



Breaking News!

Inside This Issue

- 1 Breaking News!
- 2 Letter from the Chair
- 3 Division Elections and Appointments
- 3 Division Committee Service
- 4 New Collaborative Opportunities!
- 4 Logos, Logos, Logos
- 5 Geology and Health Technical Sessions in Portland – Every Day!
- 6 Important Dates and Deadlines for 2010

FREE box lunches at the *Geology and Health Division Annual Business Meeting in Portland on Sunday, October 18!* See details (at right).

Come participate in the largest Geology and Health program (17 technical sessions!) in our 4-year Division history at the GSA Annual Conference, 18-21 October 2009, in Portland, Oregon, USA!

You are invited to celebrate this exciting milestone on the **opening day** of the conference at the **Annual Division Business Meeting and Luncheon**. Mark your calendars to attend on **Sunday, 18 October 2009, from 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm** in Oregon Convention Center (OCC) Room E147/148.

FREE BOX LUNCHESES will be available to the first 50 arrivals! You will have a delectable choice of gourmet sandwiches (Grilled Chicken Breast with thinly sliced mango slaw, caramelized onions and crisp greens or Grilled Portobello Mushroom with olive, red pepper and artichoke hummus and fresh mesclun), classic Northwest accompaniments and light beverages.

On the agenda: an outgoing chair address by Monica E. Gowan, a look forward by incoming chair H. Catherine Skinner, and discussion on Division needs and goals, especially Awards, Section Meetings, logo and curricula.

This event immediately follows Division-sponsored morning sessions:

- ❑ Session 11, T40, "Environmental Magnetism, Magnetic Stratigraphy, and Magnetic Field Modeling" (OCC Portland Ballroom 251/258)
- ❑ Session 21, T106, "Opportunities and Challenges for Geologic Hazards Education in Cascadia I: In Memory of John Lahr" (OCC Portland Ballroom 252)
- ❑ Session 24, T139, "Sources, Transport, and Fate of Trace and Toxic Elements in the Environment I" (OCC Portland Ballroom 253)

After the Annual Business Meeting and Lunch, consider rejoining T106 or T139, or attend this other cutting edge Division-sponsored event:

- ❑ Session 72, T159, "Climate Change Impacts on Society: Interface between Earth Systems Science and Policy Making" (OCC Portland D135/136)

Throughout the day, view Division-sponsored poster sessions in OCC Hall A:

- ❑ Session 28, "Geology and Health: Dust Hazards, Exposure and Consequences"
- ❑ Session 46, T106, "Opportunities and Challenges for Geologic Hazards Education in Cascadia I: In Memory of John Lahr"

The key to a successful division is your participation – and finding ways to make it valuable for you, GSA, and Society. Come join your colleagues for inspiration, camaraderie and active involvement! See you in Portland!

Letter from the Chair

Greetings and warm wishes from New Zealand! Right now I'm delighted to be welcoming the spring equinox in the Southern Hemisphere, and at the same time enjoying the prospect of experiencing autumn with you in Portland in less than a month. I hope the arrival of this newsletter in your inbox finds you healthy and well.

Since we met in Houston last October, my life has been a busy one with both a PhD-in-progress and GSA service in multiple roles – conducted almost entirely while living a day ahead (and many daylight hours behind!) most of you. I want you to know how much the leadership of our Division this past year was a team effort. The wonderful open-mindedness, flexibility, support and insight offered by Geoff Plumlee (Past Chair), Cathy Skinner (1st Vice Chair), Syed Hasan (2nd Vice Chair), and Kevin Nick (Secretary-Treasurer), and the years of GSA staff experience generously shared by Barb EchoHawk, made my job as Chair not only possible but a true pleasure.

