AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program

The AAPG Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) is an annual basin/prospect evaluation competition for geoscience graduate students. The program is rigorous and contributes to AAPG's mission of promoting petroleum geoscience training and advancing geoscience students. University teams analyze a dataset in the 6-8 weeks prior to their local competition and deliver their results in a 30 minute presentation to a panel of industry experts. Students have the chance to use real technology on a real dataset, receive the feedback from an industry panel, have the opportunity to impress potential employers in the audience, and the chance to win cash prizes for their schools.

Background
The ‘Barrel Award’ at Imperial College has been part of the MSc Petroleum Geoscience course at Imperial College since 1976. The program originally focused on the North Sea, which at the time was a frontier basin where interpretations required the use of color pencils. Today Imperial College and the IBA use new technology to provide students the opportunity to interpret and evaluate vast data sets from around the world.

Although the technologies have changed, the key learning elements of the program remain remarkably similar to the original concepts. Teams must demonstrate: (1) evidence of rigorous and creative technical evaluations, (2) the ability to work to a strict deadline, (3) the ability to work effectively within a team (4) the ability to make decisions based on inadequate data, and (5) the ability to give lucid oral presentations to a panel of senior industry experts.

Program Specifics
Evaluation Team makeup:

1. Teams are expected to comprise graduate students only. As of January 1st of the competition year, 2 team members may be in their third academic year of graduate training, while the other team members must be in their first or second year of graduate training.
2. Participants must be full-time students with experience of no more than 6 months of industry internships or no more than 6 months of full-time employment as a professional geologist. Students who have worked as geologic technicians, data analysts, etc. will not have this work experience count toward their allowed 6 months.
3. There must be no fewer than 4 and no more than 5 team members per team. All team members must be present at the local and global competitions for the team to be eligible to compete. Special circumstances must be cleared 2 weeks prior to the competition date with the local or global committees respectively. Teams may not change team members between the local and global competitions.
4. All students on the team must speak equally during the presentation. The language of the presentation will be exclusively English without the aid of interpreters.
5. No student shall be allowed to compete in the IBA more than once. Previous experience would give that student’s team an edge during competition and would deprive an inexperienced student of having the chance to participate.

Datasets (only schools that make it to the competition are allowed to retain the datasets as teaching tools):

1. Regional in scale, with 2D/3D seismic and well data (e.g. petrophysical logs, cores, core analysis results, pressures, fluids, well tests, etc.).
2. Schools may do a literature search and may only acquire free data OUTSIDE the area of interest. No data may be acquired inside the area of interest or purchased.
3. One dataset per school year will be provided by the IBA committee via CD or DVD mailed to participating schools 8 weeks prior to the date of their local competition.
4. Schools are encouraged to donate datasets to the IBA technical library. After evaluation and acceptance, the dataset will be included in the normal dataset.
rotation. However, a school will not be allowed to use its own dataset because it may derive a competitive advantage from prior analytic experience.

Evaluation goals:
1. Complete a technical assessment of the prospectivity of the basin/area.
2. Define the key plays, petroleum systems, leads/prospects (including economics), and risks.
3. Make recommendations on future exploration activity based on prevailing technical and economic conditions.

How It Works:
- Universities with enough qualified students and a willing faculty advisor apply to participate in the program.
- Universities compete at the Regional or Sectional semi-final competitions. The top team from each Region and Section competes at the Imperial Barrel Award competition at the AAPG Annual Convention.
- AAPG and corporate sponsors provide funds for the 5 students’ and 1 advisor’s transportation, housing, and convention registration at the semi-finals (if funding is available) and the Annual Meeting. Note that meals outside of those listed below and other expenses (taxis, toothbrushes, etc.) are NOT covered by the AAPG or corporate sponsors.
- Competition Logistics for the Final:
  o 1st day (Friday) of the competition: Judging Panel A (3 judges) will hear 6 presentations (3 Section Teams, 3 Region Teams) and choose the top 3 from Group A. Judging Panel B will do the same for a Group B of similar makeup. Lunch will be provided and a student/advisor/sponsor/committee mixer will be held in the evening to encourage networking.
  o 2nd day (Saturday) of the competition: Judging Panel C will hear 6 presentations (Top 3 from Group A and Top 3 from Group B) and select the 1st through 3rd place teams. Lunch will be provided.
  o NOTE: Judges who will be judging the final on the 2nd day may not sit through any phase of the competition on the 1st day.
- Awards are given to the winning teams during the Student Reception.
  1st: The Imperial Barrel Award (plus $20,000)
  2nd: The Cup (plus $10,000)
  3rd: The Medal (plus $5,000)
  All other teams: Participation Prize ($1000 for each team)
- Each school is provided with:
  • The Barrel Award competition packet:
    o Introductory review and specific competition forms
    o Copy of the judging form.
    o Copy of a previous student presentation
    o Copy of the introductory lecture by Dr. Howard Johnson at Imperial College, explaining to students what the program is all about and how to work the datasets.
    o Materials specific to the local competition and Annual Convention.
  • The datasets to use in the program.
  • Invitations to the AAPG Student Reception at the Annual Convention.
**General Time-table:**

