On behalf of the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) Committee,

I would like to welcome you to the AAPG IBA Program. The IBA is a great opportunity for students and faculty to get your hands on real industry data. You will find countless opportunities to network and gain technical skills for your future endeavors. Having been a participant of the IBA in 2008, my teammates and I are lucky enough to have fulfilling careers within the petroleum industry, partly as a result of our experience competing. In talking with other former IBA students since 2008, I have compiled some tips for success:

- Read the rules, and adhere to them- don't lose points for something that could have been avoided
- If you have data / software problems, contact the committee as soon as possible. Also, test your software packages before the program begins.
- Seek out and set up technical training early. There are countless opportunities for technical training for students within the AAPG.
- Establish contact with mentors early- teams may invite a maximum of two industry professionals as consultants to provide mentorship on analysis and presentation (See SEC. 4: CONSULTANTS AS MENTORS, 4)
- Timing is everything- set strategic deadlines
- Teamwork- the most valuable skill you will take with you from the IBA
- Provided datasets are proprietary, teams are forbidden to share outside of the IBA competition (See SEC. 5: DATASETS)
- Datasets are regional-scale; variable quality subsurface data is common and acceptable as a normal aspect of exploration (See SEC 5: DATASETS, 3)
- Do not obtain, or use any outside data within the Assessment Area, one caveat- geotechnical publications in the public domain that deal with the regional setting of the area of the dataset are permissible. You will lose 10 points at the Region, Section, and Final competitions if outside data is used. Any team using additional data from within the assessment area in the Section and Region competitions will not be allowed to participate in the Final competition. It is the responsibility of the coordinators to monitor this at the semi-final competitions. (See SEC. 6: PROJECT DATA ANALYSIS, 7).
- Schools ARE allowed to acquire and use additional data from OUTSIDE the assessment area in their interpretation. (See SEC. 6: PROJECT DATA ANALYSIS, 8).
- If metric units are used in presentations, the equivalent in US units should be presented in brackets. (See SEC. 6: PROJECT DATA ANALYSIS, 10).

I wish you success in this competition and hope to meet you at your Regional and National events. And please, don’t hesitate to contact your coordinators or committee members for any questions.

Afton VanZandt
2008 IBA Participant
Current AAPG IBA Committee Co-Chair