Student Chapter of the Year Award
Annual Report and Application for Award

Name: AIPG Student Chapter, Eastern Illinois University

AY ’13 – ’14 Student Chapter Officers:
President – Jeremy Wells, SA 4807
Vice President – Kaitlyn James, SA 4810
Secretary – John Zearing, SA 4809
Treasurer – Daniel White, SA 4814

Number of student members in chapter: 21

Number of chapter meetings per year: 8*
*chapter was initiated on Jan 13, 2014; this report only counting meetings this year during which we were officially a student chapter. Holding meetings every other Monday, so a complete year’s worth of meetings will be 16 in the future.

Here are a few pictures from our chapter’s initiation day:

From L – R: Danny White (Treasurer), Jeremy Wells (President), Dan Curtis (initiated the organization of chapter), Kaitlyn James (Vice President), John Zearing (Secretary).
From L – R: Kai Subramanian, Jordan Knuth, Ryne Robertson

From L – R: Godson Obia (Asst. Dean, COS), Shane Schmidt (AIPG member), Jeff Groncki (AIPG IL/IN Section President), Harold Ornes (Dean, COS), Mike Cornebiese (Dept. Chair), Craig McCammack (AIPG chapter sponsor)
**Programs to recruit new members:** during the creation process of the student chapter last fall, all majors were solicited to become members and detailed the benefits of doing so. As such, when the chapter was initiated, we had 100% enrollment of majors as student members of AIPG. Subsequent to this, whenever a new semester begins, a roster of new majors’ names will be obtained, and officers will personally contact them to invite them to enroll.

**Activities within the department:**

- **Guest speakers** – the student chapter members assisted in facilitating our department’s colloquium series by helping set up/break down the reception associated with each talk as well as help host our speakers. Guests to our campus since our chapter was initiated were:
  - Feb 19th - Sonya Baumstein, "Ocean Exploration and Climate Change;"
  - Mar 28th - Lynn Smith, "Road to Success - A Cautionary Talk;"
  - Apr 22nd – Earth Day: a series of mini talks by Ashley Burkett, "Indiana Fossils;" Cameron Craig, "How Many Showers Do YOU Take a Day?" and Dr. Diane Burns, "Antarctic Rocks"
- **Climate Change colloquium** – the student chapter members assisted in setting up/breaking down, setting up publicity and running errands to aid the department’s screening of the movie, “Chasing Ice.” The movie was followed by a panel discussion by five faculty members from across campus, including representatives from Physics, Economics and Political Science.
- **Student chapter members organized and took a trip to Indianapolis, IN to visit the Children’s Museum, the Natural History Museum and to visit a rock/mineral show being held in that city.**
- **Student chapter members organized and took a trip to the Garden of the Gods area (southern IL) to visit a fluorite museum, to hike the Shawnee National Forest trails, explore the Pound Sandstone in various outcrops and to hunt for fluorite and calcite in abandoned mine tailings piles. Specimens of calcite and fluorite were collected for personal enjoyment as well as for future fundraising sales.**
- **Student chapter members organized and took a trip to the Mississippi River to collect geodes for both personal enjoyment as well as for future fundraising sales.**
- **Student chapter members asked for and arranged for a workshop on general field mapping techniques to help prepare them for fieldcamp.**

Pictures from department activities:

Guest speaker, Lynn Smith, AIPG Section Advisory Board Member –

Title graphic from Smith’s talk on Mar 28th
L – R: Diane Burns (chapter advisor), Lynn Smith, Mike Cornebiese (Dept. Chair)

From field trip to IN museums/rock and mineral show –

L – R: Jordan Knuth, Kaitlyn James, Brian Dowd (not unhappy, just clowning around), John Grubaugh
Ryne Robertson shows off a dinosaur costume prop in the Children’s Museum

Students peruse sale items at the rock/mineral show
Pictures from field trip to Shawnee National Forest –

Tony Piecuch under “the mushroom.”

L – R: Kara Baker, Ryne Robertson, Brian Dowd and Tony Piecuch hunting for minerals.
Fundraisers:
- Student chapter members held a fundraiser on Earth Day; sales included geodes, fluorite, “gem trees” made from wire/chip beads (trees created by the students) and potted plants.
- Student chapter members held a fundraiser during EIU’s Celebration Days; sales included same as above.
- Student chapter members initiated an ongoing aluminum can collection drive within the Physical Science Building. The cans are recycled at a local facility where they are redeemed for cash. This benefits the environment, raises awareness of recycling and adds money to the chapter’s account.

Activities within the university:
- Student chapter members created and presented information on the pros/cons of “fracking” during EIU’s campus Earth Day festivities.
- Student chapter members created publicity and artwork, distributed flyers and participated in the organization of events for EIU’s campus Earth Day festivities. These activities ranged from “dumpster diving” to see what should have been recycled, screenings of movies like “Food, Inc.,” and exhibits on free trade chocolate.

Activities within the community:
- The student chapter donated numerous items to Operation Gratitude, a non-profit organization that creates/distributes care packages for deployed U.S. military. EIU’s chapter members made 80 paracord bracelets (these are braided lengths of paracord that can be used in emergency situations such as when a tourniquet is needed) and 18 hand-crocheted scarves.
- Student chapter members created/presented a series of short, educational talks and activities for the Charleston Carnegie Public Library’s children’s program. These talks included ones on fossil/fossil identification, minerals in society, dinosaur trackways and how we can determine dinosaur speed and meteorites.
- Student chapter members created/presented a set of six educational “dinosaur boards” for the Charleston Public Library. The library has a large children’s section and hosts a lot of educational programs for the kids in the community. It is a very well-liked and popular part of the library. Our chapter decided to contribute these hand-made boards on six different animals to help expand the library’s collection and to increase awareness of geology among the younger set. The boards each featured a separate animal, questions were posed about various aspects of the animal and the viewer is faced with four choices as the correct answer to the question. There are colorful wooden flaps with the choices on them, and the flaps are raised to reveal if the person chose the correct answer or not. The boards are finished with a colorful graphic depicting each animal shellacked to the back.

Pictures from community activities:
Fossil presentation/activity for library’s children’s program –

Dan Curtis explaining fossils and fossil identification to the children.

Children engaged in the activity associated with the fossil presentation.
Dinosaur boards –

Ryne Robertson screwing on an answer flap to one of the dinosaur boards.

Dinosaur boards being presented to Jeanne Hamilton, Charleston Carnegie Public Library staff member by Dan Curtis, AIPG student chapter representative.
Interactions with professional geologists and the local AIPG Section:

The student chapter was visited by three members of the local AIPG Section on the day that the chapter was initiated. Subsequently, the chapter invited a representative of the Section to give one of the talks for our department’s colloquium series, and Lynn Smith graciously accepted. After a wonderful talk and discussion with the audience, Lynn was taken to lunch and two of our student chapter members came along to help host and to get advice/mentoring from Lynn. Ms. Smith was extremely gracious in answering all of their questions and in offering to maintain an open door policy should they have any questions that come up in the future.

Other significant activities:

Student members presented several demonstrations as part of our department’s Outreach Program to the local junior and senior high schools. Demonstrations range from mineral identification to contaminant flow in an aquifer.

Student members assisted in a career day presentation at Pana Jr. High School. As a result of the presentation/demonstration, six different students wrote letters indicating that they now consider geology as a possible career choice.