

The EMU Chapter's main goals of the 2019-2020 school year were to build strong relationships with alumni, promote and host outside-the-classroom educational experiences for members, and provide better support for members, such as assisting with finding scholarship opportunities, helping with understanding classroom material, and setting up graduating members for success post-graduation. The executive board members of our chapter includes President Kelly Brown, Vice President Leon Bryson, Treasurer Collin Bogoski, Secretary Rachel Merz, and Member at large Leah VanLandingham. The faculty sponsor is Dr. Chris Gellasch. Currently, our elections are on hold due to COVID-19, so we cannot announce our new executive board members at this time, but we are excited to introduce a new team in the Fall!

In the Fall semester, we held bi-weekly meetings. We changed the meeting frequency to monthly after receiving feedback from GeoClub members to better accommodate the schedules of our members. We hosted four meetings throughout the semester, not including events and study sessions. Our meetings lasted roughly an hour, where we would discuss goals, activities, and present scholarship and networking opportunities for students.

**Recruitment:** We started the year strong by representing the EMU AIPG Chapter at the EMU Eagle Fest in September, which is a recruitment event designed to introduce student organizations to attending students and announce the meeting schedule for our organization. In January, we recruited new members at the EMU Winter Fest, which is the Winter semester equivalent of Eagle Fest. In February, we gave mini-presentations about our organization, alongside the ENVI and Geography and Geology programs, at two EMU Admitted Student Reception events, where students admitted for the Fall 2020 school year can learn about different programs and extracurriculars offered at EMU. The recruitment events were ultimately successful; we were able to recruit multiple new members from these events who came from disciplines outside of geoscience, who joined because of interest in what we do! Traditionally, our primary recruitment comes from promoting our organization to students in geoscience-related classes, so it is refreshing to be able to engage with students from different disciplines who can offer different perspectives on topics we discuss.

**Community Activities:** The Eastern Michigan University Chapter hosted an alumni networking and panel event in October, 2019, where alumni industry professionals of EMU came and networked with current EMU students. Students were able to ask the panel questions about jobs, maintaining a work-life balance, and their college experiences. Alumni shared experiences of finding a job after college, working in professional atmospheres, and shared opportunities with students to get involved in organizations. At any event we attended, our mission was to find and connect with EMU alumni, with the intention of building a strong EMU geoscience alumni network. Having a strong network of alumni is critical to student success, as our alumni can offer valuable insight to post-college experiences as a geoscience graduate and can even offer students job and involvement opportunities.

Our students were well represented at section meetings this year. Students presented research at the 2019 AIPG Technical Session in Roscommon, MI, including Leah VanLandingham; the 2019 Geological Society of America Conference in Phoenix, AZ, including Kelly Brown, who won an award for Undergraduate student posters for the Hydrogeology section, Rachel Merz, Sloane Kennedy, And

Leah VanLandingham; the 2020 Michigan AIPG Section Meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan, including Sloane Kennedy, who won the award for best Undergraduate poster, Kelly Brown, and Rachel Merz ; and were slated to present at the 2020 Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Symposium in Ypsilanti, MI, prior to cancellation, including Leah VanLandingham, Kelly Brown, and Rachel Merz. We also had a large number of students attend these events who did not present research.

**Activities:** We hosted multiple study sessions for the Fall 2019 semester to assist students with preparing for final exams. These events encouraged upper level students to mentor and assist lower level students with classroom content, and provided upper level students a chance to demonstrate their knowledge and learn-by-teaching.

**Fundraisers:** Our primary mode of fundraising is the sale of our hats, water bottles, and patches, as we have in past years. This year, we intended to introduce new merchandise to our members: t-shirts. The t-shirt processing was halted due to COVID-19, but we are excited to receive them, hopefully in the Fall. This year, we wanted to explore new avenues of fundraising. We were preparing to sell rock, mineral, and fossil samples at the 2020 Gem and Mineral Show in Jackson, Michigan, but the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. Despite the inability to attend the event, preparing for the event was a very positive learning experience for our members. Several members of the section learned how to use our two rock saws, polishing equipment and learned how to process samples. Additionally, we were preparing to host dine and donate events at local restaurants, but unfortunately this fundraising effort was delayed due to COVID-19 as well. However, we have set a strong foundation for fundraising for the incoming EMU AIPG Chapter members. The prepared samples are ready for sale if the members decide to attend the 2021 Rock and Mineral Show, the t-shirts have been ordered, and we have established a line of communication with local restaurants, communicating our interest to host a fundraiser.

Despite the uncertainty we faced towards the end of the year, our chapter achieved the goals we set for this school year. We hosted numerous events that provided educational experiences and networking experiences for our members. We were well-represented at multiple events, where students were able to present their research and network with industry professionals. Our section also has a number of graduates to celebrate this semester, including Kelly Brown, Rachel Merz, Leah VanLandingham, and Emily Nowacki. We are very excited to see what our graduating students will achieve and are looking forward to continuing to build strong relationships with our alumni. While the world is uncertain in these unprecedented times, our graduates are grateful for the connections we've made, both personally and professionally, through our AIPG Student Chapter.