

Tina Soliman Hunter – Vice Chair Membership, Marketing & Communications Committee



Tina is the Director of the *Aberdeen University Centre for Energy Law (AUCEL)* and the Professor in Energy Law at the University of Aberdeen. She teaches and researches in the area of petroleum law, resources law in the Arctic and shale gas law. She has undertaken teaching, research and consultancies in numerous countries including the UK, Australia, Norway, Canada, Iceland, Greece, Finland, Russia, the USA and the Philippines. She has academic qualifications in marine sediments, geology, political science, and

information science. She received her PhD from the University of Bergen and has been a visiting scholar at a number of European, Australian and North American universities.

Her expertise in regulating of petroleum activities has been sought by many governments to undertake such activities as analysing petroleum laws, drafting legislation and advising governments, industry groups and NGO's worldwide. Professor Hunter is a member of the EU's *European Science and Technology Network on Hydrocarbon Extraction*, an Editor of *OGEL*, and Advisor to several bodies.

In the Spotlight

What career advice would you give your younger self?

Gain as much experience as you can and take every opportunity. It may mean getting up early and doing things you don't want to do, but any experience is good experience.

What do you think are the benefits of being a member of SPE?

There are three things that are fantastic about being part of SPE:

The events - I try to go to them, and don't always get there, but the slides and the information that comes from them is priceless. I have learnt so much, and without SPE I would not be able to bridge the law-science-engineering divide anywhere near as well.

Sense of belonging - this is a network of people who are interested in what I am interested in, and are from all parts – government, industry and academia. I can't think of any other organisation that brings people together like that.

When you come to a new city you instantly have people to connect with by attending section events.

Best Achievement so far?

Being skilled enough to be employed at University of Aberdeen, and then gaining my professorship.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

A veterinary surgeon. And I would have been if my maths, chemistry and physics skills were up to it!

What are the main career stepping stones you have taken?

Trained as a marine geologist/sedimentologist, but a rig injury meant no more field work. So then became a librarian (was a bit too noisy for that, and it's really boring), so then I went back and did law, and a PhD in law/field development at the University of Bergen, and have worked as an academic for the last 12 years.

Anything you would do differently?

Break less bones. Other than that, I have really loved the diverse background and the changes in career. It has been difficult starting again, but worth it. I probably should have spent less time as a librarian. 10 years was more than enough.

Who has been your greatest influence?

Probably not a who, but a what? History. If we look back over what we have done, whether it be extracting petroleum, wars, etc, we can usually see that we have done it before, and if we learn, we can avoid the same mistakes. By looking into the history, and the experiences of others, we can learn so much.

As for a person – Joseph Stalin. Vicious brute, but amazing that he could set a country on a path of collectivisation, and stick to it, and still have the vast majority of the population (except for the ones in gulags) love you for it.

What's your idea of perfect retirement?

Bothy in the Highlands, walking the hills, and writing papers about petroleum.

What would your autobiography be called?

'Don't jump onto the deck of an oil rig from a helicopter, and other stories of stupidity and disaster'.

What is the best way to motivate others?

Lead by example, give them the confidence to do the job by imparting the necessary skills and information, and support best endeavours.

Your favourite stress-buster?

Walking in the highlands with Hamish my stupid but adorable chocolate Labrador, who is the size of a small pony, yet only the brain capacity of a chicken.

What's your dream job?

Professor of Law at the University of Aberdeen, travelling the world teaching and researching – living the dream!

Where is your favourite place to go on holiday?

Russia. Next trip is the Trans –Siberian Railway.

What are you reading, listening to or glued to on TV?

Occupied. It is a Norwegian show that is about Norway turning off petroleum because of climate change, and the Russians 'coming to help' put it back on stream and staying. Helps me to maintain my Norwegian language skills and proves how rubbish my Russian is.

If you were a character in a TV series or movie who would you be?

Elmer Fudd.

What's on your bucket list – the things you still want to accomplish?

Professionally, would love to do petroleum engineering

Personally, lots of travel things. Sleep in a monastery, drive the R504 Kolyma Highway (the *Road of Bones*) from Yakutsk to Magadan in Russia, and also to learn to speak Russian fluently.

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