

C.S.P.G. PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 2008

In this, the 81st year of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and the International Year of Planetary Earth, the Society continues to evolve. Our mission of promoting the science of petroleum geology, fostering networking and professional development, and advancing community and national awareness of the profession remain constant, but the focus of the science, the demographics of our members, and the changing perception of the petroleum business in the community and nation have necessitated changes in the content and delivery of services and programs. Our staff and many volunteers have enabled our Society to move forward with energy and enthusiasm.

CSPG is moving to an annual strategic planning process so we can anticipate and manage the impact of changes on our industry. In addition to choosing specific goals to address during the operational year, this process will ensure that our staff are aligned with our goals and equipped to meet them, and that our volunteers have timely support. The top strategic priorities resulting from this fall's strategic workshop were to maintain our technical integrity (programs and services), volunteer management, and clarifying executive and staff roles.

One of the areas that the industry is going through a step change is in the application of geology and technology. The focus of exploration and development drilling for many petroleum companies has continued to shift toward the unconventional arenas of resource plays, including production from poor reservoir rock such as tight and shaley sands, siltstones, shales, and coals, and production of heavy oil. Advancing technologies like multi-staged fracs, coupled with the increasing sophistication of horizontal wells has changed the way we drill and complete. High attendance at Technical Luncheons featuring these topics, and standing room crowds in dedicated sessions at the Joint Annual Convention, show that CSPG is meeting a need within the geosciences community to understand new applications of our science.

Networking and professional development have also changed focus. Networking can now also be understood in the broader context of the engineering, geology, and geophysical community. Local and regional alliances between CSPG and other geosciences groups like CSEG, CWLS, APEGGA, and CFES are a start to helping members widen their sphere of influence and understanding. Shared events such as the Joint Annual Convention help to maximize benefit to members, use volunteer time efficiently, and decrease logistical costs.

The accelerating trend in professional development is away from classic big-company training grounds into the geologic community. The responsibility to offer basic entry level petroleum geology courses is falling to the professional organizations, and responsibility for career development rests with the individual. CSPG has increased both the number and frequency of courses being offered with great response from attending participants. Our monthly magazine, the *Reservoir*, is offering series of articles aimed at basic petroleum industry concepts. We are moving to joint efforts on national outreach programs at the K-12 level, and joining with other organizations for University Student Chapters.

Finally, financially, this year CSPG has again carried a slight deficit on our operating budget due mainly to high turnover and lengthy absences amongst our staff. Given the volatile market, restricted credit, and low commodity prices globally, we are looking at ways to cut costs while we prudently manage expenditures for next year.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Executive Board. I appreciate your hard work and dedication. It was my pleasure to be able to serve with you.

Below are the individual portfolio summaries.

SERVICES DIRECTORATE

(Jen Vezina, Ayaz Gulamhussein)

The Services Committee had a very exciting year in 2008. Annual events such as the Squash Tournament, Mixed Golf Tournament, Classic Golf Tournament, and 10K Road Race were all well attended and highly successful. The Past-President's Dinner and Long-Time Members reception were also well attended, and remain cornerstones in CSPG's social calendar.

In addition to the annual events, the Services portfolio also made major strides in revamping CSPG Awards. New award categories, which will be introduced in 2009, were created to accommodate the ever-changing face of petroleum exploration. Awards of historical significance were not altered.

Going forward, CSPG Services Committee is dedicated to increasing our membership base, while continuing to provide our current membership with quality services and events.

OUTREACH DIRECTORATE (Greg Lynch, Mike DesRoches)

Outreach featured many highlights for 2008, coming from both long standing programs and new initiatives. Of particular significance is the trend toward increased collaboration between CSPG, CSEG, and APEGGA, as the three groups have similar Outreach objectives and target groups – building strength through alliances.

In early February the second annual "Geoskills Day" brought together a large group of geosciences students from the University of Alberta and University of Calgary for a day of workshops, lectures and networking in downtown Calgary. Specialists from industry, government, and academia shared their knowledge with the large contingent of receptive students. The event was hugely successful and students responded with high ratings, and a desire to see the event return in 2009. Here the students also heard about CSPG's newly minted 100 Student Jobs program which now features a weblink helping students find work opportunities in industry, or acts as a placement service for employers.

