

## IMPACTING LIVES—MAKING A DIFFERENCE STUDENTS TAKE CENTER STAGE TO THANK DONORS AT FOUNDATION LUNCHEON

Each year, the SEG Foundation brings together its generous donors—both individual and corporate—for a celebration of the year's programmatic and individual successes. But in 2013, the Foundation shook its program up a bit. In addition to its regular format, the audience received a special treat as the Foundation featured a powerful video showing the wide-ranging and long-lasting impact of SEG and SEG Foundation programs on its youngest members.

Showcasing eight students from around the world, the video, "Impacting Lives: SEG Foundation Donors Making a Difference," gave attendees a firsthand look at how their contributions of time and money are paving the way for the future generation. The students, ranging from scholarship and travel grant recipients to field camp and University and Student Program participants, each brought a unique perspective on how SEG and the Foundation made a difference in their lives.

"Before I got to know SEG, I was working for a Malaysian national oil company. And then I came to the United States, and I got to know SEG through the PhD program that I am currently in," said Azie Aziz, a Malaysia native, SEG Scholarship recipient and 2010 SEG/ExxonMobil Student Education Program (SEP) Denver participant. "And I got more involved with SEG by actively participating in its Student Chapter program. For a student, it is a great place because it is a place to launch his or her career."

"I first heard about SEG at the beginning of my studies and during the start of my professional career—and I realized that it is a society of the highest level of expertise, which gives you a lot of great opportunities for further development," said Daria Daudina, a Russia native who participated in the 2012 Serbia SEP. "And probably one of the most important benefits is that whenever you start with SEG, you are hardly ever finished."

While merely saying thank you is an easy task for people, the sheer amount of gratitude from these students was evident from their video clips. "I think that SEG helps fund SAGE because the members really understand the value that SAGE brings to the students in geophysics," said American Christopher "Kit" Harper. "As a participant in SAGE for the last two years, I would like to say thank you to the members of SEG who have donated and continue to support the program."

Echoing his thoughts was fellow SAGE participant and American Joey Fontana. "Thank you again for all of those who donated to the program. It truly means a lot to me

that you took the time out of your day to research and find a good program to allow students in my field to learn more about this and enhance their skills for success in the future."

Throughout the video, many students also stressed just how vital it is for donors to continue contributing to the Foundation—and how they wish to also promote SEG in their own lives and careers.

"It is very important for the geosciences community to be involved with the academic community to show the students that you care for them, for the future young professionals around the world," said Emilia Ranete, a Romania native and 2013 SEP Berlin participant.

"It is an important thing to see and find out that someone has 100% confidence in your strengths. Please donate. Help the students become more involved with the geosciences community. Help the students to see that the geosciences community is interested in their education and their gaining of new knowledge."

"SEG is one of the best professional societies that reaches out to the world—dedicated to promoting the science of geophysics," said Dineo Sefemo, a native of Botswana and 2010 SEG/Chevron Student Leadership Symposium (SLS) participant. "I will keep on sharing and passing the SEG legacy. One day I will get to the top and will help others to receive this opportunity that I was given as well. SEG, you are the best. Thank you."

Two Russian students, Sultan Safin and Anna Aleksandrovskaia, both expressed how they each will build on their experiences with SEG and the Foundation to bring forth positive changes not only in themselves but also in others.

"This kind of program and donating to this kind of travel grant—this is the best thing we can do to connect students,



*In the video "Impacting Lives: SEG Foundation Donors Making a Difference," SEG Scholarship Recipient Azie Aziz talks about his experiences with SEG and the impact of donations made to the SEG Foundation.*

## Foundation recognizes corporate renewals, thanks volunteers at Donor Luncheon

Although the student-featured video was the highlight of the Donor Luncheon, the Foundation took time to recognize donors and volunteers for their ongoing support of not only the Foundation but also the 18 SEG programs supported through donors.

Foundation Board of Directors Chair Tom Smith thanked everyone who contributes daily to the Foundation's successes. He was followed by SEG President Dave Monk, who singled out several individuals for their contributions to both SEG and the SEG Foundation: Wang Tiejun, president of BGP, Inc. (in support of SEG Online), Alfred Liaw (2013 SEG Board Special Lecture Series), Tim Berge (Life Membership), Arthur Cheng (Life Membership), and Mike Forrest (Life Membership).

