

History of the South Dakota Section of AIPG  
Tom Durkin, SD Section President  
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One thing about having a relatively small to medium-sized Section (~55 members); even in a geographically large state like South Dakota, you get to know one another! The South Dakota Section <<http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/sdaipg.htm>> has been in existence for 18 years, but we have a 39-year history.

Eleven years after the founding of AIPG in 1963, 15 CPG's (12 residing in North Dakota and three in South Dakota) petitioned AIPG Headquarters to form the "Dakota" Section. The three petitioners from South Dakota were John Paul Gries, John C. Mickelson, and Jack Kume. As a result of that petition, the Dakota Section and its Bylaws were formally established in 1974 consisting of members from both states. The Dakota Section existed for 21 years until 1995 when the South Dakota Section was formally established and the two states became separate Sections. The South Dakota Section developed proposed Bylaws in 1995, but they weren't formally approved until 2010 after Section President John Foster Sawyer took the initiative to complete the process.

Gary H. Haag served as the first President of the South Dakota Section, as well as Chairman of the Regulatory and Legislative Committee. Gary faithfully led the Section for many of its early years along with Vice President Timothy Vogt, Secretary-Treasurer Steve Jorgensen, and Screening Board and Membership Chairman Tom Durkin. The current President is Tom Durkin, serving his third non-consecutive term in that position. Other CPG's who have served as Presidents include Perry Rahn, John Foster Sawyer, and Larry Stetler. John Foster Sawyer currently serves as AIPG National Secretary.

The members of the Section were honored this past year to have hosted AIPG's 49<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Rapid City, SD in September 2012; the first time the national meeting had ever been held in South Dakota!

The South Dakota Section holds its annual meeting in March, in conjunction with the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) annual Environmental and Ground Water Quality Conference in Ft. Pierre, SD. In fact, the Section's first organizational meeting was held during the DENR conference in 1995. The annual DENR meeting always attracts a large number of local environmental professionals, several of whom are AIPG members. Holding the Section meeting at the DENR conference provides consistency and assures a good turnout of AIPG members along with geologists considering membership. The Section has been growing in recent years and currently stands at about 55 members.

Nine years ago, the SD Section established the *J. P. Gries Geologist of the Year Award* in honor of longtime geology professor John Paul Gries of the SD School of Mines & Technology. The award is provided annually by the Section to a South Dakota geologist in recognition of exceptional work and service to the profession of geology at large, or in some recognized specialty within geology.

The SD Section holds an annual field trip during the summer for members and their families. This is always a fun event where we visit a geologically interesting area, learn about it, collect rocks, raffle an item of geologic significance, and, of course, eat!

(photos included with history can be seen on the AIPG website)

The following are several photos from field trips and award ceremonies over the last 12 years.



October 2000 Field Trip to Homestake Mine.  
Photo taken at 7,400 foot level of mine.



August 2001 Field Trip to Badlands National Park  
Photo taken at "School of Mines Canyon"



2003 Trip to Jewel Cave National Monument



2008 Field Trip to Sanford Underground Research  
and Engineering Lab at Homestake



2009 Hydrogeology Field Trip in Black Hills



2010 "Float Trip" along Missouri River in eastern SD





2011 Field Trip to Bear Butte State Park



2012 Field Trip to Pegmatite Mine (one of 8 field trips offered at 2012 AIPG Annual Meeting)

Recent award photos:



Tom Durkin (left) presenting 2012 *J.P. Gries Award* to Mark Fahrenbach (right)



Gary Haag receiving Outstanding Service Award from John Foster Sawyer (2010)



Tom Durkin (left) presenting 2010 *J.P. Gries Award* to Perry Rahn (right)



2007 Annual Meeting, SD Section