



Kentucky Section of the American Institute for Professional Geologists Newsletter

December 29, 2021

To our Kentucky AIPG community:

My name is Megan Cleinmark, President of KY-AIPG in 2021 and a Senior Geologist at L.E. Gregg Associates in Lexington, KY. I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones, healthy and happy and together. There was hope at the beginning of this year of a return to “normalcy.” However, that normalcy was short-lived as the pandemic continues to grow and mutate and make our lives difficult to plan and keep us on this wild, seemingly never ending roller-coaster.

The Executive Committee (hereby referred to as “Eboard”) met for 9 monthly business meetings. All meetings were held virtually via Zoom due to the continued pandemic and were open to the public. Although this year was not what we all hoped it would be, the Eboard made the best of it with virtual events and an in-person award ceremony.

The annual Darwin lecture was held virtually via Zoom on February 18, 2021 with speaker Dr. Lee Dugatkin of the University of Louisville, and author of *How to Tame a Fox and Build a Dog*. This event was very well attended and received considering its virtual nature. Dr. Dugatkin’s talk was recorded and can be watched at any time on YouTube.

In 2020, Past President Edward Lo established a DEI series where geologists from all over the country spoke about diversity, equity, and inclusion challenges they have seen or faced. This year we were able to host a total of 9 virtual DEI speakers.

Student chapter outreach continued throughout the year. Two in-person events and 3 online events were conducted. The in-person events include Eastern Kentucky University on March 4 and the University of Kentucky on November 11. The virtual events occurred for Northern Kentucky University on February 23, Western Kentucky University on March 4, and Murray State University on April 22. In September, outreach was also conducted to 2 Lexington Middle Schools – Leestown Middle and Redwood Cooperative School in Lexington.

The Kentucky State Science Fair was held virtually again this year on March 27 and 2 members of the EBoard were able to serve as judges for the participants.

The Section was able to host an in-person awards ceremony at Mirror Twin Brewing Company on September 11. Tom Spalding received the Lifetime Achievement Award and Edward Lo received the first annual DEI Award. Five students were recognized and awarded \$1,200 cumulatively: Steven Collet (Murray State University), Raven Polk (Eastern Kentucky University), Michael Edelen (University of Kentucky), Madeline Brosky (Western Kentucky University), and Colvin Geiman (Northern Kentucky University).

The AIPG National Conference was held in-person this year on October 23 – October 26. Past President Edward Lo and Treasurer Bill Brab were able to attend and represent the Kentucky Section.

Other significant and noteworthy changes and achievements for the Eboard and KY-AIPG members include the following: KY-AIPG Treasurer Bill Brab continues to serve as Chairman on the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists. KY-AIPG President Megan Cleinmark was nominated and sworn in as a new member of the board this year. KY-AIPG member Trent Garrison served as President of the Kentucky Academy of Science this year.

KY-AIPG had planned to conduct a hands-on mostly outdoor workshop in October but the rise of the Delta variant made this not possible. Our hope is to reschedule this event for Spring 2022.

This year continued to provide unforeseen challenges no one can anticipate or foresee; however, I am very much a “look at the glass half-full” type of person so I would like to highlight a couple of positives of the state of the world as it relates to KY-AIPG. First of all, the DEI series. Since this event was established in 2020, it has always only been virtual. I know we all prefer in-person events and talks but the virtual nature of this series enables speakers from all over the country and world to participate. This provides a perspective we would not be able to have otherwise. For that, I am grateful. Secondly, for the majority of 2020 and all of 2021, the monthly KY-AIPG meetings were also held virtually. Although I greatly miss seeing my fellow geologists in person, the virtual nature of these meetings allows people from the far reaches of the state to attend. For this, I am grateful. Once we are able to meet in person again, I am hopeful we can move to a hybrid platform so this ability can continue.

I want to thank you all for trusting me to lead KY-AIPG in 2021. I have learned so much and am beyond grateful for the opportunity. Donny Prater will lead the section as President in 2022. I am excited at the direction the section is headed and look forward to his leadership. Members elected Ben Currens as Vice President and Donnie Lumm as President-Elect. We love your feedback and questions so please reach out to us via social media or email. Here is to a very happy New Year!

Appreciatively,
Megan Cleinmark, CPG, PG, 2021 KY-AIPG President