



## The Future of the National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists

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As the current president I feel that it is imperative that I take on the ominous task of predicting the future of the NABGG. The future of any non-profit organization is always in question and oftentimes may come down to a role of the dice. A large number of complex economic industry and political factors strongly affect our future existence. That being said there is a lot that the organization's history of "**30 Years of Educational Excellence**" tells us about the next 20-30 years.

I recently visited with a University class, as a NABGG representative and talked about my own career and all the political and economic challenges that have occurred and as I left them I reflected on the fact that this organization had managed to survive all of those occurrences as well. We reviewed the mergers and acquisitions, downsizing, industry redirection, global politics, natural disasters, and numerous other factors. I hope that at the end of our discussion that I left them with two simple things, ground yourself scientifically, and be adaptable to change. The reflective process continued with the realization that the NABGG has always been made up of a diverse well scientifically grounded group of geoscientists that span industry, academia, and government. The organization's leadership has also varied over time; however the direct focus of the objectives has remained constant.

As an oil industry scientist, I clearly understand the economic times associated with this industry and the fact that our membership is heavily laden with others like me and thus affected by its reaction to market fluctuations. The complexities of the challenges facing our nation related to energy policy are enormous and somewhat immeasurable. Are we at "Peak Oil" production? Is "Peak Gas" only 20 years away? The fact is, 2/3 of the world's oil reserves are still concentrated in the OPEC nations and although gas reserves are a bit more widespread the world is still struggling to keep pace with continued economic growth and industrialization.

What does any of this have to do with the NABGG? Well in my opinion these factors point to reasons for optimism for continued organizational growth. The demand for oil and gas, environmental awareness, industrialization, and the development of a global workforce are just a few of the factors that continue to point to the need for additional geologists and geophysicists in all sectors. In addition there is the proverbial elephant in the room, technology. Technological advances continually reshape what we do and who we are as scientists. Changes in technology will have a significant effect on the future of our nation and how it utilizes its resources.

The NABGG will continue to grow because we realize that a critical resource that must be developed is the pool of science oriented underrepresented minority students that we seek to uncover and interest in Earth Science.