



ARIZONA SECTION AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS Newsletter – November 2024

Message from the Arizona Section President - James Adu

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been another good year for the Arizona Section of AIPG. I'm deeply grateful to our officers and members whose hard work and dedication have kept our section active, engaged, and impactful. Your efforts, time, and support make all the difference, and I thank you wholeheartedly.

It was a privilege to represent our section at the AIPG Annual Meeting in Durango, Colorado, this past August. The conference, themed "Resources of the West," brought together industry leaders, professionals, and students from across the country for an inspiring exchange of knowledge and experiences. Doug Bartlett, a dedicated Arizona Section member, served as the general chairperson, helping make the event an outstanding success. I was honored to participate in technical sessions and to be elected to the Advisory Board of the National Executive Committee, a role I look forward to serving in 2025. Our section was well-represented at the conference, with members including Barbara Murphy, Dawn Garcia, Mike Alter, and student representatives Aidan Houlgate and Lovemor Mphamba from Northern Arizona University, whom we proudly supported.

The conference's field trips, and technical sessions provided a fantastic learning opportunity, particularly in understanding the geology and resource potential of southwest Colorado. Field trips to the Animas Valley and excursions on the Durango-Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad offered valuable insights into the geological and historical richness of the region. The event was not just an educational experience but a memorable one, with moments of camaraderie, exploration, and a deeper appreciation for our profession.

I look forward to working with our 2025 President, Mike Alter, as we aim to build on the momentum generated this year. We will continue to engage with experts to deliver meaningful professional talks and webinars, fostering a collaborative and educational environment for our members. I'm also excited for the upcoming get-together during the SME Arizona Conference in Tucson on December 8, 2024. This informal gathering will allow us to connect, share stories, and enjoy the company of fellow geologists and colleagues at Westin La Paloma Resort.

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Thank you once again to each member of the Arizona Section for your continued support, participation, and passion. Let's carry this energy forward into 2025, ensuring our section remains a thriving community of geoscience professionals. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Tucson next month!

Treasurer's Report – Dylan Easthouse

AIPG AZ Section Treasurer's Report
Bank Account Totals as of October 14, 2024

Checking: \$13,491.45
Savings: \$10,624.22
Total: \$24,115.67

Since the last Treasurer's Report on March 31, 2024, the AIPG AZ Section account balances have increased at total of \$967.45. Summary income and expenses during this time period are:

Income

\$3,470 – AIPG AZ Section dues
\$0.61 – Interest on account

Expenses

\$500 – Donation to AIPG National Conference for support
\$855 – Two student sponsorships for NAU students to attend the AIPG National Conference
\$1,148.16 – AZ Section President travel reimbursement for National Conference

AIPG National Annual Meeting August 10 – 13, 2024



The AIPG Annual Meeting, held August 10 – 13, 2024 on the campus of Fort Lewis College, in Durango, Colorado was a great success. AZ Section member, Doug Bartlett was general chairperson of the conference. James Adu, AZ Section President, represented the AZ Section at the various business meetings and social events, and he even had time to make a presentation at a technical session. Dawn Garcia, AIPG Past President was very active at the meeting as well. The AIPG Executive Committee and Advisory Board meetings were well attended and business accomplished. James Adu was elected to the Advisory Board of the National Executive Committee. Congratulations to James!

The theme of the conference was “Resources of the West”, which was appropriate since southwest Colorado includes abundant base and precious metals mines, uranium deposits, coal deposits, oil and gas fields of the San Juan Basin, and water resources. There was a lot of history to learn about ancient native American history as well as early mining operations from the 1870's and later.



The geology of the area is complex and highly diverse and includes amazing exposures of glacial geology, enormous volcanic calderas, exceptional exposures of Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary deposits, and Precambrian basement complexes. Many of us were able to enjoy a scenic ride on the Durango-Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad that operates daily between Durango and the old mining town of Silverton. Touring Silverton was a real treat.

The conference included two days of field trips, one day of technical talks, a plenary session of invited speakers, a silent auction for support of The Foundation of the AIPG at the welcome reception, and an awards dinner. James Adu gave an interesting talk at one of the technical sessions. Doug Bartlett was awarded a Presidential Certificate of Merit by AIPG President Shanna Schmitt in recognition of his dedication and persistence in chairing the annual AIPG conference.



There were quite a few members and associates of the Arizona Section at the annual meeting including James Adu and Joan Adu, Mike Alter and Stacie Alter, Doug Bartlett and Lori Bartlett, Dawn Garcia, Barbara Murphy and Casey Murphy, Pam Wilkinson and Will Wilkinson. Two students, Aidan Houlgate and Lovemor Mphamba, from Northern Arizona University also attended the annual meeting. The Arizona Section offered some funding for the students to attend.







Attending AIPG's Annual Conference **By Aiden Houlgate, SA-12308** **Geology Student at Northern Arizona University**

The AIPG Annual Conference in Durango, Colorado, offered me, as an aspiring geologist, an educational and professional experience. From attending conference-sponsored field trips to networking with industry professionals, my time in Durango was critical for personal growth and development. I also participated in the poster competition, presenting my master's research on the impact of forest restoration in Arizona on shallow spring systems.



