



KSPG Newsletter

Newsletter of the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists
vol. 11, no. 1
Summer 2007

Dept. of Geog. & Geol.
Western Kentucky Univ.
1906 College Heights Blvd.
#31066
Bowling Green, KY
42101-1066
Phone (270) 745-4555
(department office) or
745-6891 (May)
Fax (270) 745-6410

2007 officers

President: Andrew Wulff
(andrew.wulff@wku.edu)
President-elect: Dave Williams
(williams@uky.edu)
Past-president: Michael May
(michael.may@wku.edu)
Secretary/treasurer: Fred Siewers
(fred.siewers@wku.edu)
Councilor-at-large: Richard Smath
(rsmath@uky.edu)
Councilor-at-large: Ken Kuehn
(kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu)

Message from the president

Geology as a discipline is due for a makeover. All demographic indicators suggest that now is an ideal time for geologists to step forward as advocates for our discipline. High prices for energy and mineral commodities and the increased visibility of environmental issues, (e.g., global climate change, acid rock drainage, radon, asbestos, and such) are raising the profile of geology. The national and international media is increasingly reporting on geologic hazards and "disasters" and the need for fundamental understanding of earth processes. New federal standards for academic excellence in K-12 education stressing earth and space science are feeding the almost innate thrill in children for volcanoes, earthquakes, fossils, and rocks, and developing the next generation of geologists. In addition, professional geologists in all sectors are seeing an aging workforce that is not being renewed fast enough to accommodate expected growth. Add in competitive salaries, and the outlook for careers in geology is more positive now than in many years.

At the same time, long-term commitments in jobs in geology is an increasing issue,

as new employees become discouraged and unsatisfied in their jobs and start looking elsewhere quickly. A portion of this discontent is certainly due to lack of proper training and, especially for students, lack of context for the professional environment with its different priorities. A couple of examples: RJ graduated 3 years ago and has worked for four companies in 3 years, the first three in the field of environmental geology, and is now working for a mid-major gold exploration company in Nevada; KC graduated 2 years ago and has worked for three companies, but just moved out west for a new job; AN graduated 4 months ago, has been in her job for 3 months and is already looking elsewhere. Their stories are the same: They all expected steep learning curves for techniques and practices, but they did not expect that their work activities and responsibilities would be so different from their academic training in terms of vocabulary, rigor, deadlines, reports, personnel problems. Some of this is new job blues, but strong collaboration between academic and industry sectors can help alleviate some of



Andrew Wulff

this discontent and move our field forward, by keeping this talent in-state.

KSPG represents the many varied faces of geology in the commonwealth – industry, government, academia – and has well-established affiliations with similar organizations, all with a stake in developing a workforce that is well-prepared, both in content and context. To this end, the Board is examining ways of bringing the special context of the geology workplace to academic settings in order to augment the content already being delivered. A series of workshops, forums, short courses, and documents is being crafted that can initially be introduced to a broad spectrum of geologists at the annual KSPG field conferences. From there, these will be available across the com-

—Continued on page 2

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)

2006 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 (Web site/newsletter/publications): Meg Smath (msmath@uky.edu)

"Message from the President"—continued from page 1

monwealth for more specific audiences. As new workshops and forums are introduced each year, KSPG will serve as a liaison between academia and industry, while providing development opportunities for professionals and critical networking. Examples of 1- and 2-day workshop topics might include landfill or quarry siting or "Drilling: Language, Equipment, and Techniques." Several forum and panel discussion topics already proposed would explore legal issues, report-writing, and the effective use of online digital geological maps. These would be initiated and led by professionals from all sectors, but each would have a very practical focus. This model of collaboration is being discussed and slowly initiated at the national level, and energy and mining companies have already started to develop specialized field courses and workshops to be available for a wide range of both students and professionals. Let's make Kentucky the standard for effective collaboration! If you have ideas or topics for these forums and workshops, please let me know so that we can better develop the ranks of geologists working in Kentucky.

KSPG will continue to look for ways of extending our reach by establishing a presence in the Capital, and by building and maintaining strong relationships with other professional societies and organizations. We are pleased to be moving forward with the AIPG in developing some of these new ideas, and I'm grateful for the synergy

being developed through the leadership in AIPG. Jim Howard has taken an energetic lead in these areas and we certainly appreciate his vision! KSPG will be a regional co-host for the Eastern Section AAPG meeting ("Winning the Energy Trifecta") in Lexington Sept. 16-18). Start making plans not only to attend the entire meeting, but to actively participate in the many activities and sessions. We have committed financial resources to ensure a successful meeting and will vigorously promote the meeting and enrich our relationship with AAPG. KSPG was pleased to share some of the costs of an update of the book "Exploring the Geology of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Region", written by University of Cincinnati geology professor emeritus Paul E. Potter. This is a popular book and important contribution, and we look forward to further collaborations and contributions of this sort. I look forward to a good presence at the North-Central GSA meeting in the spring of 2008 in Evansville, and the increased exposure for our region.

