SPE Board Nominees Announced: 2014 SPE President and Slate of Directors

Jeff Spath is the nominee for 2014 Society of Petroleum Engineers president. He and nine others make up the slate of nominees recommended for SPE Board positions by the society’s Nominating Committee and Board of Directors. These recommendations are based on nominations submitted via SPE’s nominating process (see sidebar).

**2014 SPE President**

Jeff Spath is vice president of industry affairs for Schlumberger, based in Houston. Prior positions with the company include president of the Reservoir Management Group and president of Data and Consulting Services. He joined Schlumberger as a well testing field engineer in 1984 and has held various global positions in reservoir engineering, research, and management.

Spath has served as the SPE Board’s Technical Director for Management and Information and as an SPE Distinguished Lecturer. In 2011, he was named an SPE Distinguished Member. He has published 24 technical papers and holds 14 patents. Spath earned BS and MS degrees in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University and a PhD in reservoir engineering from the Mining University of Leoben, Austria.

**Vice President, Finance**

Janeen Judah is general manager for Chevron's Southern Africa Business Unit, based in Houston. Prior positions include president of Chevron Environmental Management Company and general manager of reservoir and production engineering for Chevron Energy Technology Company. Before joining Chevron, she worked for Texaco and ARCO in various upstream petroleum engineering positions, starting in Midland in 1980.

Judah has held many SPE leadership positions, including chairing both the Gulf Coast and Permian Basin sections and serving on the Board during 2003–06 as director for the Gulf Coast North America Region. She was named an SPE Distinguished Member in 2003 and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2010. Judah holds BS and MS degrees in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University, an MBA from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and a JD from the University of Houston Law Center.

**Technical Director, Reservoir Description and Dynamics**

Olivier Houzé is the managing director of KAPPA Engineering. He joined Flopetrol-Johnston in 1983, and served as a well test field engineer in the Middle East and a software project leader in France. He cofounded KAPPA in 1987 and has been its managing director since 1991.

Houzé has been involved in numerous SPE forums and workshops on well test interpretation and related topics. He was a coauthor of the last SPE Monograph on Pressure Transient Testing (2009). He also serves as an editor for the SPE Production & Operations Journal, serves on the JPT Editorial Committee, and received SPE's A Peer Award in 2011. Houzé holds a BS in petroleum engineering from the University of Alberta, Canada.

Shauna Noonan works as a wells supervisor in the Completions and Production Technology Group for ConocoPhillips in Houston. She began her career working for Chevron Canada Resources and has worked on artificial lift projects worldwide at Chevron and ConocoPhillips for more than 19 years. The author or coauthor of numerous papers on the subject of artificial lift, she has also chaired many industry artificial lift forums.

Noonan was chair of the ISO standard committee for progressing cavity pumps and is current chair of the ISO standard committee for electric submersible pumps. She has been a member of the SPE Production and Operations Advisory Committee for several years, is an associate editor for the SPE Production & Operations Journal, serves on the JPT Editorial Committee, and received SPE’s A Peer Award in 2011. Noonan holds a BS in petroleum engineering from the University of Alberta, Canada.

Environmental Management Company and general manager of reservoir and production engineering for Chevron Energy Technology Company. Before joining Chevron, she worked for Texaco and ARCO in various upstream petroleum engineering positions, starting in Midland in 1980.

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SPE Distinguished Lecturer for 2012–13. Houzé earned an engineer degree from École Polytechnique in France and an MS in petroleum engineering from Stanford University.

**Director, Middle East Region**

Fareed Abdulla is a senior vice president at Abu Dhabi Company for Oil Operations (ADCO) in the United Arab Emirates. With more than 30 years’ oil and gas industry experience, he worked in various technical disciplines across ADCO mostly in its Petroleum Development Division. Abdulla joined ADMA-OPCO as head of reservoir engineering in 1995, and in 1999 returned to ADCO as field development manager for the Bu Hasa, Bab, and North East Bab fields. In 2000 he was appointed petroleum development manager, whereby he was engaged with projects related to developing new reservoirs and fields. In 2007 he was appointed assistant general manager (existing development). Since early 2010, ADCO has adopted a new asset organization within which Abdulla looks after Bab field and gas reservoirs as senior vice president.

Abdulla has served as a member, chaired, or co-chaired several committees for SPE-related forums and conferences. He earned a BS in petroleum engineering from West Virginia University in the US.

**Director, Rocky Mountain North America Region**

Mike Eberhard is completion engineering manager for Anadarko Petroleum’s Rockies horizontal well program, based in Denver. Throughout his career he has primarily been focused on hydraulic fracturing and well completions optimization. Most notably while at Halliburton he was involved with the first horizontal Bakken wells 12 years ago.

Eberhard has been active in SPE, holding several section positions, regional meeting positions, and committee chairs. He was an SPE Distinguished Lecturer during 2009–10 and has written several SPE papers and industry articles. He holds a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Montana State University and is a registered professional petroleum engineer in the state of Colorado.