The conference began with an Early Career Professional (ECP) workshop, featuring a résumé information session and other valuable job application tips from current and former industry employers. I took the opportunity not only to network with fellow ECPs but also to absorb important job-search information presented during the seminar. One of the most valuable takeaways was the AIPG Mentoring Program. After the conference, I reached out to several industry geologists to learn more about their careers and ways to become involved as an ECP.

When in Colorado, hiking and exploring the outdoors is a must. During the conference field trip day, I joined a geologic tour through the Animas Valley, led by Fort Lewis College's Gary Gianniny. The excursion taught attendees about the region's rich geologic history and the significant role glaciers played in shaping the landscape around Durango.

A week packed with fascinating presentations from diverse geologists was ideal for a young, aspiring professional. Presenting my research poster at the conference provided a strong foundation for improving my public speaking and allowed me to gain valuable feedback on my work. I hope to continue attending AIPG conferences throughout my career and to take full advantage of the institute's invaluable mentoring network.

AIPG Arizona Section – Notes of Interest from October 2024 Members List

The Arizona Section (as of October 19, 2024) has 138 members. There are 88 Certified Professional Geologists (CPGs). The lowest CPG member number is that of an AZ Section member who was awarded CPG in 1969; early in the history of AIPG which was established in 1963. There are 29 Professional Members, 13 Student Members (3 at Northern Arizona University, 2 at Arizona State University, 6 at University of Arizona), 6 Early Career Professionals, and 2 Associate Members.

The fields of practice range widely with main focuses on environmental, mining, water resources, geochemistry, geophysics, and geotechnical engineering work. Our members serve in federal, state, and local agencies, for federal and state geological surveys, work in consulting with small to large companies or independently, work for mining companies, water providers, as mineralogists/gemologists, and in academia. So, we have a lot of members with amazing experiences to share.

Arizona Section Members and AIPG Executive Board Positions

Congratulations to James Adu, 2024 President of the Arizona Section, for being elected to the 2025 AIPG National Advisory Board. James represented the Arizona Section at the AIPG National Annual Meeting in Durango, Colorado. While actively participating at the Executive Committee annual business meeting, James was nominated and then elected to the Advisory Board of the AIPG Executive Committee. James continues the trend of Arizona Section members serving on the AIPG Executive Committee.

Members of the Arizona Section have a long history of serving at the AIPG National level, either in an elected office, on various committees, and as chairperson of several annual meetings. The following members were elected and served at a national position (name along with office or position and year of service) over many years:

Ed Dapples: Advisory Board (1982)

Frank Turek: Advisory Board (1991, 1992)

Lisa Worthington: Advisory Board (1993, 1994)

Dale Nations: Advisory Board (1995), TPG Editor (1997-98), Vice President (2004)

Barbara H. Murphy: Advisory Board (1996, 2002, 2007, 2010), Vice President (2003), President-Elect (2011), National President (2012), Past-President (2013)

Dawn Garcia: Advisory Board (1999), Vice President (2020), President-Elect (2022), National President (2023), Past President (2024)

David Palmer: Advisory Board (2005), Secretary (2008-9)

Doug Bartlett: Treasurer (2015-16), President-Elect (2017), National President (2018), Past President (2019)

Taylor Murray: Early Career Professional (2021)

James Adu: Advisory Board (2025)

AIPG Get-together during SME Arizona Conference in Tucson – December 8, 2024

On **Sunday, December 8, 2024**, AIPG members will be gathering at **Westin La Paloma Resort** (*note: the location of the conference is in a new location this year!*) for some informal networking before the AMIGOS casino night. The resort is located at 3800 E Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ. We will plan to meet at **6 pm in the main bar area**, or on the patio outside of the bar, depending on the weather.

The SME Arizona Conference is taking place December 8-9, 2024 at Westin La Paloma Resort, so it's an opportunity to sit down and enjoy conversations with your fellow geologists and colleagues. You are welcome to include your colleagues and friends in this gathering.

There is no cost to attend the AIPG get-together (except for any beverages you may want to purchase) and the AMIGOS casino night is also free unless you want to purchase beverages or game chips.

Any questions, please reach out to Dawn Garcia (520-471-9387 or dawnhgarcia.az@gmail.com).

Photos from 2023 event with AIPG AZ Section members.



Building the Future of Geology - Support the Foundation of the AIPG

The Foundation of the AIPG supports a variety of programs including student scholarships, student and early career professional workshops, educational programs aimed at practitioners, the public, and policy makers, and some special needs requested by AIPG or other professional organizations. The Foundation is proud to be able to serve AIPG and the geosciences by providing financial support for these programs. Every donation helps the Foundation to contribute toward building the future of geology. If you have any questions or comments about the Foundation, please contact me or any of the other Trustees of the Foundation for additional details and check the AIPG web site for more information about the Foundation. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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