So there are many exciting events and possibilities in this continuing 2007. The challenges facing us as geologists are certainly not unique to Kentucky. However, the creativity and support of the members of KSPG provide us with the mobility and depth to effectively raise the profile and relevance of geology in Kentucky. I look forward to this successful year!

Andrew Wulff

Scenes from last fall's field trip



Outgoing president's message

One of my greatest laments of the past year as KSPG president is that it went so quickly. I still want to do more to further engage our membership, and encourage more cooperation with our sibling society in the Commonwealth, the KY-AIPG. As it turns out, I have great interest in continuing contributing to the society and helping the Executive Committee in any way possible. I am excited about what we accomplished together in 2006 and what lies ahead for the remainder of 2007 and beyond. Thanks for a well-attended and well-received KY-AIPG and KSPG joint fall field trip in the Ohio Valley in both northwest Kentucky and southern Indiana goes out to William Andrews Jr., Steven Martin, Ronald Counts, E. Glynn Beck, Carrie Pulliam, and Brandon Nuttall of the Kentucky Geological Survey; James Durbin and Scott Waninger of the Geology and Physics Department of the University of Southern Indiana; John Lutz

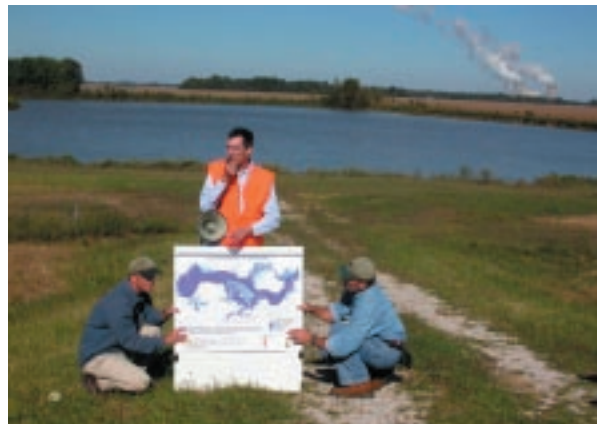
of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Kentucky; and Kenneth Henn of the Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Your contributions are greatly appreciated, and all of you can be proud of the production of a fine field guide. Dr. James Howard graciously presented a talk entitled "Time: The Forgotten Element in Environmental Investigations and Remediations" at the banquet of the fall field conference – this was well received by students and professionals alike. Thanks Jim! Thanks also goes out to Ron Counts, Dave Williams, Carrie Pulliam, Scott Waninger, and Steve Blanford of the USDA from Lexington for their hard work on the pre-trip soils characterization workshop. I know that a number of our university students took advantage of this great learning opportunity. We would like to continue such worthwhile activities in the

future. It is a great way to link practicing professionals with our students – the future of the society and the profession.

This year we will have many exciting things to help with as a society such as the co-sponsorship of the AAPG in Lexington in the fall, helping our colleagues in Indiana and northwest Kentucky with preparing field trips and oral/poster presentations for an early 2008 GSA meeting in Evansville, and making the geology outreach group (KY-AIPG/KSPG) really make a difference for our discipline in Kentucky. I look forward to it all. Thanks for a great year!

Michael May

Scenes from last fall's field trip



Treasurer's report

As of April 5, 2007, KSPG has total assets of \$6,968.41: \$3,529.65 is in an interest-bearing savings account and the remaining \$3,438.76 is in a checking account.

The society received 96 membership renewals during the period of January 1 to April 5, 2007. Revenues from renewing memberships – which included many 2006 renewals (thank

you!) – amounted to \$2,800. The society's primary expenditure since the beginning of the year was its contribution to the Eastern Section AAPG meeting, to be held in Lexington, September 16–18. The society contributed \$1,500 toward that meeting with the understanding that it will receive half of the profits of the meeting after expenses. The society also contributed

\$500 to the publication of the second edition of Dr. Paul Potter's book, *Exploring the Geology of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Region*. This book will be an important publication for geologists and nongeologists alike and is much anticipated.

If you still have to renew your 2007 KSPG membership, please send a check to me, Dr. Fred Siewers,

Department of Geography and Geology, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101. Please note that the annual dues are \$20 for full professional members and \$10 for associate members. The membership renewal form can be found on the KSPG Web site, under "About KSPG." Thanks.

Fred Siewers

Help us save money!

KSPG would like to move toward electronic newsletters and announcements. This would save printing and postage costs, and allow more timely reminders of meetings, field trips, forums, workshops, and opportunities. We will send out a trial email around **June 1**. If you do not receive an e-mail and you would like to receive timely announcements in addition to helping KSPG save costs, please send an updated e-mail address to fred.siewers@wku.edu or andrew.wulff@wku.edu.

Thank you!

KSPG

Dept. of Geology & Geography
Western Kentucky University
#31066
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1066
Phone: (270) 745-4555 or
745-6891
Fax: (270) 745-6410
www.kspg.org

In this issue:

- 1 Message from the president
- 2 Scenes from last fall's field trip

- 3 Outgoing president's message
- 4 Treasurer's report

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: m-smath@uky.edu.