How Board Members Are Nominated

Anyone can nominate a candidate for a Board position. The nomination period opens in September each year, and runs through 1 December for the position of president, and through 15 December for other open Board positions.

Next year’s list of open positions, nominee qualifications, and nomination forms, as well as further submission guidelines, will be available sometime during September at this location: http://www.spe.org/about/nominate.php. The process involves filling out an online nomination form and attaching supporting documents that include a CV, résumé, and letters of support.

About the Board of Directors

SPE is governed by a 27-person Board of Directors composed of member representatives from around the world. Each of SPE’s regions and Board-endorsed technical specialties are represented by a director. These directors, together with two at-large directors, the president, president-elect, immediate past president, and vice president of finance, constitute the SPE Board of Directors.

About the Election Process

Submissions made using the online process are reviewed by the Nominating Committee. This committee is chaired by the immediate past president and meets in January to make recommendations for the available positions. The 14-member 2012 Nominating Committee Roster can be viewed at http://www.spe.org/about/docs/nominatingroster.pdf.

Nominating Committee recommendations are submitted to the Board of Directors for ratification at its March meeting. Members can consider the Board-approved nominees through biographical information provided through the article you are reading, which is mandated to appear in the April issue of the Journal of Petroleum Technology.

The SPE Constitution provides for these nominees to stand as elected unless SPE members nominate additional candidates by 1 June. Additional nominations require a petition from at least 1% of SPE membership or, for Regional Director nominees, 1% of the region’s membership (with no more than 75% of the petitioners from any one section). The Constitution also specifies provisions for a ballot election if any qualified petitions are received by 1 June. These can be sent via regular mail to SPE headquarters, to the attention of the Board Nominating Committee, or by email to sbruenning@spe.org.

If the Board slate is elected, the person nominated president would take office as president-elect at the close of the society’s Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (held this year in San Antonio, Texas, 8–10 October). The other nominees would begin 3-year terms at this time as well.
SPE BOARD NOMINATIONS

**Director, Africa Region**

Tony Ogunkoya is founder and principal consultant of Upstream Oil and Gas Consulting, based in Lagos, Nigeria. He worked for Elf Petroleum Nigeria and the Elf Aquitaine Group for 14 years in the drilling and completion department in Nigeria, Angola, and the UK. Following this, he joined Schlumberger’s Integrated Project Manager Segment for which he worked in various field and operation management positions in Gabon, Congo, Nigeria, and Angola. He was general manager Schlumberger Oilfield Services responsible for Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Democratic Republic of Congo from mid-2006 until September 2010, when he retired.

Ogunkoya is chair of the SPE Membership Committee and is a member of the 25-Year Club. He earned an MS degree in offshore engineering from The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK.

**Director, Western North America Region**

Tom Walsh is managing partner and founder of Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska (PRA), an integrated oil and gas consulting firm based in Anchorage, Alaska. Walsh worked as an exploration and production (E&P) geophysicist for Sohio Petroleum and British Petroleum for the first half of his 32-year career, participating in the exploration and development phases of many of the producing fields on the North Slope of Alaska. Since founding PRA in 1997, he has focused on managing integrated teams of oil and gas consultants in support of E&P projects for major oil and gas companies, independents, and Alaska Native Corporations.

Walsh has authored and coauthored professional papers on reservoir characterization and hydrate exploitation, and is presently working on a gas storage project in Cook Inlet, Alaska. He earned BS degrees in geology and physics from the University of California, Santa Cruz.
Bryant Mueller is the US operations manager for Aclaro Softworks, based in Houston. His work experience includes drilling and production engineering at Unocal; flow assurance and facilities engineering at Baker Jardine and Associates; and product development, marketing, sales, and operations management for Schlumberger Information Solutions.

Mueller serves on the industrial advisory board for the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Tulsa, where he earned his BS degree in mechanical engineering.

Ron Morris joined ROC in September 2008 as general manager, Beibu operations, and was appointed president, Roc Oil (Bohai) Company and Roc Oil (China) Company in 2009. With more than 30 years’ experience, he has worked as a petroleum engineer with Chevron Texaco and with OriOx Energy Associates in a number of executive management positions. Morris has worked in remote areas of Angola, China, Burma, and Colombia as well as North Sea European and North American locations. He has extensive operational experience, both with new developments and existing fields. He was the president of foreign operator for the CACT foreign cooperation project with China National Offshore Oil Corporation from 1998 to 2002.

Morris is past chairperson of the Aberdeen, Scotland, SPE Section; the SPE Northern China International Section, Beijing; and the SPE Southern China Section, Shekou. He also was a member of the UK and US SPE councils. In 2003, he was awarded the SPE Asia Pacific Regional Service Award; in 2001, he was awarded the Guangdong Friendship Award by the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Foreign Experts; and in 1992, he served as an SPE Distinguished Lecturer. Morris holds a BS degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Oklahoma and an MS degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University. JPT