These opportunities to serve “remotely” and yet still feel part of a wholly integrated team, strike me as a remarkable reflection of not only the technological innovations available to us but also the inherent synergy of our technical “discipline”. When the Geology and Health Division was created in 2005, the interdisciplinary relationship with medicine, biology, chemistry and other sciences was axiomatic to our purpose. Perhaps no one fully recognized at that time, however, the level the Division could or would express the “application” of geology into human aspects not typically nor consistently considered. Two examples of these emergent interrelationships between geology and human health – sure to expand and persist as important issues for years to come – are 1) climate (with huge needs for understanding impacts on human health from geological, mineralogical, and hydrological considerations) and 2) disaster (with rising needs for addressing how the human response influences the outcome of hazardous events). This year the Geology and Health Division is sponsoring two Pardee Invited Keynote Symposia at the GSA Annual Meeting: P1, *Crisis in the Cryosphere: Impacts of Planetary Meltdown*, and P7, *Hazards and Health: Preventing Disaster and Building Resilience on the Ring of Fire*. We are lead sponsor on the Hazards and Health symposium, and successfully arranged financial support to bring expert speakers to GSA from the fields of public health, sociology, psychology, and emergency management. I very much encourage your participation at this unique event (Monday, 19 October, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Oregon Convention Center Portland Ballroom 254). We are also lead sponsor on five topical sessions in Portland and co-sponsors for an additional ten (see program highlights, page 5). All together, they tackle a broad array of potential health impacts and will address key questions on relationships between geological hazards, exposure and consequences. We can be proud of our success at building technical programming and generating many research contributions under the wide umbrella of our Division.

Despite our shared gusto for integrative research and applications, we cannot rest on any laurels at this early stage in our Division history. I know we are also mindful that our Division emphasis cannot exist alone – true collaboration with disciplines outside of traditional geology, and from other cultures, will be increasingly essential as we work on issues without scientific or political borders. We've been working hard to engage professional societies with missions related to the health sciences as GSA Associated Societies, and that began to pay off this year with 3 new formal affiliations, two of which are with international organizations (see page 4). We have only begun to tap into these collaborations, but both the enthusiasm and the pragmatism have led to some exciting beginnings. These and other new intersections will expand the recognition of GSA activities to many communities and individuals beyond our traditional spheres of interaction.

Let's continue to prove ourselves as an intellectually active, inspired and relevant group of people, and keep raising GSA's visibility in disciplines well beyond earth sciences and into the international realm as well! **Please tell your friends**, colleagues and/or fellow students about the Geology and Health Division and encourage them to join. Foster their engagement: **Bring them with you** to the Annual Business Meeting and Lunch (see page 1), to listen in at our technical sessions, and to see the Division poster in the Exhibit Hall (near the Service Desk). **Nominate someone (or yourself!)** for a position on the 2010-2011 Management Board or volunteer your service on one of our standing committees (see page 3). **Propose a technical session or short course** for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Denver or for 2011 Section Meetings (see page 6). **Post this newsletter** on your office notice board or **share the link to our website** <http://rock.geosociety.org/GeoHealth/index.html>. However you might wish to be involved, please feel free to connect with Division officers at the Portland meeting or by email to **share your ideas (or your skills!)** for ways we can all work together to build this as YOUR Division. The personal rewards of service are great, and together we can make a meaningful difference on universal and far-reaching scales.

In closing I'd like to offer a heartfelt thanks to each of you for your sustained membership and support of the Geology and Health Division, and for your many contributions to our field. I think it is incredibly appropriate that in Portland I will be passing on the Chair role to H. Catherine Skinner. Cathy is one of our most dedicated and esteemed advocates, and as we make plans to celebrate our 5-year Division anniversary in 2010, it will be our good fortune to have her at the helm of our ship. I look forward to continuing on the journey with all of you.

Monica Gowan

Division Elections and Appointments

The Geology and Health Division Management Board roster changes yearly at the Division Annual Business Meeting. Elections are held annually for the position of Second Vice Chair and biennially for the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

For the election of 2009-2010 officers, 31.3% (72/230) of Division members voted. **Congratulations to Robert B. Finkelman for his election to the office of Second Vice Chair!** Special thanks to Division member **Kenneth L. Verosub** for his candidacy for this position.

The Chair, 1st Vice Chair and 2nd Vice Chair advance in succession annually until they have completed a term as Past Chair. The Secretary-Treasurer carries out a two-year term. Although not expressly required by Division bylaws, 2nd Vice-Chair **Syed E. Hasan** stood for election this year to the office of 1st Vice-Chair. He ran unopposed and **congratulations are extended to Syed** for his success. **H. Catherine Skinner** advances from 1st Vice-Chair to Chair, **Monica E. Gowan** from Chair to Past Chair, and **Kevin E. Nick** remains Secretary-Treasurer.

