

Dear AIPG Education Committee,

Another year has passed at Florida State University and our AIPG chapter is continuing to flourish. The ever-growing sense of community it has fostered in our department between the faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates alike is incredible and a testament to the value of AIPG itself. It has been an absolute privilege to be a part of this chapter over the past three years and to have borne witness to its continuous evolution and improvement, and to work with all of the outstanding individuals involved in making this possible. I hope that you forgive any redundancies in this application (why fix what isn't broken), and are as excited as I was about all of the extra measures we took to ensure this year was an even greater success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie McColaugh, AIPG Student Chapter President (2015-2016)

Meet Florida State University's AIPG Student Chapter:

1. Name of our Chapter: Florida State University

2. Names of our Officers: Stephanie McColaugh (President), Kyle Turner (Vice President), Charles Boyd (Treasurer), Hilary Davis (Secretary), Chelsie Bowman (Historian), Andrew Kleinberg (Graduate Student Liaison)

3. Number of AIPG student members in our chapter: 32 members

4. Number of chapter meetings per year: 7 chapter meetings over a 9-month period (August 2015-April 2016).

What We Did:

5. Programs to recruit new members:

After last year's success, we were determined to maintain our momentum in spreading the word about AIPG. Therefore, officers continued to visit geology classes during class time and orally promote club events. We paid special attention to entry level classes as we wanted students to become involved as soon as possible so they didn't miss out on any opportunities. As someone who came into FSU as a non-science major and took an entry level geology class, and finished the semester as a geology major thanks to some encouragement from my TA, I know firsthand how important reaching out to underclassmen is. With half of the officers being graduate students and the other half being upperclassmen, we prioritized making ourselves personable and available to the underclassmen so they would be comfortable coming to us for any questions they had, from which classes to take, how to get more involved, grad school applications etc.

Additionally, we began to bridge the gap between the different branches of the Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences department. We consistently posted fliers advertising meetings and events around the different science buildings on campus to attract a broader spectrum of students to our organization; and I worked with Sid King, a meteorology graduate student and president of the Thalassic

Society to coordinate events such as tailgates and a beach cleanup, and keep each other informed with upcoming opportunities and colloquiums. Earth science is an unquestionably interdisciplinary field, so enabling students to broaden their horizons by becoming familiar with other studies and faculty is something I think is quite significant.

Finally, we worked to create a strong social media presence on Facebook and Instagram as we have found it to be the most effective form of communication for the college aged medium. Officers kept the pages up-to-date with event invitations and pictures, and provided a forum for the members to discuss pertinent issues. Popular posts included advice on staying on track with your course schedule, group get togethers, available internships, scholarships and jobs, interesting articles, buying used textbooks, and of course lots of geology puns.

6. Activities within the department:

One of our most successful meetings was a “Graduate School Application Timeline”, in which we handed out a step by step list of what to do when looking for and applying to graduate programs and how much time you should give yourself. Prior to doing so, we went around asking other graduate students things they wish they had known or had done differently, and compiled all of the information into one accessible guide. We then proceeded to have a casual Q&A with grad students and undergrads to help them as best we could in a comfortable setting, enabling everyone to be completely candid. Additionally, we took field trips throughout our school year: to Ichetucknee Springs in September 2015; Alabama field geology camping trip in October 2015 & February 2016 with our Geology Department Chairman, Dr. James Tull; Leon Sinks hiking trail April 2016; Carbonates Field trip to West Virginia March 2016 with Dr. Set Young; and GSA’s Annual meeting in Baltimore in October 2015. We also held monthly guest speaker presentations whereby we invited our own department professors to talk about their research with students and faculty alike. All of this would not be possible without the enthusiasm and support of our faculty.

7. Fundraisers:

Raffle and shirts

Every month during market Wednesday when the campus is buzzing with activity we hosted a rock sale which not only drew a lot of attention from passersby curious about what we were doing (their questions keeping our mineral ID skills sharp), but drew in a lot of money as well. Our profits were typically between \$400 and \$600 each month. Additionally, we hosted raffles at Fluids, and sold our custom club shirts. Our successful fundraising endeavors allowed us to focus on hosting enjoyable and educational events at little to no cost for our members.

8. Activities within the university: In February 2015

Florida State University holds its annual National Magnet Laboratory (MagLab) Open House. This event is highly publicized within the university as well as the general public. It offers amazing science-related demonstrations for people of all ages to enjoy for the day. We are lucky to have a great relationship with our Geochemistry professors Dr. Munir Humayun and Dr. Vincent Salters, who invited our student chapter to take part in this event with a rock sale. It was a fantastic event to be a part of and a great relationship-builder for our members to the MagLab community. For the students who attend, it

provides great exposure for different research paths they might pursue, and it is an excellent way to represent our University to the community.

9. Activities within the community:

Our chapter strongly believes in the power of forming relationships developing networking skills in an organic setting. Our long tradition of mixing academic and social events in the form of FLUID Dynamics has been the essence of this concept since the formation of this chapter. FLUID Dynamics is our department's monthly BBQ that is organized by our student chapter officers. It brings together professors, graduate students, undergraduates, and professionals in a relaxed social atmosphere. It is designed to help students become better acquainted with their department members—allowing them to build relationships with their professors that will help their graduate school recommendations or introduce them to internship and research opportunities. This has proven to be fruitful to multitudes of students, and fun for all who attend.

10. Interactions with professional geologists and the local AIPG section:

Thanks to the proximity between FSU and FGS, we have been able to develop a great relationship that our students have reaped the benefits of. Currently, about a quarter of our members work for FGS and are making the most of their connections made through our student chapter. Also, the Department of Geochemistry at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory has become a large advocate for student involvement and internships, often resulting in paid positions.

The founder of our chapter, Taylor Murray and her mother Anne Murray, the FAPG/AIPG Florida Section President have been absolutely critical to our success. Anne has diligently kept us informed about various events and scholarships from AIPG throughout the year. She and Helen Hickman, National AIPG President, organized a seminar on the ASBOG and were extremely helpful answering questions from students about job hunting. Their counsel was invaluable, especially to the upperclassmen about to graduate. After realizing just how significant the ASBOG is, I spoke with our department chair Dr. Tull and Dr. Herbert and got approval for creating a one credit ASBOG prep class at FSU. I think that this will help ensure that our graduates leave as prepared for getting a job as possible, and will help make taking this exam a norm at FSU in the future.

11. Other significant activities that the chapter considers important to the mission of AIPG:

Florida State University's geology summer field camp is an intense (an expensive) 6-week course that teaches students necessary field skills. Last year we tried to help in a small way by selling hand lenses and field notebooks at discounted prices to members. We continued to do so this year, but more importantly we are thrilled to say that we reached our goal and were able to provide the most involved student a \$500 scholarship towards field camp. We are a chapter that firmly believes in encouraging hard work and participation, and giving back to our members.