- Immediately contact Carol McGowan, Mike Mlynek, or your local Section or Region representative for application information. This will be published on the IBA website (www.aapg.com/iba).
- November 21, 2008 - The interest forms are due to AAPG.
- December 5, 2008 - Participating teams and the date of the local competition will be confirmed by the Section or Region coordinator to AAPG.
- December 19, 2008 - All Regions must formulate a strategy for obtaining travel visas for their teams and communicate it, along with any requests for assistance, to the AAPG Assistant Manager Member Services (Student Focus), Mike Mlynek.
- First week of January 2009 - Beginning of the dataset mailings to participating schools. Datasets will be mailed 8 weeks prior to local competition date. Note that this staggered mailing schedule is an unusual situation caused by this year’s late date for the Annual Convention.
- March 1--April 15, 2009 - Section and Regional competitions held.
- April 16, 2009 - Details of winning local teams must be sent to the AAPG Assistant Manager Member Services (Student Focus), Mike Mlynek, for the process of booking travel and designating lodging to begin.
- June 5 & 6, 2009 - Competition Friday and Saturday prior to the AAPG National Convention (June 7-10) in Denver Colorado.
- June 8, 2009 - IBA Awards Presentation at the Student Awards Banquet.

**Summary:**

Imperial Barrel Award student participants receive real world experience with their performance judged by industry experts, a chance to travel to the premier industry event to network with both future colleagues and future employers, and a chance to win accolades for themselves and cash prizes for their schools. Take this opportunity to encourage geoscience graduate students to explore what the energy industry has to offer.

If you are interested in taking part, please send the attached registration sheet to your local Section or Region IBA representative or to Mike or Carol. Please refer any technical dataset questions or dataset donations to Steve Veal. Thanks.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009 AAPG IBA Chairperson:</th>
<th>Connie Mongold</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:clmongold@aeraenergy.com">clmongold@aeraenergy.com</a></td>
<td>1.661.703.6922</td>
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<tr>
<th>AAPG Member Services Assistant Manager</th>
<th>Mike Mlynek</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:students@aapg.org">students@aapg.org</a></td>
<td>1.918.560.2653</td>
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<tr>
<th>AAPG Sections and Regions Manager</th>
<th>Carol McGowen</th>
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<th>2009 AAPG IBA Technical Subcommittee:</th>
<th>Steve Veal</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:europe@aapg.org">europe@aapg.org</a></td>
<td>011.44.2075.943.283</td>
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Yes, our school wishes to participate in the 2009 AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Section or Region semi-final competitions. If selected to represent our Section or Region, we also agree to travel to the AAPG Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado to compete on June 5th & 6th.

School Name: _______________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

Primary Contact:________________________________________________________________
Title: ______________________________________________________________________
Department: ________________________________________________________________
Telephone: _________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________________

Secondary Contact:________________________________________________________________
Title: ______________________________________________________________________
Department: ________________________________________________________________
Telephone: _________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________________

Additional Information:
In the space provided below, please specify computer software and hardware to be used in competition for dataset formatting. Please contact Steve Veal for answers about technical issues.

For more information contact:
Mike Mlynek Carol McGowen Steve Veal
students@aapg.org cmcgowen@aapg.org europe@aapg.org
US: 001-918-560-2653 US: 001-918-560-9403 UK: 011.44.2075.943.283

Please email this completed form to Carol, Mike, or your local competition representative.