

Total E&P UK Receives Corporate Support Award

Total E&P UK won the 2008 SPE North Sea Regional Distinguished Corporate Support Award, for which it was nominated by the SPE Aberdeen Section. Total E&P UK was nominated for the innovative sponsorship of the SPE University of Strathclyde Student Chapter through 2007, showing a personal and corporate commitment in providing the services of Masud Javaid (a senior well performance engineer at Total) as treasurer to SPE Aberdeen Section, making presentations, and featuring SPE in its company magazine.

The SPE Regional Distinguished Corporate Support Award recognizes outstanding support by an organization and distinguished service to SPE members in the region through excellence in leadership and through the commitment of time, energy, and professional resources. It is intended to recognize companies that help make contributions to the support of SPE membership, programs, and events and not solely through financial assistance to the society or the petroleum industry.



John Donachie (right), SPE North Sea Regional Director, presents the 2008 SPE North Sea Regional Distinguished Corporate Support Award to Total. From left: Stewart Strang, Ricardo Darre, and Martin Banks accept the award on behalf of Total.

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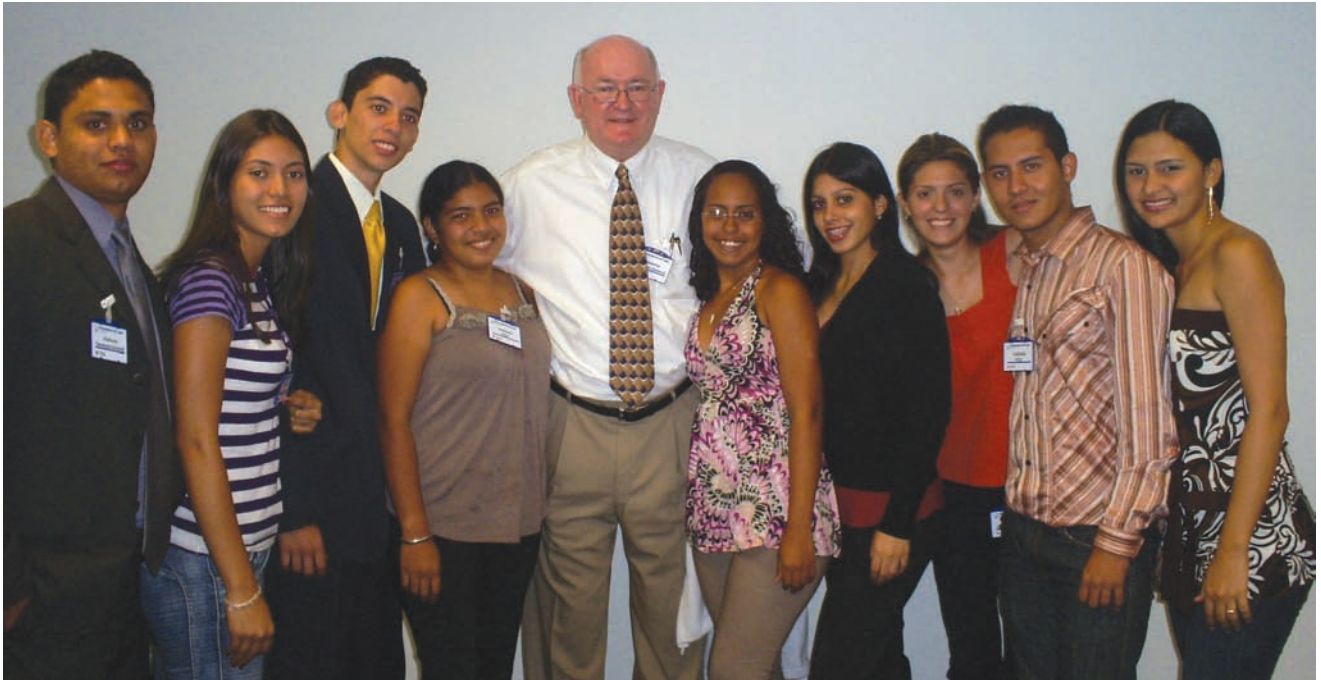
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Bill Cobb, 2008 SPE President, visits with students from the SPE Maracaibo Section at the PDVSA Petroregional del Lago facilities in Venezuela. From left: Marco Gonzalez, Marian Márquez, Francisco Mèndez, Keilly Morales, Cobb, Meralys Martinez, Noheli Rivas, Tiffany Beuses, Carlos Rivas, and Karelyn Camarillo.



The SPE Gulf Coast Section and SPE International donated USD 5,000 each, a total of USD 10,000, to the Red Cross for Hurricane Ike relief. The contributions were used to help provide food and shelter to residents who were displaced from their homes. From left: Bill Bowers, SPE Gulf Coast Section Chairperson; Susan Howes, SPE Gulf Coast North America Regional Director; and Davis Henderson, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Houston Area Chapter, American Red Cross.



On 2 October, the newly formed SPE Central Arkansas Study Group held its first event. The study group was attended by 65–70 people and featured Gene Brock, President, STW Resources, who spoke on the topic of water reclamation. Pictured here are Judah Epstein (left), SPE Central Arkansas Study Group Chairperson, and Sean Burke (right), SPE Central Arkansas Study Group Program Chairperson, at registration.



On 13 August, the SPE Balcones Section celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Petroleum Club of San Antonio, Texas. Pictured here are Balcones Section officers with 2008 SPE President Bill Cobb. From left: Harry Garvey, Treasurer; Bryan Williams, Event Coordinator; Charlie Stockton, Program Chairperson; Cobb; Elizabeth Cantrell, Secretary/Scholarship Chairperson; and Jeff Marshall, Chairperson.

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Emmanuel Egbogah, SPE Regional Director, Africa and Nigerian Presidential Adviser on Energy Matters, delivering a welcome address to the SPE-I delegation and SPE Nigeria Council Members.

Young Professionals Garner Much Discussion

In addition to the main conference, a young professionals (YPs) workshop was held on 3 August which brought together representatives of the various SPE Nigeria student chapters as well as oilfield professionals under the age of 35. The workshop, which was chaired by one of the board members of the SPE Nigeria Council and attended by Mellissa Schulte, Lawrence Slade, Frances Leon (all from the SPE London office), and Bill Cobb, provided presentations on what YPs are doing now and what is needed to encourage them to participate in more SPE conferences, both in Nigeria and internationally. "It was really about encouraging greater involvement for their own professional development," Akhigbe said.

A student chapter contest was also held in which each SPE student chapter from across Nigeria made presentations about what they do, gave full reports on their funding, and what

they did with the money. They were also ranked by the level of social work and awareness they created amongst their local communities.

"Prior to the YP workshop, Bill Cobb held a meeting with the four SPE Nigeria section chairs," said Akhigbe. "The purpose of the meeting was to discuss our activity in Nigeria sections and determine what level of support is required. Bill's final comment was to challenge each section to more fully support both the students and the young members in attending workshops and conferences to encourage their professional growth and also guarantee the future of SPE at the sections."

The sections were encouraged to reach out more to both their YPs and the companies that employ them. "We are going to have the various section chairmen talk to the management of the various companies in an effort to allow YPs to participate in more SPE conferences," Akhigbe confirmed. **JPT**