Highlights from spring include the annual Student Industry Fieldtrip (SIFT), as well as the Kids in Science Program (KISP). SIFT continues to be recognized as one of CSPG's most successful programs with a longstanding tradition. University students from across the country continue to maintain a keen interest in SIFT as an important gateway into petroleum geology, and SIFT alumni continue to give back to the program well after graduation. KISP on the other hand targets younger junior high students, who have the opportunity to take part in the CSPG-CSEG Convention, and also benefit from classroom visits by working professionals.

CSPG University Outreach maintains a high level of activity all year round, by supporting student chapters from a majority of the Earth Science Departments across the country, by organizing lecture tours, and supporting regional Inter-University Geoscience Conferences.

A new initiative for University Outreach in 2008 was the very successful "Summer-SIFT", comprising a one day fieldtrip to the Drumheller area for summer students working in the Calgary area. This activity also received high accolades and a number of companies indicated that this helped fulfill an important role for them in ensuring a wide range of exposure for their students in their summer work experience – look for it again in 2009.

In the fall the featured event is the annual Honorary Address, which for 2008 took an innovative approach by incorporating sedimentology with the science of big wave surfing, in order to reach out to a broader audience; as such we saw an increase in attendance, and now a whole new generation of surfers know about hummocky cross-stratification and the broad appeal of the geosciences. In the area of our national presence, discussions are ongoing with other societies

regarding a possible merger of student chapters; also special sessions on sedimentology and petroleum geology continue to be sponsored by CSPG at conventions from other societies; the Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN) is also supported by CSPG with a program extending across the country; and a webcast for the Honorary Address can be viewed from anywhere.

PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE (Randy Rice)

The Programs Directorate had a largely successful year. Many of the Technical Divisions offered regular monthly morning or noon hour talks that were very well attended and received. Of special mention is the Heavy Oil and Oil Sands Division, a new Technical Division this year sponsored by RPS Energy. Despite the early hour of 8:00 am, all talks are at or exceeding the capacity of the meeting room. Also, very well attended noon hour talks have been offered by the Structural and Basin Analysis and Sequence Stratigraphy divisions.

The committees under the umbrella of the Programs Directorate have also had a good year. Of special note is the Continuing Education Committee that offered short courses and field trips for CSPG membership at both the spring convention and a dedicated fall Education Week. A very well organized Gussow Conference this year focused on the geological perspective on Climate Change.

As has been the case in previous years, the Technical Luncheon Committee continued to offer the membership timely and scientifically relevant noon hour presentations.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE (Peggy Hodgkins)

The Communications Directorate is running smoothly with the branches of the portfolio operating independently and successfully. These branches include the *Reservoir*, the *Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology*, the Electronics Communications Committee, the Digital Atlas, Public Affairs, Publications Initiations, Publications Index, and the *Geological Calendar*.

Glen Stockmal and his committee continue to ensure that the *Bulletin* contains excellent papers on a variety of petroleum geology related topics. The Electronics Committee, responsible for the CSPG website and chaired by Astrid Arts, has made the eNewsletter one of the vital ways in which members obtain information on Society events. One of the most visited pages on the CSPG website is the Publications Index, which is run by Peter Hay (chair of the Publications Index Committee). This index on geological publications is used by members and non-members alike. Under the leadership of David Hills, the Geological Calendar Committee published another successful calendar for 2009. This year there was a cash prize for best Canadian photo to encourage the submissions of more Canadian content.

One of the main highlights for 2008 includes the expanded content of the *Reservoir*. The decision was made to expand the *Reservoir* content this year from 48 to 56 pages. The idea is to make the *Reservoir* not only a vehicle for disseminating information to CSPG members, but to make it a source for education as well, especially for junior members. This expansion is in part due to the continued solicitation and submission of series articles, which appear in 6-7 consecutive issues of the *Reservoir*. These series include: *Reservoir Engineering for Geologists*, the *Windemere Series*, and the *Volunteer Profiles* series which has received much positive feedback. These series engage the reader as well as give the Reservoir Committee confidence in planning the content of the *Reservoir* for months to come. Thanks to the Committee for their hard work and dedication in getting more content and advertising to make this growth possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Griffith
2008 C.S.P.G. President