

Dear AIPG Education Committee,

Below you will read about our student AIPG chapter at Florida State University. I find it *incredibly* difficult to describe the full extent of our chapter's involvement, spirit, and dedication this past year because, in simple terms, it was phenomenal. I could not ask for a better group of officers with which to work, students to serve, and community to collaborate with. I hope that you will consider us for the AIPG Student Chapter of the Year award, but even if you decide not to, I will always feel in my bones that we had the best year possible. Thank you for the opportunity to share our story.

Sincerely,

Hannah Klein, AIPG Student Chapter President (2014-2015)

**Meet Florida State University's  
AIPG Student Chapter:**

1. Name of our Chapter: Florida State University
2. Names of our Officers: **Hannah Klein** (President), **Chelsie Bowman** (Vice President), **Meg Wilson** (Treasurer), **Janine Giambalvo** (Secretary), **Stephanie McColaugh** (Historian), **Claire Routledge** (Graduate Student Liaison)
3. Number of AIPG student members in our chapter: 27 members.
4. Number of chapter meetings per year: 7 chapter meetings over a 9-month period (August 2014-April 2015).

**What We Did:**

5. Programs to recruit new members: Our student chapter is very young because we were founded in 2013. We knew that our chapter wasn't well known outside of our department, so we had to come up with a way to reach a lot of new faces. To expand our member base our officers took turns visiting lower level geology classes during class time and orally promoted club events. These introductory

classes were a perfect outlet in which to encourage students who were already interested in geology to join our chapter. Our department's geology professors and teaching assistants were more than happy to allow us to take time out of their busy schedules to spread the word about our new organization. When I was a lower level geology student I remember feeling intimidated by the upperclassmen and didn't know how to get involved in this new and exciting field. I didn't want to maintain that kind of attitude as chapter president, so this was an important program to me personally.

6. Activities within the department: We've worked hard to expose our members to many academic and social activities this year. We were lucky enough to host Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) Graduate Admissions Director Tracy Morizio from Troy, New York in October 2013 for a workshop on applying to graduate study in STEM fields. Additionally, we took field trips throughout our school year: to Wakulla Springs in September 2014; Alabama field geology camping trip in October 2014 with our Geology Department Chairman, Dr. James Tull; Local Tallahassee fossil hunting day-trip in November 2014 with our department's paleontology professor, Dr. William Parker; and GSA's Southeastern GSA section meeting in Chattanooga, TN in March 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. We were very lucky to have such strong participation from our department to make all of these programs an enormous success.
7. Fundraisers: Our previous student chapter officers worked hard to build a relationship with Mr. Rick Green, a professional geologist at the Florida Geological Survey who also runs his own business selling semi-precious rocks, minerals, and fossils online. We

continued their tradition of holding monthly rock sales as a fundraiser for our student chapter in front of the Geology building on our campus. Our rock and fossil sales skyrocketed with Rick's careful eye for interesting specimen's and our club member's dedication to fundraising. We regularly made between \$400 and \$600 of pure profit at our rock sale each month, and with 9 total rock sales during the school year, we raised a total of \$4,000. This allowed us to offer much of our academic and social activities to members at nearly no cost to them. It supplemented our student dues for membership and allowed us to carry on this important, albeit expensive, fundraiser each month. In addition to rock sales, we also sold t-shirts designed by our chapter members between November 2014 and April 2015.

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. Additionally, our department was searching for a new department geophysics professor earlier this year. In this process the prospective professors give lectures on their research to the department. We began publicizing these talks to our members who showed up in spades to hear academics from around the globe present their life's work. Our members appreciated being included in the process of hiring a new professor, and gained some insight into on-going research in geology that they

might never have had a chance to be exposed to. Furthermore, when Florida State University Earth Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences department hosted Dr. Liz Cottrell of the Smithsonian Institute for a colloquium, our members were the largest student group to attend. Our student chapter was very fortunate to be involved in every one of these university-sponsored events.

9. **Activities within the community:** Our student chapter has had a long tradition of mixing academic and social events. 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 is, in my opinion, one of our chapter's greatest gifts to its members. It is always well attended by students and faculty, and is a useful tool in which to continue relationships with Tallahassee's own Florida Geological Survey, which until February 2015 was located on the Florida State University campus.
10. **Interactions with professional geologists and the local AIPG section:** Via the close geographical location and inter-personal relationships built between the university and the Florida Geological Survey, our student members have had much success in becoming interns there. Currently, about a quarter of our members work for FGS and are making the most of their connections made through our student chapter. We are also lucky to have the continued support of Anne Murray, FAPG/AIPG Florida Section President who has introduced our members to various events and scholarship information from AIPG throughout the year. She and Helen

Hickman, National AIPG President-Elect, came to visit us for a fantastic workshop on Professionalism and Transitioning into the Workforce in February 2015. Their support helps keep us abreast of new AIPG opportunities and stay ahead of the curve in this competitive market post-graduation.

11. Other significant activities that the chapter considers important to the mission of AIPG: Another program that is worth mentioning is our involvement with getting student members ready for their summer field course. Florida State University's geology summer field camp is an intense 6-week course that teaches students necessary field skills. Our officers tried to make this difficult training course a little easier by selling supplies such as hand lenses and field notebooks at discounted prices to members. This eases the burden on these already stressed students, all while allowing them to support their favorite student organization. This was the first year that we introduced this program, and we hope to expand it next year by introducing a scholarship contest with funds going to a deserving student.

