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## 2004 officers

President: Richard Smath  
 (rsmath@uky.edu)  
 President-elect: Melissa Dieckmann  
 (melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu)  
 Past-president: Greg Corne-  
 nett (greg@kyriverprop.com)  
 Secretary/treasurer:  
 Ann Watson  
 (watson@uky.edu)  
 Councilor-at-large:  
 Brandon Nuttall  
 (bnuttall@uky.edu)  
 Councilor-at-large:  
 Bart Davidson  
 (bdavidson@uky.edu)

## KSPG Web site

www.kspg.org

## Message from the president

It was a good year for the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists. We have started to forge ahead on two issues, the first being to get through a bill that would let graduating geology students become Geologists-in-Training (G-I-T). Upon graduation, students could take the fundamentals section of the ASBOG exam. If they pass they can have a G-I-T certificate, which would be beneficial to the person and also to the employer who hires this person. Dave Jackson and Jennifer Miller have done an outstanding job sifting through all the issues and creating a highly informative bill to be presented to a sponsor for the legislative session.

Melissa Dieckmann has been working with AAPG to get together a program that will allow us to submit the name of a teacher who has done outstanding work in the earth science field. Our nominee will also be presented with a monetary award, and then we will submit the teacher's name to AAPG to compete with other teachers

in the Eastern Section. This was a good way for Melissa, who will be president of KSPG during 2005, to get her feet wet.

Patrick Gooding has been our AAPG delegate and is very active in AAPG meetings; he serves on several committees. Patrick was also a major workhorse on the KSPG field trip, securing all the ideal spots in Berea, the break in the weather, and the fall color to stay on the leaves of the trees.

Other people on our Executive Committee (Bart Davidson, Brandon Nuttall, Anna Watson, Meg Smath) have put in tremendous work behind the scenes. And without their effort and time, I could not have kept KSPG functioning on the professional level that it has. We have set some precedents. First, we have amended our bylaws so that a new member will not have to seek the sponsorship of KSPG members. We have also set up a scholarship program that will allow three top students from a university that has a geology department

to attend our fall field trip at no expense (lodging is not included).

We have been putting up the minutes of our meetings on the KSPG website to try and let it be known what direction the Executive Committee is going.

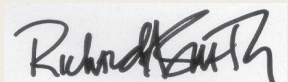
Brandon Nuttall is sorting through all the great photographs of this past field trips to display on the KSPG website. Meg Smath will have a PDF of the field trip guide book on the website.

Finally, we get to the matter of voting for a new president for 2006, which is done by first electing this person president-elect for 2005.

This year we have set up an electronic ballot on the KSPG website. **Go to [www.kspg.org](http://www.kspg.org) and click on "Members" then on "Vote" to cast your ballot.**

You may vote for the candidates that have volunteered for these positions, or you can type in the name of a write-in candidate.

Please do so before December 31, 2004.



## Committee chairs

**Revenue:** Greg Cornett  
(greg@kyriverprop.com)

**Legislative/Regulatory Oversight:** Doug Reynolds (dougjr1@prodigy.net)

**K-12 Earth Science Education:** Melissa Dieckmann (melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu)

**University Outreach:** Ken Kuehn (kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu)

**Geologist-In-Training:** David Jackson (davida.jackson@ky.gov)

**Scholarship/Awards:**

**Distinguished Geologic Sites:** Drew Andrews (wandrews@uky.edu)

**2004 Field Conference:** Richard Smath (rsmath@uky.edu)

**Membership/Member Benefits:** Patrick Gooding (gooding@uky.edu)

**Symposia/Professional Development:** Brandon Nuttall (bnuttall@uky.edu)

**KSPG 2013:** Ken Kuehn (kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu)

**Hospitality/Entertainment:** Ann Watson (watson@uky.edu)

**Communications (Website/newsletter/publications):** Meg Smath (msmath@uky.edu)

## Message from the incoming president

As I look forward to the year ahead, I am excited and a bit overwhelmed by the myriad opportunities for KSPG to impact the geology field. Recent presentations at the national GSA conference and articles in publications such as *Geotimes* suggest that geology, both as a profession and as an academic discipline, is being devalued nationwide in favor of “trendier” science specializations that address hot topics in the media. At the state level, the Council on Postsecondary Education is reviewing several undergraduate and graduate geology programs at Kentucky universities due to low graduation rates from geology programs; this problem is also occurring nationwide. This could lead to the demise or significant restructuring of geology programs in Kentucky. Ironically, this is occurring at the same time that Kentucky has identified geology as an area of crucial need in the workplace. In the midst of all of this upheaval, how can KSPG help to ensure that geology is valued as a relevant academic discipline and a viable career opportunity?

A good step in the right direction is the Geologist-In-Training certification. As David Jackson discussed in an article in the Spring 2004 KSPG newsletter (Vol. 8, No. 1), a certified G-I-T program would provide a mechanism for new graduates “to maintain intimate contact with peers and mentors in the geologic community.” This mentoring and networking will allow new graduates to see the numerous, and sometimes unexpected, job opportunities that are available for practicing geologists, and will, it is hoped, reduce attrition of new graduates from the geology profession. In addition, the G-I-T certification will allow employers to have confidence in the fundamental geologic knowledge and skills of their employees during the 5-year hiatus that is required before being certified as a Professional Geologist.

