



December 31, 2022

To our Kentucky AIPG Community:

What a year 2022 has been! As I look back, I smile at the accomplishments of the section members during my time as President. During 2022, the Section was able to get back to some sort of normalcy verses the previous new normal comprised of quarantine, fear, and uncertainty for our future.

2022 provided new opportunities for an in-person meeting. Though we kept with the current zoom method for monthly meetings, the section was able to assemble on June 11, 2022 at the West 6<sup>th</sup> Brewery farm in Frankfort for an executive committee meeting. After the meeting, the Section was able to distribute annual awards to the following individuals:

1. Mr. Jack Stickney – Bluegrass Rural Water Association - Geologist of the Year
2. Dr. Gina Lukoczki – Kentucky Geological Society - Diversity Equality and Inclusion Award
3. Mr. Mason Wade – Western Kentucky University - Student Award

Though she was unable to attend, one additional award was given to Ms. Angela Wang of Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School for her Kentucky Science Fair Earth Sciences Category winning performance. She was awarded the Smithsonian Institution's publication *EARTH* along with a gift certificate.

Our annual Darwin Lecture was held on February 10<sup>th</sup> and we were lucky to retain Dr. Linda Kah, Professor at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Kah gave a fascinating peek into the work she is currently undertaking with the NASA Mars Rover. Her presentation was comprised of the current status, findings, and future goals of the rover project. All in all, her presentation was amazing and brought into perspective the vast amount of technology currently deployed, the logistics of an interplanetary mission, and of course, the interesting features of the Martian landscape.

The annual AIPG Conference was held in August of last year in Marquette, Michigan. Our very own Bill Brabb was able to represent our Kentucky section at the meeting and came back with a wealth of information. Some of the information he brought back included the excitement surrounding the 2023 AIPG Annual Conference that will be held in our Commonwealth at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront. The meeting will take place September 16-19 and our section will be co-hosting with the Ohio and Indiana sections. With our world getting back to normal, we are looking forward to having Geologists from all over the country and the world, come to our area and take part in the annual gathering that looks to be very informative and fun for all.

In closing, 2022 has been a very exciting year with regards to our section finally being able to meet face to face. I have been honored to serve as President and look forward to Dr. Donnie Lumm leading us in 2023. He will do an amazing job and there is no one better suited to head up the section while we co-host the annual conference that celebrates 60 years of AIPG.

Best,

Donny Prater, BS, MLA, CSP, CPG