Abstracts approaching fast!

One truly great opportunity lying ahead for the fall is our 45th Annual Eastern Section AAPG Meeting in Lexington, KY. Each of you has unique skills, experiences, areas of expertise or technical knowledge that is of great interest to others. Before the end of the week if you have not yet done so, please spend an hour or two writing an abstract describing the important work you have to present or talk about, and submit your abstract to the 2016 ESAAPG planning committee. Go to the website for the 2016 Annual Meeting <http://www.esaapgmtg.org/> for all the details.



From the meeting website, here is a verbatim list of technical session topics and proposed workshops and field trips which are in the planning stages right now.

Technical Session Topics (September 26-27)

- Mississippian/Pennsylvanian exploration
- Devonian shale exploration and development
- Utica/Point Pleasant exploration and development
- Cambrian stratigraphy, source rocks, and emerging plays
- Innovations in drilling and completion technologies
- Hydraulic fracturing, waste disposal, and induced seismicity
- Coal, tar sands, and energy minerals
- Structural geology of reservoirs and tectonic effects
- Shallow well horizontal drilling techniques and results
- Geophysics: gravity, magnetics, remote sensing, LiDAR
- Subsurface data distribution and access
- Geologic carbon storage: activity and issues
- Student-based research (undergraduate and graduate)
- Government: oil and gas regulation and policy

Proposed workshops and field trips (September 24-25 and September 28):

- Leasing and regulations; what geologists and royalty owners need to know
- Core displays
- Software training
- Pennsylvanian stratigraphy and depositional environments
- Berea sandstone and Devonian shales
- Karst landforms and Mammoth Cave
- Ordovician carbonate terroir of bourbon and thoroughbreds

2016 Student Expo and Job Quest

If you are a student or currently in between jobs there will be lots of networking opportunities at the meeting. As in past years, we will again be holding a student expo and job Quest over the weekend preceding the Annual Meeting. Dr. Tim Carr will be organizing the weekend Expo and Job Quest, and Dan Chandonais will once again be offering a free Student Leadership Workshop for all student chapter leadership. There will be a poster session and competition for students as well as interviews for which you can sign up. Keep watching our ES website for announcements about this as we get closer to the September date of the meeting.

2016 Honors and Awards Nominations

May is also the time of the year to think about those who have served in the past and are deserving of formal recognition by their peers. It is the time to nominate that outstanding professor who went out of his or her way to ensure you were prepared for the world after graduation. Just follow this link to our [ES-AAPG website](#) to nominate a deserving colleague or teacher. Please note deadline for submissions are June 30, 2016. Below is a list of the awards for which nominations are now being accepted.

- John T. Galey Memorial Award
- Honorary Membership Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- George V. Cohee Public Service Award
- Outstanding Educator Award
- Gordon H. Wood Jr. Memorial Award
- Division of Environmental Geosciences Meritorious Contributions Award (Eastern Section)
- Presidential Award

You may contact Joan Crockett, Honors and Awards committee chair, with any questions. These awards will be presented during the upcoming Annual Meeting at the Honors and Awards Ceremony on September 25, 2016.

Remember, there are thousands of members in our great section, many of whom have gone thru several downturn cycles in the petroleum industry. Look for opportunities to seek out their helpful advice by attending local, sectional and national AAPG meetings. It really is worth the risk!

Regards,



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