Another crucial step to ensure the viability of geology in higher education curricula and as a vibrant, growing profession is the infusion of high-quality K-12 earth science education into Kentucky’s school systems. At a recent meeting with science educators

from the Kentucky Department of Education, I was informed that the science consultants receive more requests from K-12 teachers for help in earth science than any other science discipline. Through collaboration with Kentucky K-12 schools and universities, I have interviewed many students from fourth grade to senior year of college; I was amazed at the number of students who self-reported that they were not taught key geologic concepts as part of their formal education. Many students who did receive earth science education have serious gaps in their geologic knowledge or misconceptions that were not corrected, and most of their geologic education occurred in elementary and middle school. KSPG is responding to the need for high-quality earth science education in the K-12 classroom by developing an award for Outstanding Teacher in Earth Science. We are currently working with KDE to develop a mechanism to advertise this program throughout Kentucky. Hopefully this effort to reward high-quality earth science education will provide incentive for creative and rigorous earth science curriculum development in the K-12 classroom and publicize the relevance and importance of geology to Kentucky citizens of all ages.

Finally, KSPG provides a wonderful opportunity through its annual field trip to demonstrate the relevance of geology to the citizens of Kentucky. When a site meets the criteria for a Distinguished Geologic Site, the community becomes even more involved in the geology of the area and continues to recognize its importance once the KSPG field trip is concluded. This certainly has been the case with the citizens of Jenkins, KY and the Pound Gap Distinguished Geologic Site. This year, Drew Andrews and others are working on a field trip in the Owensboro area. I would like to spearhead an effort to encourage earth science teachers of all grade levels to attend the field trip, and perhaps even share ideas about earth science education as an option for the Saturday activities.

The geologic profession is changing irrevocably, as described eloquently in Bart Davidson’s Message from the President in Winter 2000 (Vol. 4, No. 1). The integra-

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# Spring Break in...

# Belize

as part of

GLY-480-002 and 703-001

No prerequisite needed

May be taken as credit, audit, or no-credit – Non-majors, non-UK students, & professionals are welcome!



Beach at Laughing Bird Caye

Trip Leaders: Clif Jordan, Carbonaterocks.com  
Frank Ettensohn, Univ. of Kentucky

## Itinerary

- ✚ Sunday, March 13 – Louisville to Houston, to Belize City, to Placencia
- ✚ Monday, March 14 – examine inner shelf settings of the Southern Shelf
- ✚ Tuesday, March 15 – examine outer shelf settings of barrier reef along Southern Shelf
- ✚ Wednesday, March 16 – Placencia to Belmopan, to Belize City, to San Pedro
- ✚ Thursday, March 17 – examine Chetumal Bay, inner shelf settings of the Northern Shelf
- ✚ Friday, March 18 – examine outer shelf settings of barrier reef along Northern Shelf
- ✚ Saturday, March 19 – return home



Blue Hole on Lighthouse Reef Atoll

Activities include: Snorkeling, local culture, marine and coastal ecology, reefs, basic sedimentology, and geology

Total Cost: \$1860\*

\*Includes: Round-trip airfare from Louisville to Houston; airfare from Houston to Belize City; all transport within Belize; boat charters; and most meals. [Snacks, beverages, souvenirs, airport taxes, and meals in San Pedro (3 breakfasts & 3 dinners) are extra.]

At least 16 participants are needed for the trip to take place

Firm commitment and \$60 deposit are needed by January 20. Remainder due by February 18.

Make checks payable to University of Kentucky.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Frank Ettensohn, 859-257-6232, fettens@uky.edu

# AAPG distinguished lecture

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The 2005 AAPG Distinguished Lecture will be one of the best ever. The talk by Arthur R. Green will be “Global Energy – The Next Decade and Beyond.”

This is an extremely important issue facing everyone in the world today, considering that the price of oil is skyrocketing to record-breaking levels, wars, unrest and revolution in many oil-producing countries, the ever-changing global economy, China’s booming economy, the United States’ continued appetite for consuming oil, future exploration targets, conservation, and the environment.

This is such a hot topic that everyone will be interested. Consumers are experiencing increased cost for all petroleum products, including gasoline, home heating oil, natural gas, and propane. When the price of oil goes up, the costs are passed on to the consumer. Products, consumables, and services also increase. What is to be expected in the future? It’s going to be an exciting, and informative lecture.

Arthur R. Green is the retired Chief Geoscientist for ExxonMobil Exploration Company. His professional interests include worldwide analysis techniques, hydro-

carbon play analysis, and the influence of geology on human history and ecology. He has published worldwide regional studies and basin analyses, including papers on the evolution of the earth’s crust, circum-arctic geologic evolution and petroleum potential, and methods of petroleum exploration in frontier areas.

We do not have an exact date confirmed from AAPG, but it will be scheduled sometime between February 21 and March 4, 2005. The lecture will be held on the University of Kentucky campus and will be open to the public.

of advanced technology, philosophical changes in federal and state governing bodies, and the changing landscape of higher education are all impacting the future of the geologic profession. The greatest service that KSPG can provide to its members and the geologic profession is to continue to demonstrate the crucial need for professionals with strong fundamental geologic knowledge and skills in many issues of critical importance to the citizens of Kentucky. During this year, I would like to challenge each of you to look for ways to demonstrate the wonder and relevance of geology in your community through service to your profession and in your community. Awareness of the importance of geology to the quality of life in Kentucky will ensure that the geology profession will not merely survive, but will thrive.

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This newsletter is sent to all members of the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists. Send newsletter items to KSPG Newsletter Editor Meg Smath, Kentucky Geological Survey, 228 MMRB, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0107. Phone (859) 257-5500 x 168. Fax: (859) 257-1147. E-mail: [msmath@uky.edu](mailto:msmath@uky.edu).