

History of the Georgia Section of AIPG 1981-2012

The Georgia Section was formed and the by-laws approved on October 14, 1981. The four original members included: Earl Hoover, Robert Dickerson, Serge Gonzales, and Charles Spiers. Their first meeting was held on January 29, 1982, which included the selection of officers for 1982. Earl Hoover was the Interim President and elected as the first Georgia Section President. By April of 1982 the membership had grown to 14 members. During the first year they had joint meetings with Southeastern Section of AEG and AIME. For the next two decades the section president would generally serve from two to three years and included: Charles Spiers, Serge Gonzales, Kenneth Nelson, Charles Thomas, Anthony Roberts, Sam Pickering, Harold Gill, and L.T. Gregg.

Dr. Serge Gonzales was the first section member to be appointed to an AIPG National committee as chairman of the Education Affairs Committee. At the 1986 national meeting he received AIPG Presidential Certificate of Merit. He was also the first Georgia Section member to be elected to National Secretary for 1988-1989. The section's second national officer was Dr. Thomas Jones, who was elected as National Editor from 1991-1992.

The section for many years would plan to have two meetings per year generally around a field trip followed by a business meeting at a restaurant. Many of these meetings would be visits to different types of open pit mines or landfills. In 1993 the section was visited by AIPG Executive Director Bill Knight.

In 2002 Ron Wallace was elected as section president. A few years later Eric Lowe became vice-president and the two have held the positions or switched. Glen Faulkner has been section secretary-treasurer since 1994. During most of this time, the section planned four meetings per year, mostly around field trips. In 2003 the section started giving a student membership plaque initially to four of the universities that offered geology degrees. By 2007 the section annually awarded a plaque at all six universities that grant geology degrees. Starting in 2010, each of the six students receive a \$250.00 scholarship along with the membership plaque.

In response from a request from student members in 2005, a student chapter was formed at Georgia State University. This was followed by another student chapter at University of West Georgia in 2010. An additional two student chapters were formed in 2011, one at Columbus State University and the other at the University of Georgia.

To support the activities of the section, a day and a half environmental remediation conference was organized in 2008. Since then there have been three additional conferences that have been expanded to two full days. In 2011 Ron Wallace was elected to National President-elect. The membership has grown over the years from the section beginning with four members to a total membership in 2012 of over 270.