Smith returned to the podium, shifting the program in recognition of the 22 corporate partners whose investments in SEG have allowed the Society to build new, instrumental opportunities for students pursuing degrees in the geosciences; industry professionals seeking to gain advanced professional development; and opportunities for industry to serve the greater community. Since 2006, several companies have cumulatively gifted more than \$1 million to the Foundation: Shell Oil (Honorary Lecture Program), Chevron (SEG/Chevron Student Leadership Symposium), Schlumberger (Geoscientists *Without Borders*), Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (Scholarship Program), ExxonMobil (SEG/ExxonMobil Student Education Program), PGS (SEG Online and Geoscientists *Without Borders*), and Statoil (IQ Earth).

Following the \$1 million corporate recognition, the program shifted into the celebration of three corporate renewals to SEG programs. First asking CGG's CEO Jean-Georges Malcor to the join him on the stage, Smith announced that CGG made a second five-year commitment of \$250,000 to the Distinguished Lecture Program.

Smith then invited Shell Vice President of Geophysics David Schewitz to join him onstage to announce the company's five-year new commitment of \$1.25 million—currently making Shell the Foundation's largest single-gift donor exceeding \$2.5 million.

Smith invited TGS Chief Executive Officer Robert Hobbs to the stage to celebrate the company's five-year \$500,000 support to the Field Camp Program. TGS has been one of the strongest proponents and supporters of field camp programs.

Without the dedicated and passionate volunteers, the SEG Foundation would have a difficult time developing, coordinating, and operating its programs. Smith recognized members of both the SEG and Foundation boards, in addition to all the members of the various program committees.

"Our committee membership serves a vital role in supporting our program; from strategic discussions and making program improvements to reviewing applications, making award recommendations, and mentoring our youth—they are our program ambassadors around the world," he said.

Next the program focused on Trustee Associates (TA). Since 1989, the TAs have grown to 240 individuals who believe in the Foundation's mission of supporting the advancement of geophysics and inspiring future geoscientists. Since the 2012 Donor Luncheon, the Foundation has added 12 new Trustee Associates: Allen Gilmer, Gary Jones, Bill Langley, Henry Pettingill, Kayleen Robinson, Simon Robinson and Lia Mills, Paul Schlrif, C. David Smith, Robert and Vivian Talley, Michael Thornton, Richard and Nancy White, and Earl and Reba Griffin. Hank Hamilton, the Foundation's first Sustaining Trustee Associate and Development Committee Chair, recognized these new TAs for their generosity and support and announced the formation of the Sustaining Trustee Associates, a group of TAs who are leading by example with new personal commitments of \$2,000 per year to sustain a strong Annual Fund.

Hamilton closed his portion of the program by recognizing Decker Dawson with a Lifetime Service Award; David Worthington for his ongoing and enthusiastic support of the Scholarship Program since 1999; and Charlie and Jean Smith, who generously made an additional gift to their existing scholarship endowment this year, growing it to more than \$500,000—the second-largest individual endowed scholarship.

At the end of the luncheon, Smith reiterated the message shared throughout the Donor Luncheon and video—that it is only because of generous donors that the Foundation is able to impact the lives of the professionals and students in the geophysical community.

Thank you to all the support of friends, donors, and volunteers of SEG and the SEG Foundation.



*SEG Foundation Chair Tom Smith thanks TGS Chief Executive Officer Robert Hobbs in appreciation of TGS' second five-year \$500,000 commitment to the Field Camp Program.*

*Editor's note: Geoscientists Without Borders is a registered trademark of SEG Foundation.*



*Christopher "Kit" Harper, SAGE Field Camp participant, thanks SEG for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field.*

smart intelligent students, and companies—to bring together new minds, fresh ideas, innovations to our industry and help us to succeed in the future,” said Safin, a 2012 SEP Serbia participant and 2013 Houston SLS participant. “As for me, my goal after graduating with my master’s degree is to become one of the best professionals in the oil and gas industry and to help a society such as SEG to grow and connect more students and professionals.”

“As I’m very keen on geophysics and oil-field geophysics and new methods of oil-field geophysics, this leadership symposium will give me an opportunity to get some new information about the methods and the techniques of oil-field geophysics, and I will bring it to our region,” Aleksandrovskaia said of her participation in the 2013 Houston SLS. “This travel grant means a lot to me. I’m sure that it will change my life. I am ready for change. I am happy to change. And I am ready for the new challenge.”

Just as the video was ending, the theme of the Donor Luncheon was best recapped by Aziz:

“It is important for the existing donors to continue contributing to the Foundation. And to those who have been thinking about donating ... what are you waiting for?”

To learn more about the SEG Foundation, and to also view the video, please visit [www.seg.org/foundation](http://www.seg.org/foundation). For other highlights of the 2013 Donor Luncheon, please see the accompanying article. **TLE**

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