



AAPG

Eastern Section

November 2, 2015

Dear ES-AAPG Member,

I am proud to announce that this year's annual ES-AAPG meeting and Student Expo held in Indianapolis, IN was once again a great success. Our meeting was from September 20-22, and hosted by the Professional Geologists of Indiana, Inc. (PGI). The theme of this year's meeting was 'Crossroads of the East', and represented a central location between the Illinois, Michigan and Appalachian basins, as well as the locus of numerous intersecting transportation corridors. Indianapolis is a beautiful city rich in history, culture and great sports, and thriving with economic success, and was a stellar choice for our 44th annual meeting.

For those of you who attended or participated in any way, I want to say thank you for your continued interest in taking part in this exciting and important event. Despite depressed oil and natural gas prices, we had over 300 attendees including members, non-members, students, guests, and exhibitors. I am sure that each of you were impressed with our venue, the historic and beautifully renovated Union Train Station, which even today serves as an active part of the rail transportation system of this region.

I would especially like to thank all of the professional and student volunteers, presenters, sponsors and committee persons responsible for the hard work that contributed to the success of this year's annual meeting. As always, the success of our annual meeting depends on the tireless contributions of its membership, sponsors, students, and myriad volunteers who give their time and energy to make a great meeting year after year. These great people include, but are not limited to: Kevin Strunk, General Meeting Chair; Greg Nethery, General Meeting Co-Chair; Dustin Graves, Treasurer; Zak Lasemi and Joan Crockett, Technical Program Co-Chairs; James Damico, Poster Chair; Steve Gustison and Tom Partin, Sponsorship co-chairs; Jim Blumthal, Exhibitors; Juliet Port, Registration; Lee Avary, Judging; Rachel Walker, Final Program Editor; Tim Carr and Joan Crockett, Student Expo; Jeannette Holland, Guest Program; Dave Harris, Awards Committee chair. Without their hard work and leadership, this meeting would not have been possible.

At the opening ceremonies on Sunday night, the awards for this year's outstanding members were presented. The highest award given in the eastern section is the **John T. Galey award**. This year its award recipient was presented to **Dr. Richard Beardsley** for his outstanding contributions to

Appalachian geology. The ES-AAPG's highest presentation award from the 2014 Annual Meeting in London ON, the **A.I. Levorsen Memorial Best Paper Award**, was awarded to **Joseph P. Fagan, Jr.** I want to congratulate Richard, JP, and all of the other award recipients for this year. Beginning Monday morning, there were 12 technical sessions covering 8 themes, as well as two full days of posters, representing 6 themes. Below are some of the highlights of this year's meeting:

309 total registrants, including guests, students and volunteers
78 registered Students
62 attendees for the All-Convention Luncheon
111 speakers and judges over 2-days
67 oral presenters
27 poster presenters
35 attendees for the **3 field trips**
16 attendees for **2 short courses**
18 exhibitors
14 sponsors

Prior to the annual meeting, we once again we held a very successful **Student Expo** on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to the hard work of our Expo committee, we were fortunate enough to have over **40 students** from **17 universities** around the Eastern Section take part in this weekend event. Highlights of the expo included a Saturday afternoon Student Program: "Making the Leap from Academia to Your Geoscience Career," presented by professionals from EQT, Illinois Geological Survey, and AAPG's Geoscience and Energy Policy Office. The student poster exhibit held on Saturday night gave students the opportunity to present results of their academic work to government, industry and academia professionals. The first place winner of the student poster competition was Frank Sattler from Western Michigan. Other events for the students included an all-day Student Chapter Leadership Summit, held on Sunday, and led by ES Student Chapter Liaison Dan Chandonais. In addition, there were company interviews conducted all day Sunday by four independent E&P companies.

All of the hard work put forth by so many terrific volunteers is why this year's meeting was once again a tremendous success. I am confident that we will continue to be the greatest section in the AAPG because of our outstanding membership, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Calgary next June for the national AAPG ACE.

Sincerest gratitude and regards,



Craig A. Eckert
ES-AAPG President

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