Dear Eastern Section Membership,

As we close out the first quarter of 2017, I wanted to send out an update on what has been happening with the Eastern Section since December.

**Winter Retreat**

The ES-AAPG Executive Committee held its 2nd annual Winter Retreat on February 11th and 12th in Charleston, WV. These retreats permit the discussion and general “housekeeping” of numerous Section issues, the resolution of which allow us to discuss and decide just the “big issues” at the full Council meetings held at ACE and at our ES Fall Meeting. In addition, this time also enables the Executive Committee to strategize and plan for the future of the Section. As a result of this year’s retreat, three new proposals will be presented to the Council at the meeting at ACE:

1) Creating an online archive of ES-AAPG records and documentation to serve as both a convenient file-sharing method for current Committee members, and as a redundant safety net for the “hard copy” archive run by Brian Keith in Bloomington, IN.

2) Formally purchase (at cost) the [www.esaapgmtg.org](http://www.esaapgmtg.org), [www.esaapgmtg.com](http://www.esaapgmtg.com), [www.esaapgmtg.net](http://www.esaapgmtg.net), and [www.esaapgmtg.info](http://www.esaapgmtg.info) web domain names from Brandon Nuttall (who has allowed us to use them for the past few years for free).

3) Starting in 2018, have the annual ES-AAPG meeting’s web site hosted and maintained by the ES-AAPG webmaster. This would allow faster start-up time for host committees, and allow for both a more secure and higher quality website than have typically been available for our annual meetings.

Full proposals of these topics will be presented at the ES-AAPG Council meeting on April 2nd.
AAPG Imperial Barrel Award (IBA)

*From the 2017 ES-AAPG IBA Chairs Lee Avary and Pete MacKenzie:*

**Western Kentucky University** confidently grabbed the top spot among the eleven teams participating in the Eastern Section AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Competition (IBA). The top placing WKU Hill-Topper team consists of Mike Arthur, Shelby Bowden, Jesse Boling, Matthew Bentley, and Matt Boudreaux and their Faculty Advisor Royhan Gani. WKU will now compete in the final round of the IBA in Houston, Texas, held in conjunction with the Annual Convention and Exhibition of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. In this final round they will go up against winners from the five US Sections and six International Regions. The WKU team takes home the 1st place medal, a cash donation to their department, and an all-expense paid trip to the AAPG meeting.

The Eastern Section also recognized the second-place team from **Western Michigan University** and the third-place team from **University of Kentucky**. The 2nd and 3rd place teams proudly went home with medals and a cash donation to their respective departments.

Eleven university teams from across the Section participated in the high stakes competition: Ball State Univ., Kent State Univ., Southern Illinois Univ., Univ. of Georgia, Univ. of Kentucky, Univ. of South Carolina, Univ. of Wisconsin, Univ. of Tennessee, West Virginia Univ., Western Kentucky Univ., and Western Michigan Univ. Although only the top three placing teams receive medals and cash awards, those who make it to the end each earn Honorable Mention Certificates, a notable accomplishment and worthy of recognition.

The presentations are the culmination of 8 weeks of 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 Pat Imbrogno, GEO-COM LLC, Bob Trevail, Orion Geological Services LLC, and Buddy Wylie, Cabot Oil & Gas.

AAPG’s Annual Convention and Exhibition will be held on April 2-5, 2017 in Houston, TX. At ACE, the Eastern Section Council will have its annual meeting on Sunday April 2nd at 1:00 - 2:30pm CT. I look forward to seeing many of you in Houston!

New book on AAPG history available April 1st

In association with the 100th anniversary of AAPG this year, AAPG Past President and 2012 Michel T. Halbouty Award winner Robbie Gries has authored a new book. The book Anomalies—Pioneering Women in Petroleum Geology: 1917 - 2017 is the culmination of several years of work researching the lives and careers of the first 100 women members of AAPG, for the AAPG 100th anniversary. Robbie and AAPG’s PROWESS committee (Professional Women in Earth Sciences) have been the driving forces behind this effort. There is also a documentary supported by the AAPG Foundation, which will be debuted at the Pioneering Women in Petroleum Geology-100 Years Forum at ACE. In addition, there will be a Celebration Wall on display at the Convention Center with a graphical time line, placing these women in the historic context of industry and world events. More info available in the flyer below.
Morgantown-2017

And remember, don’t forget to submit an abstract for the 2017 ES-AAPG Meeting in Morgantown, WV hosted by the Appalachian Geological Society on September 24-27. The Abstract Submittal window is OPEN! More info available at:  http://mapwv.gov/ESAAPG/

-John Hickman
ES President 2016-'17