

Penn State University Team Wins 2018 Eastern Section Imperial Barrel Competition

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 7, 2018. (ES-AAPG) – Penn State University (PSU) won the top spot among nine teams participating in the two-day Eastern Section AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Competition (IBA), held at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel. The top placing PSU “Wisakedjak Exploration Group” team consists of Haley Ramirez, David Soto, Tim Witham, Brandon Clark, Safiya Alpheus and their Faculty Advisor Dr. Elizabeth Hajek. PSU will now move on to compete in the 2018 IBA Worldwide Competition in Salt Lake City, UT, held in conjunction with the Annual Convention and Exhibition of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. In this final round, to be held May 19, 2018, they will go up against winners from the five other US Sections and six International Regions. This will mark the fifth appearance of PSU in the IBA Worldwide Competition; twice coming away with consecutive 2nd Place finishes in 2015 and 2016. The PSU team takes home Eastern Section 1st place medals, a cash donation to their department, and an all-expense paid trip to the AAPG meeting.

The Eastern Section also recognized the 2nd Place team from Western Kentucky University and the third-place team from the University of South Carolina. 2nd and 3rd Place teams proudly went home with medals and a cash donation to their respective departments. In total, nine university teams from across the Eastern Section participated in the high stakes competition: Pennsylvania State University, Western Kentucky University, University of South Carolina, Binghamton University, Kent State University, Southern Illinois University, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, and Western Michigan University. Although only the top three placing teams receive medals and cash awards, those who make it to the end each earn Honorable Mention status, a notable accomplishment and worthy of recognition. The presentations are the culmination of 8 weeks of rigorous analysis and interpretation that ultimately lead up to a formal prospect presentation to a panel of energy professionals. The judges for the competition this year were: Joe Morris, consulting petroleum geologist; Junior Jenkins, Warrior Oil and Gas; and Craig Eckert, consulting petroleum geologist. The competition cannot be conducted without the generous support of our sponsors. This year’s sponsors include Appalachian Geological Society, Billman Geologic Consultants, Cabot Oil and Gas, Eastern Section of the AAPG, ExxonMobil, OMV Exploration & Production, Pittsburgh Association of Petroleum Geologists, Pittsburgh Geological Society, and Seneca Resources.

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