



AIPG Annual Report

Western Michigan University Student Chapter



2017-2018



Officers for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

The executive board and members of the WMU AIPG Student Chapter have worked hard this year to stimulate an active interest in geology and earth sciences, to promote and increase the knowledge available in these areas, and to help foster and encourage new experiences in these fields. Extra effort was made specifically in recruiting, fundraising and improving our community involvement. Erin Huggett, previously the chapter's treasurer, took over as President this year. She has continued to organize volunteer events such as our highly successful and fun monthly bake sales. Shelby Hurst served her first year on the board as Vice President, planning seminars and outreach events with the WMU Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences Advisory Council for the undergraduate students. Our Secretary, Mollie McCormick, has done a very professional and conscious job of keeping the chapter members updated weekly and has a real appetite for fun geology puns. Stephanie Buglione, our Treasurer, has done a fantastic job of keeping the Student Chapter finances in order and has been essential in planning many of the fundraising events done throughout the year.



President
Erin Huggett



Vice President
Shelby Hurst



Secretary
Mollie McCormick



Treasurer
Stephanie Buglione

Adventures in South Dakota



Our student chapter has again orchestrated another successful summer field trip. 13 students and accompanying professor Dr. Heather Petcovic took a cross country road trip spanning 8 days to visit famous geologic sites in South Dakota and Wyoming. The trip started in Sioux Falls, and then moved on to the colorful expanses of the Badlands. This beautiful rainbow included pink



sedimentary layers as well as the yellow mounds that included an array of yellow, green, and purple soils. Red beds continued to provide colorful scenery as the students continued further into South Dakota to visit Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial, both historically and geologically significant. The students visited Wind Cave and Jewel Cave where they were able to go spelunk-



ing. A few students braved the hike to the highest elevation in South Dakota, Black Elk Peak. A daytrip was taken to hike Spearfish canyon and see Devils Tower, the students hoping to have a close encounter of their own while visiting the butte. AIPG Michigan Section support (\$2000), Departmental support and concerted fundraising efforts helped us pay for gas and camping/housing expenses while on this trip.



Fundraising

Mineral Sales and Bake Sales

One of the many ways the students keep our organization dues-free and trip costs low is our monthly combined mineral and bake sales. Our famed trilobite cookies, BIF brownies, geode sugar cookies, and dinosaur track cookies are made by dedicated students like Erin Huggett, Mollie McCormick, Evie Murgia and Raigen Blake. These events also provide us with the opportunity to recruit new members and interact with the

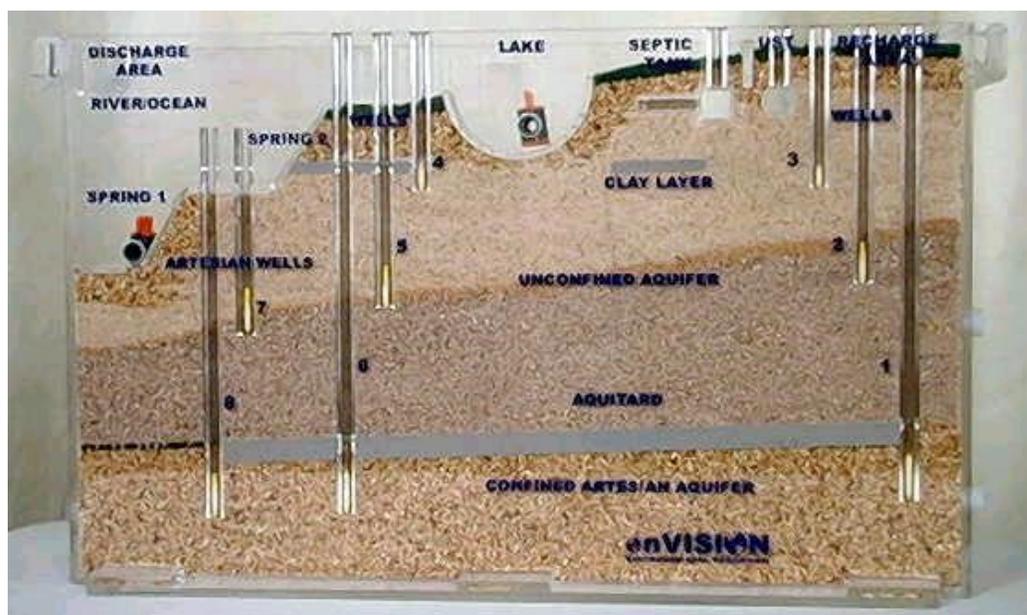
greater student community at WMU. We are always coming up with new and fun ideas to get together and make stuff that we can try to sell to raise money for the group. Some of the new ideas that we have done this year include making bath bombs with rocks in them, having a “rock-egg” hunt outside Rood Hall and making pet rocks that can be adopted. They are super cute!



Groundwater Models

One of our most productive fundraisers is the creation, refurbishing and sale of groundwater flow models. These systems demonstrate difficult three-dimensional hydrogeologic concepts for students and visitors to see in person. Built originally by WMU Emeritus Professor Richard Passero, we are preparing the models which are available in several different varieties including septic tank models, unconfined sand and gravel aquifer models and even custom setups. We ship around the country!

