



American Institute of Professional Geologists

Wayne State University Student Chapter

Annual Report 2019-2020

Faculty Sponsor

Current sponsor:
Dr. Scott Burdick
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2019-2020 Student Chapter Officers

President	Audrey Cook	ge3259@wayne.edu
Vice President	Julia Jackonen	fh2822@wayne.edu
Treasurer	Sasha LaPonsa	gg9498@wayne.edu
Secretary	Kyle Merandi	gj9712@wayne.edu

2020-2021 Student Chapter Officers

President	Breauna Murray	gh3800@wayne.edu
Vice President	Julia Jackonen	fh2822@wayne.edu
Treasurer	Sasha LaPonsa	gg9498@wayne.edu
Secretary	Rahima Tufail	gp4205@wayne.edu

Chapter Members

Total number of members: 45

Johnny Alsaigh	Zachary Henzel	Hannah Monear
Brendan Alvis	Kelsey Hewett	Benjamin Moyer
Andrea Bartlett	Erin Ivers	Breanna Murray
Myla Belden	Julia Jackonen	Hailey Peace
Ashton Bullock	Devyn Jesiel	Taylor Pine
Olivia Card	Liana Jones	Lathan Saperstein
Ellie Carlson	John Kopchick	Charles Sind
Audrey Cook	Daniel Kozlowski	Austin Smithberger
Kourtney Dole	Sasha LaPonsa	Eamheng Taing
Danielle Donovan	Elijah McCoy	Diana Torres
Teagan Evans	Tyler McDermott	Rahima Tufail
Gregory Ferriera	Erin McNally	Michael VanPoepeghem
Kelly Garcia	Sophia Mekled	Mary Whitfield
Benediktas Gaskevics	Kyle Merandi	Shelby Wilson
Kevin Green	Haylee Miller	Justin Yarrington

Number of chapter meetings per year

2 meetings per month during the academic year which for the clubs is normally from September through April. Our fall elections pushed the schedule a bit with meetings beginning in late October. As a result of COVID-19, our meetings ended in mid-March.

Activities and Fundraisers

As with each academic year, WSU puts on Student Organization Day. The event is held every September on campus outside in Gullen Mall. Our chapter helped staff the department table and tell incoming and current students about the AIPG and recruit new members.

We held bake and mineral sales about once month. These were opportunities to raise funds and spread the word about our organization and get others excited about rocks and the earth.

In November, we held our annual “friends giving” in the department of geology. The chapter provided the main dishes while other students and faculty members brought in pot-luck style dishes to share. We had a lot of leftover turkey and a lot of fun. “Friends giving” is an event for members to relax and celebrate while building relationships with their peers and faculty.

For the first time, we attempted to start a coffee hour on the study day during finals week. We hoped that this would be a calm and non-stressful way to get help in your classes from other students and also decompress from the semester. The turnout was lower than we had hoped; however, we know some improvements to make to hopefully drum up more interest next year.

On December 7th, 2019, we participated in Detroit’s Noel Night. Noel Night is a family event to bring people both from the city and the suburbs to Midtown to enjoy the holiday season and Wayne State University participates in the event. Along with the department, AIPG and Geoscience club members volunteered their time for this event. We opened the mineral museum for visitors during this time. We also held a mineral and bake sale during the event as well. Along with the baked goods and minerals, we were lucky enough to receive a donation of coffee to sell from The Roasting Plant. We were lucky enough to reconnect with some alumni from the department who attended the event!

Before the pandemic, we were organizing a workshop tentatively called “What’s next?” that involved alumni who went into the workforce and others who continued their education. This was going to be an exploratory event for students to better understand all the opportunities the future holds for them.

We typically plan an annual trip for the club. This year we began planning and fundraising for a summer trip to Yellowstone National Park. Field experiences are always life changing. They provide a firsthand view of geology outside of the classroom and nudges students to truly apply what we learn in the classroom. The summer 2020 trip was postponed and will hopefully run next summer in 2021.

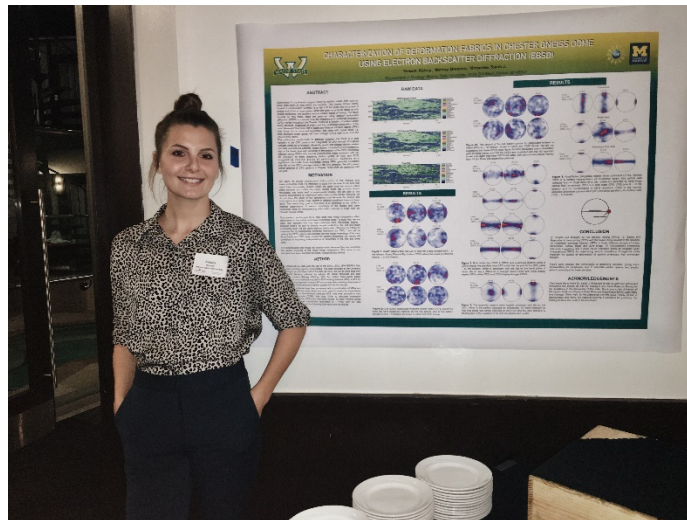
We had our tentative itinerary for the trip which would have been a 7-10 long camping trip that traveled throughout the park. The trip would enhance our understanding of volcanology and geology as a whole. If you all would like a copy, reach out to Audrey Cook (ge3259@wayne.edu).

We are very fortunate for Wayne State University and the support of the American Institute of Professional Geologists that enables us to travel and truly be present in the material we are learning.

The cover picture is from October 30th, 2019, when a group of students dressed up as our former sponsor, Dr. Jeffrey Howard, for Halloween during his Sedimentology and Stratigraphy class.



A group of current and alumni WSU students who attended the 2019 Michigan section annual meeting held at Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor. We are fortunate to have such a close community feeling in our department, as evidenced in this picture.



Past WSU Student Chapter President (2018-2019) and current student member Kelsey Hewett won second prize in the student poster contest for her research "Characterization of Deformation Fabrics in Chester Gneiss Dome Using Electron Backscatter Diffraction (EBSD)" at the 2019 Michigan section annual meeting held at Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor.



A group of members in Bancroft, Ontario. They were aids on the annual Mineralogy class field trip. They did some personal collecting and helped stock the clubs supply of minerals for sale. Sept. 28th, 2019.