At the May 2009 GSA Council Meeting, **Monica E. Gowan** was appointed by GSA Council as the GSA Councilor/Division Liaison Representative to the Geology and Health Division (effective 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2011). She replaces Councilor **Jill S. Schneiderman**, whose Council term ended 30 June 2009. **Many thanks to Jill for her sustained support and interest in the Division!**

Division Committee Service

Division Members-at-Large serve with Division officers to fulfill the important tasks of three standing G&H Division committees:

- The *Program Committee* plans and arranges technical program contributions for Annual and Section Meetings.
- The *Nominating Committee* seeks nominations for candidates for the G&H Division Management Board, GSA Fellows, and Division Members-at-Large on GSA-wide committees.
- The *Awards Committee* evaluates and scores student presentations at G&H-sponsored technical sessions for the Best Student Paper Awards (oral and poster).

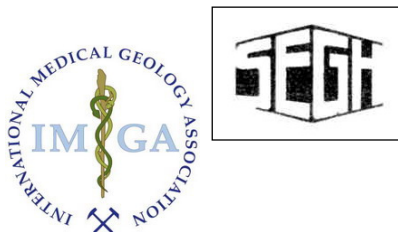
For their Program Committee contributions this past year, special thanks are due to members **Nehru Cherukupalli, Bob Finkelman, and Gabe Filippelli**. Gratitude is extended to **John Chamberlain, Robert Coleman, John Smoliga, and Barbara Sherriff** for their service on the Nominations Committee. Division Past Chair **Geoff Plumlee** is thanked for coordinating strategy on upcoming Division Student Awards procedures.

Dr. Robert B. Finkelman
joins the Geology and
Health Division
Management Board,
effective
18 October 2009.



**Keen to serve on a
Geology and Health
Division Committee for
2009-2010?**

To volunteer, nominate
someone or learn more,
please contact
Cathy Skinner at
catherine.skinner@yale.edu.
The Division needs you
and welcomes your
contributions!



**Announcing 3 New
Professional Alliances
formalized with GSA!**

Collaborative Opportunities!

This past year the Geology and Health Division played a crucial leadership role in advocating and establishing formal ties between GSA and three geology and health-related professional societies. Because of our efforts, motions were advanced to GSA Council for "Associated Society" status for the following organizations – and all were approved!

- ✓ The International Medical Geology Association
- ✓ The International Association of Emergency Managers
- ✓ The Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health

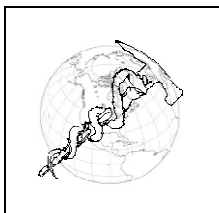
When thinking about technical program ideas or other ways to advance our Division's mission, goals and objectives, please remember these new connections and reach out to partner with them where possible!

Logos, Logos, Logos

For the past two years, the Geology and Health Division displayed a "Division Poster" in the Exhibit Hall throughout the week of the GSA Annual Meeting. Designed to be a fun and informative snapshot of the Division, our poster design typically centers on a temporary Division "Logo" created by a former student of Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Nick. (You can see this year's poster on display at the GSA Annual Meeting in Portland as well, near the Service Desk in the Exhibit Hall.)

But...given our Division's upcoming 5-year anniversary in 2010, the timing is ripe for adopting an "official logo". Past Division-wide calls for submissions to a logo contest and design discussions haven't generated much traction. Perhaps that means we are ready for a vote on what we have!

ACTION ITEM: Which one of these 3 proposed variations on a theme shall we select as our "official logo" and carry forward as the new "visual identity" for the GSA Geology and Health Division?



Logo #1



Logo #2



Logo #3

Please join your Division colleagues for **final discussion** on these designs at the Annual Business Meeting in Portland, or email comments to Kevin Nick at knick@llu.edu. Following any suggested minor modifications, **a vote will be taken** by email shortly thereafter on which one will be the winning design!

Geology and Health Technical Sessions in Portland – Every Day!

SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2009

Geology and Health: Dust Hazards, Exposure and Consequences (Posters)

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25224.htm

T40. Environmental Magnetism, Magnetic Stratigraphy, and Magnetic Field Modeling

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24198.htm

T106. Opportunities and Challenges for Geologic Hazards Education in Cascadia: In Memory of John Lahr

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_23822.htm

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25186.htm

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25187.htm

T139. Sources, Transport, and Fate of Trace and Toxic Elements in the Environment

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_23753.htm

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25198.htm

T159. Climate Change Impacts on Society: Interface between Earth Systems Science and Policy Making

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24058.htm

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2009

T18. Applied Hydrogeology: In Honor of Dr. Roy Williams

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_23744.htm

T23. Geochemistry of Arsenic and Other Toxic Elements and Assessment of Environmental Risks in Global Groundwater

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_23919.htm

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25139.htm

P7. Hazards and Health: Preventing Disaster and Building Resilience on the Ring of Fire

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24258.htm

T134. Risks and Realities: Current Advances in Understanding Societal Risk and Resilience to Natural Hazards I

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24220.htm

T139. Sources, Transport, and Fate of Trace and Toxic Elements in the Environment

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25199.htm

T152. Frontiers in Coal Science: From Basic Research to Applied Technology (Posters)

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25207.htm

TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2009

T23. Geochemistry of Arsenic and Other Toxic Elements and Assessment of Environmental Risks in Global Groundwater (Posters)

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25138.htm

T62. Reducing Risk from Geologic Hazards in the Dynamic Landscape of Oregon and Washington

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24137.htm

T133. Geochemistry of Atmospheric Particulates: From Sources to Impacts on the Environment and Health

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_23906.htm

T134. Risks and Realities: Current Advances in Understanding Societal Risk and Resilience to Natural Hazards II and Posters

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25196.htm

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25304.htm

T151. Clean Coal: Can It Be a Reality?

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24014.htm

T152. Frontiers in Coal Science: From Basic Research to Applied Technology

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_23671.htm

WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2009

P1. Crisis in the Cryosphere: Impacts of Planetary Melt-down

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24257.htm

T19. Characterizing, Predicting, and Managing Long-Term Contaminant Flux for Complex Subsurface Environments

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24209.htm

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25133.htm

T20. Contaminant Hydrogeology: Contaminant Fate and Transport in Geological Systems

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24203.htm

T78. Issues Surrounding Exposure to Asbestos and Other Potentially Hazardous Fibrous Minerals Occurring in Their Natural Settings

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_24004.htm

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/finalprogram/session_25166.htm

Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

2010 Division Committee Appointments Formalized	Nov-Dec 2009
2010 Annual Meeting Field Trip/Short Course Deadline	1 December 2009
GSA NE/SE Section Meeting Abstract Deadline	8 December 2009
2010 Annual Meeting Co-Sponsorships Arranged	9 January 2010 (est)
2010 Annual Meeting Technical Proposal Deadline	12 January 2010
Nominations for GSA Fellowship Due	1 February 2010 (est)
Nominations for Division Management Board Due	31 March 2010 (est)
Nominations for GSA Open Committee Positions Due	15 July 2010 (est)
2010 Annual Meeting Abstract Deadline	10 August 2010

Upcoming Events

2010 GSA Northeast/Southeast Section <i>Combined Meeting</i> Baltimore, Maryland	13-16 March 2010
2010 GSA North-Central/South-Central <i>Combined Meeting</i> Branson, Missouri	11-13 April 2010
2010 GSA Rocky Mountain Meeting Rapid City, South Dakota	21-23 April (T)
2010 GSA Cordilleran Section <i>Joint Meeting with Pacific Section, AAPG</i> Anaheim, California	27-29 May 2010
2010 GSA Annual Meeting Denver, Colorado, USA	31 Oct – 3 Nov 2010
2011 GSA Annual Meeting Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	9-12 Oct 2011
2012 GSA Annual Meeting Charlotte, North Carolina, USA	4-7 Nov 2012
2011 Northeastern/North-Central Section <i>Combined Meeting</i> Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	TBA
2011 South-Central Section Meeting New Orleans, Louisiana	TBA
2011 Southeastern Section Meeting Wilmington, North Carolina	TBA
2011 Rocky Mountain Section Meeting Logan, Utah	TBA

NOVEMBER 2009

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JANUARY 2010

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