

## History of the Kentucky Section of AIPG

During the early years of the American Institute of Professional Geologists and prior to the formation of the Kentucky Section, the function and growth of AIPG at the state level was delegated to the Coordinators of Institute Affairs. Local coordinators were appointed by the AIPG national president. Frank Walker, Kentucky's first Certified Professional Geologist, and James K. Vincent served successively as Coordinators for Kentucky until membership grew enough to allow the Kentucky Section to be established.

On November 10, 1967, the Kentucky AIPG membership held an organizational meeting and petitioned national AIPG for section status. Formal recognition of the Kentucky Section was granted in early 1968. James K. Vincent served as the Section's first president. Since then, KY-AIPG has operated as an integral chapter of AIPG for 45 consecutive years.

In 1987 and 2005, the Kentucky Section was host to AIPG national annual meetings. Geologists from across the nation attended each of these meetings, both of which were held in Lexington.

KY-AIPG has held annual sectional meetings since its inception. These meetings have been held at locations throughout the commonwealth and have typically been held in conjunction with a geologic field trip. As a result of efforts by the state geologist in 2012 to optimize the capabilities of geologic organizations in the commonwealth through a consortium, KY-AIPG has suspended offering field trips and is concentrating its efforts and resources toward providing continuing educational activities.

In 1992, the Kentucky Section of AIPG, along with other geologic associations in the state, lobbied for and succeeded in getting a bill passed by the Kentucky legislature to register professional geologists (KRS 322A). Since that date, more than 2,000 professional geologists from across the nation have become registered in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The KY-AIPG created several honors to be awarded every year, solicited from members and professors. In 1989, two \$500 student scholarships were created to reward two geology undergraduates (with a junior status or above) attending a college or university in Kentucky for maintaining a high grade point average and their outstanding efforts. In 1996, the Lifetime Achievement Award was created for KY-AIPG members who through the years have been noteworthy in their geological careers. In 1999, the Outstanding Geologist Award was created for any Kentucky geologist who has made a significant contribution in geology that was considered beneficial to geologists during the previous year. Starting in 2009, the KY-AIPG makes a cash contribution every year to the Kentucky Science and Engineering Fair and, based on the recommendation of our volunteer judges, awards a monetary gift and a geology-related book to the best high school and/or middle school earth science entry.

In 2008, the 60th United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2008 to be the International Year of Planet Earth. The Kentucky Section of AIPG hosted a symposium, "Climate Change—Manmade Catastrophe or Natural Cycle: Two Perspectives on its Causes." In 2009, KY-AIPG continued the symposium program with Dr. Dennis Stanford from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, who delivered "Seeking the First American." With the success of these symposiums, KY-AIPG

began timing the lecture series to coincide with Charles Darwin's month of birth and designated the series as the Darwin Lecture Series. The Kentucky Section hosted Dr. Jack Horner in 2011, Dr. Eugenie Scott in 2012, and Dr. Phillip Currie in 2013.

In 2010, KY-AIPG participated in the introduction of a bill to amend KRS 332A, to change renewal from annual to biennial, require continuing education as a condition of registration renewal or reinstatement, remove exemption from registration for individuals performing geologic work at both the state and local levels, and to permit the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists to impose a \$1,000 fine for violation of provisions of KRS 332A by a registered geologist. The bill passed the House, but was not heard by the Senate, and therefore did not pass.

In 2012, the 20th anniversary of passage of KRS 332A, KY-AIPG assisted in introducing another bill to amend KRS 332A. Senate Bill 162 included provisions (1) to change the renewal period from annual to biennial, (2) to remove the exemption from registration for individuals performing geologic work at both the state and local government levels, (3) to permit the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists to impose a maximum fine of \$1,000 for violation of the provisions of KRS 332A, and (4) to allow the state geologist, who is a permanent member of the Board of Registration, to be able to designate a second party to attend board meetings on behalf of the state geologist. This bill (SB 162) passed both the House and Senate by unanimous vote and was signed into law by Gov. Steve Beshear on April 11, 2012.

KY-AIPG began offering short courses for professional development in 2010. The first short course was "Overview of Contaminated Site Investigation and Remediation." In 2011, KY-AIPG continued with a two-day program on karst hydrology. In 2012, KY-AIPG offered two courses; the first was an eight-day short course in the Bahamas, "Modern Carbonate Analogs for the Geologic Record," and the second was "Overview of Environmental Geophysics." Those who attend these short courses are credited with professional development hours. Geologists registered in other states who attend may use these credits when renewing their licenses.

KY-AIPG created a Web site ([ky.aipg.org](http://ky.aipg.org)) and a Facebook page (accessible from the KY-AIPG Web site) to keep members and the interested public current on our meetings and events.