If interested in a quote, please send an email to wmugeologyclub@gmail.com



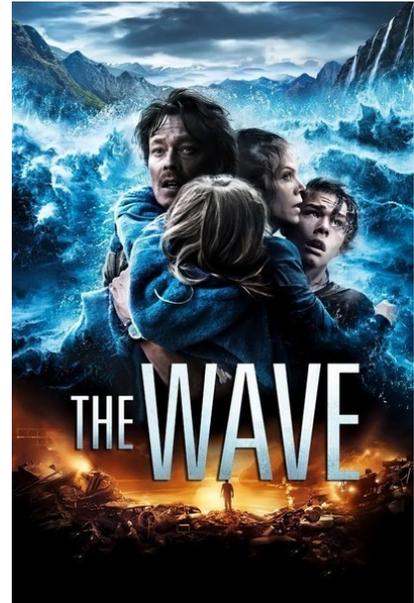
Activities

Our AIPG student chapter is continuing to help AIPG grow and are pleased to have encouraged membership both through our student chapter and AIPG partnerships with our programs at WMU. The following new AIPG MI Section members are part of our current Student Chapter, met at an AIPG/WMU partnered event or are WMU alumni: Jacob Cadle, MEM--2933; Paul French, MEM-2923; Derrick Lingle, MEM-2924; David Warwick, MEM-2925; Stephanie Buglione, SA8659; Charles Ewing, SA-8399; Esayas Gebremichael, SA-8809; Sara Leon, SA-8716; Danielle Wilcox, SA-8697; Daniel Wilde II, SA-8682.

There are 25 active members that meet at least once weekly. This group of students is a nice mix of both undergraduate and graduate students from both the WMU Geological and Environmental Sciences Department and beyond. Recruiting is done all year round, starting at Bronco Bash, an event where new (and old) students can discover the various registered student organizations on campus. The students also recruit during our regular fundraising events, meeting with many students in different departments that have an interest in geology, but that had no previous venue or connections with whom to pursue it. Shelby Hurst helped organize a seminar on jobs in the geosciences with Sara Pearson fall semester. Tom Howe hosted another "bad geology" movie night at his house. This year we watched "The Wave" on Netflix and had a lot of fun commenting on the movie as we watched it, even though the geology of the movie seemed fairly feasible in relation to other ones we have watched.

Members of the student chapter attended a drilling and well installation demonstration at the Asylum Lake Preserve earlier this month. More than a dozen of our members braved the cold and rain to attend this field experience provided by Midwest Geothermal, Johnson Screens, Baroid Industrial Fluids and Milan Supply Company. A 95-foot-deep, 5-inch well with a 10-foot stainless steel, wire-wrapped screen was installed and completed there in support of the Department's hydrogeology field course. Representatives from both the department and our industry partners came together on site to educate us about well drilling, aquifer dynamics and well logging. Several of our members also attended a drilling expo put on by Stock Drilling as part of our hydrogeology field course and connected with members of AIPG whom helped to train the students about drilling and soil logging. Thank you to the AIPG members that came out to help with that event and to AIPG for providing lunch for our students and the drillers that day.

WMU AIPG student chapter members volunteered on a Saturday recently to host several portions (including the rocks and minerals section, of course!) of the regional Science Olympiad event for middle school and high school students in our area. The volunteers prepared, administered, and graded the exams for dozens of STEM-centered youth that we hope will someday choose to pursue science as a career. The students volunteered their time to help keep the chapter L.J. Schmaltz Geology and Mineral Museum clean, induct new mineral samples, catalogue the contents of the museum and work with the departmental staff to involve student par-



ticipation in the creation and curation of various exhibits there.

Our students also were very excited to be able to attend the AIPG MI Section Annual Meeting at Weber's in Ann Arbor last fall, the AIPG Annual Workshop at Higgins Lake last summer and the AIPG Michigan Section meeting that was recently held at the Fetzer Center in Kalamazoo on the WMU campus.

We are so grateful for the support we get from our sponsors and these amazing opportunities that are provided for us by being part of AIPG! It has helped us to achieve our goal of giving students interested in geological sciences: 1) hands-on field experience, 2) the resources to form connections and networks in both academia and the geological community, and 3) the unique opportunities to grow as individuals and to help better the local community.

Elections have been held for next year's officers. Erin Huggett will be continuing on as acting President. Stephanie Buglione will be stepping down from her Treasurer position and taking over the Secretary position. Raigen Blake has been elected the new Vice President and Michael Roberts has been elected the new Treasurer.



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Geologists will date anything

Planning the Trip to Iceland

We are knee-deep in the process of planning their next geologic excursion: Iceland! At the end of April, the group, along with a faculty and staff member from WMU will embark on a week-long journey around the southern part of the Ring Road. Sites to be seen include Þingvellir, Geysir, Gullfoss, Jökulsárlón, and many more. We will be camping and hiking to some of the most geologically interesting places we can think of. We are excited to get to visit an amazing area with a unique combination of igneous and glacial geology. One highlight will be the opportunity to be on two tectonic plates at one time... we can't wait! A field trip guidebook has been completed and will be provided to all the participants. If anyone else is planning a trip to Iceland soon, please let us know and we can offer you a copy of our field trip guidebook to take with you.



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