

# Combined Michigan Schools Alumni Event at the GSA Annual Meeting

Planned by Katherine Ryker, Eastern Michigan University.

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## Overall Summary with Pictures for 2017

- Attendance was roughly 50 people in total with at least 10 from EMU. Faculty attending were Christine Clark, Chris Gellasch and Katherine Ryker.
- The cost to EMU was \$282.88 total, including catering.
- Cost for participating in the public alumni event was \$65 with a cash bar and no food. EMU participated in 2016 and had about 15 students, alumni and faculty attend, which was one of the larger single-school contingents in the room.
- Katherine worked with Bill Shepard (Vice President for Advancement; Executive Director, EMU Foundation) to obtain “swag” for attendees – pens, pins (alumni and plain), lanyards (very popular), luggage tags, and various other items.
- Bill suggested saving a financial “ask” from alumni until next year.
- Brought 10 color copies of most recent newsletter.
- Christine created sign-in sheet (see below).
- Chris brought his computer to view pictures of Strong Hall renovation.
- Representatives from all schools felt like this was a very successful event and look forward to participating next year!



*Eastern students, alumni and faculty.*



*Attendance at overall alumni event.*

## Costs Associated with the 2017 Private Alumni Event

- The room reservation (no catering, AV, internet, etc.; no food/beverage minimum or additional room fees) - \$85
- Having a bartender is \$50/hour with a 2 hour minimum for a cash bar. Don't need to pay if a minimum of \$250 is met.
- Catering costs found here: <http://seattle.sheratonemenus.com/> The tax is 10.1% and service fee is 25% -those must be added onto the per person price listed on the menus.
  - \$848.63 for food, including catering. Food was sufficient for the four schools present in 2017 (Albion, EMU, GVSU, WMU) but should be increased in future years. All of the options seemed to be enjoyed.
    - Veggie crudité for 14
    - Hummus for 14
    - Chips and dip for 14
    - Fruits for 14
  - See MI Alumni reception.xlsx and EO Report Batch (79).pdf for further details on catering costs.
- Total cost of this event was \$933.63, of which EMU paid \$282.88

## EMU Student and Alumni Attendance for 2017

Eastern Michigan University – Geological Society of America Meeting Alumni Event - DATE				
Name	Degree and Year	E-mail/Phone	What are you doing these days and for whom?	Favorite EMU Memory

Eastern Michigan University – Geological Society of America Meeting Alumni Event – Oct. 23, 2017				
Name	Degree and Year	Email/ Phone	What are you doing these days and for whom?	Favorite EMU memory
Haley Schneider	Prof. Geo. 2016	hschneite@emich.edu	Environmental Geologist for G-Logics.	Dr. Clark !!
Gloria Loriaux	Prof. Geo. 2017	Gloriaux@emich.edu	Metallurgy for General Motors	Tectonics field trip!
Chuck Beightol	Undergrad 2012	chuckbeightol@nps.edu	vertebrate paleontology @ Petrified Forest N.P.	Milan Paleo field trip
Brittany Cymes	Prof. Geol. 2014	cymesba@miamich.edu	mineralogist, PhD student, Miami University.	Studying tourmaline with Christine, Charlie, and Ennis.
Elizabeth Fokhan	Prof. Geol. 2014	efokhan3@emich.edu	<del>Graduate Degree</del> in masters in Earth Science Education still at EMU	
Clarissa Crist	Env. Science 2017	<del>Clarissacrist17@gmail.com</del> Clarissacrist17@gmail.com	Applying for grad school	Research
KEENAN HASSSELL	Prof. Geo 2016	KHASSSELL@UMM.EDU	GRAD SCHOOL	RESEARCH

## Recommendations for 2018

- Suggest reaching out to other schools to determine interest in April 2017 (before summer break).
- Create a list of talks and posters by day from students and alum at each college
- Make and bring EMU stickers for people's badges
- Advertise a set picture time for each university; suggest one hour into the event
- Suggest bringing signs/banners for each school to indicate where alumni are gathering.
- The space this year was adequate, but we were pushing room capacity (50). Reserve a larger room for 2018 meeting in Indianapolis.
- Request large tables and chairs.
- Have some kind of "cross pollinating" event; perhaps have a trivia competition with questions submitted by faculty.
- Costs should be divided evenly between all schools.
- Reach out to 2017 student/alumni attendees letting them know event is happening again.
- All of the EMU alumni in attendance graduated in the past 5 years (and most within two years) so work to advertise to alumni that graduated before then.
- Keep the earlier (6pm) start since many of the larger schools have receptions that start later and this will reduce conflicts for those seeking to attend multiple receptions that evening.

## Contacts for Michigan Schools

School	Contact	Notes
Albion College	<a href="mailto:blincoln@albion.edu">blincoln@albion.edu</a>	Participated in 2017; would like to participate again in 2018
Central Michigan University	<a href="mailto:baxte1ma@cmich.edu">baxte1ma@cmich.edu</a>	Interested in joining for 2018
Eastern Michigan University	<a href="mailto:kryker@emich.edu">kryker@emich.edu</a> for 2017; <a href="mailto:eporteng@emich.edu">eporteng@emich.edu</a> for 2018	Participated in 2017; would like to participate again in 2018
Grand Valley State University	<a href="mailto:petersvi@gvsu.edu">petersvi@gvsu.edu</a>	Participated in 2017; would like to participate again in 2018
Hope College	<a href="mailto:bodenbender@hope.edu">bodenbender@hope.edu</a>	Unsure of interest for 2018
Lake Superior State University	<a href="mailto:pkelso@lssu.edu">pkelso@lssu.edu</a>	Interested in joining for 2018
Michigan Technological University	<a href="mailto:jsqierke@mtu.edu">jsqierke@mtu.edu</a>	May want to join for 2018
Northern Michigan University	<a href="mailto:eegs@nmu.edu">eegs@nmu.edu</a>	Unsure of interest for 2018; department is Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences
Wayne State University	<a href="mailto:geology@wayne.edu">geology@wayne.edu</a>	Unsure of interest for 2018
Western Michigan University	<a href="mailto:kathryn.wright@wmich.edu">kathryn.wright@wmich.edu</a>	Participated in 2017; would like to participate again in 2018

## Initial E-mail Sent on June 9, 2017

Greetings!

I am reaching out to see if your geology programs might be interested in co-hosting a private alumni event at this year's GSA in Seattle with Eastern and Western Michigan Universities.

At the public alumni event last year, we noticed that there were a number of smaller Michigan schools, all with good attendance. Combining several of the smaller schools would allow us to get a private space for less money, and provide a quieter space for networking within our geographic region.

Costs associated with the private alumni event are:

- The room reservation (no catering, AV, internet, etc.; no food/beverage minimum or additional room fees) - \$85
- Having a bartender is \$50/hour with a 2 hour minimum. This would be for a cash bar.
- Catering costs can be found here: <http://seattle.sheratonemenus.com/> The tax is 10.1% and service fee is 25% -those must be added on to the per person price listed on the menus.

In addition to reserving a room and having a bartender on site, we would like to offer some kind of appetizer (e.g. build your own street tacos for \$875) and split the cost across universities. We could then reserve a few large tables/rooms at nearby restaurants for anyone interested in carrying on the conversation or joining us later in the evening.

**Please let me know (by 12pm Friday, June 16 if possible) if your program is interested in co-hosting this event; please use Reply rather than Reply All.** We will ask that participating programs contribute something financially, but will need to work out exactly what that'll be once we know who's participating.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Ryker, on behalf of EMU and WMU