

FY2019 Annual Report



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Who We Are ... What We Do

Our Mission

To advance geoscience research and discovery, service to society, stewardship of Earth, and the geosciences profession.

Our Vision

To be the premier geological society supporting the global community in scientific discovery, communication, and application of geoscience knowledge.

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It's Time for the Rollout of GSA's Decadal Strategic Plan



In May 2019, GSA Council approved the Decadal Strategic Plan (DSP), a satisfying result of 20 months of effort. This process began in August 2017 with gathering thoughts, desires, creative ideas, and other valuable input from members—

young and old, student and emeritus, industry and academic, government and independents, managers, deans, associated societies, donors, and, importantly, staff. Our desire was that GSA be proactive and intentional about our future.

PLANNING PROCESS

After acquiring input from the GSA community in a wide variety of ways, with the guidance of a strategic planning expert and facilitator, a strategic planning team assembled the data.

FIVE STRATEGIC ASPIRATIONS EMERGED:

- Advancing Scientific Discovery, Rigor, and Integrity
- Supporting Early Career Professionals and Students
- Hosting Premier Conferences and Meetings
- Influencing Geoscience Policy and Linking Geoscience to Society
- Providing a Sense of Community and Venues for Networking

A larger planning team composed of more than 60 GSA members, plus many headquarters staff, was then engaged and divided into Program, Finance, and Development Task Forces. Each task force was charged with sorting through the ideas to modify and enhance existing, or develop new, GSA activities and to set priorities.

The **Program Task Force** looked at current programs and future initiatives through the lens of the five GSA aspirations, resulting in some 77 new or revised initiatives. The Task Force then prioritized initiatives into those to be accomplished in the next 1–2 years, the following 3–5 years, and finally those that will stretch into the final 6–10 years. The DSP is dynamic and will require updating in response to GSA's changing situation. The final plan, facilitation, and progress will undergo annual review by Council.

The Program Task Force results were followed by the **Finance Task Force** review. This group had the daunting task of identifying the required resources to implement the program planning as well as proposing the allocation of GSA's internal capital and capacity to fund new initiatives and/or modified programs or to recommend suspension of programs or initiatives.

That accomplished, the DSP was presented to the **Development Task Force**. Relying on their evaluation of existing fundraising capacity, this group translated the plan into a prospectus for future investment and support. And finally, they created a strategy to fund the aspirations and strategic directions that required additional outside funding to succeed.

1–2-YEAR PRIORITIES:

- Begin implementing the DSP, putting extra effort into marketing and advertising what the Society currently provides, as some members may not be aware of the many services and benefits available to them.
- Evaluate Annual and Section Meetings on timing, location, content, field trips, and technology; lay the groundwork for future enhancements.
- Create the **GSA Center for Earth & Planetary Discovery**, to include programs and initiatives surrounding geoscience field experiences, innovation, and incubation of multidisciplinary research and revised and new publications.
- Create the **GSA Center for Professional Excellence**, to address professional development needs in the geoscience community, including student and early career programs, service to non-academic members, and expanded research grants, mentoring, professional ethics, and diversity initiatives.
- Develop strategies for membership development and global partnerships.
- Build effective coalitions in the public-policy arena—possibly developing a think-tank with previous GSA Congressional Science Fellows and Policy Fellows and/or sharing policy staff with other organizations.
- Evaluate the GSA headquarters campus and plan ahead for needed building and facilities development.

GSA FOUNDATION ALIGNMENT IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS:

- Campaign planning for funding the two GSA Centers for Excellence identified above.
- Develop a science communications intern endowment.

ROLLOUT OF THE DSP

GSA staff members are developing tactical plans—reorganizing within headquarters as needed, and engaging feasibility consultants where required—to implement the DSP. GSA leadership has committed to participate in outreach, ad hoc committees, and review panels to reach its goals. The Programmatic Overview Committee (POC) is reorganizing to become the Strategic Plan Overview Committee, with the aim of keeping the DSP vibrant and dynamic.

DESIRED EFFECT

GSA leadership expects that the DSP will enable our organization to “jump the curve” by providing the best of benefits and value to members, affiliates, and to society at large for the decade ahead.

Robbie Rice Gries
GSA President, 2018-2019

Letter from the GSA Executive Director



Dear GSA Members and Staff,

I want to pick up where President Gries left off in her letter and share what we see beyond the first couple of years with the Decadal Strategic Plan (DSP). GSA has made big decisions in the past about who the Society serves, how the Society does that, and where the Society operates. All those

decisions are wrapped up in the new plan. A basic question I want to pose for our students and professionals is “who is a geoscientist?” Should the Society or an individual filter themselves out of the realm of geoscience if they are not following a traditional career path? What tremendous collaborations or ideas are we losing? GSA wants to incubate those connections.

We think GSA can offer a very broad range of science-related initiatives, multidisciplinary opportunities, and professional development to geoscientists no matter how diverse their field of study or career path. We are retooling our programs, from research grants to field experiences, to offer more opportunities for professional success and furthering the geosciences. We are also evaluating where we are best located to be a functional and successful professional society.

ROLLOUT OF THE DSP

GSA operations have begun the work of defining how we organize around the two Centers for Excellence (GSA Center for Earth & Planetary Discovery and GSA Center for Professional Excellence) and distilling the numerous programmatic concepts and initiatives into workable projects with timelines and metrics. Some initiatives necessitate evaluation of our present-day processes and will require outside consultation to develop viable business plans.

We will be sharing more details of the overall plan over the next few months and look forward to a strategic plan town hall at the GSA 2019 Annual Meeting & Exposition, in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, 22–25 Sept.

3–5-YEAR PRIORITIES:

- Continue Annual and Section Meeting planning and revising.
- Offer field camp programs in more key locations (including internationally) with formal academic credit.
- Expand early career professional development globally; develop a more impactful Student Advisory Council.

- Build and expand recruitment efforts for our students and professionals through GeoCareers.
- Continue developing virtual field trips with partners and associates.
- Involve GSA more in global initiatives, such as climate policy and big data.
- Create more mentoring opportunities for the geoscience disciplines that currently do not have a strong program, particularly in the applied science disciplines.

GSA FOUNDATION ALIGNMENT IN YEARS 3–5:

- Continue with the focused activities developed in years 1–2.
- Build funding for expanding the scope of research grants programs.

6–10-YEAR PRIORITIES:

- Consider and plan for a game-changing publication effort, such as collaborating with our Associated Societies to create a worldwide geologic encyclopedia, modeled after GSA’s Decade of North American Geology (DNAG) publications.
- Host an authoritative source of technical data.
- Add a policy staffer to GSA’s Washington, D.C., office.

GSA FOUNDATION ALIGNMENT IN YEARS 6–10:

- Continue with funding the Centers for Excellence and their goals.
- Continue to fund public-policy office expansion.
- Develop funding for new publication and database initiatives.

WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOU?

GSA’s mission remains all about furthering the breadth and scope of geoscience research, maintaining professional integrity, assisting society through the relevance of our applied work, and advocating and acting upon stewardship of our planet and beyond. These are great times to be a geoscientist and a GSA member!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicki S. McConnell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Vicki S. McConnell
GSA Executive Director

Thanks to These Outgoing Officers and Councilors

All GSA Officers and Councilors are highlighted in the July GSA Today.



Christopher (Chuck) M. Bailey



Mary J. Kraus
(Divisions Liaison)



Frank J. Pazzaglia



Tyler King
(Student Advisory Council Chair)



Isabel P. Montañez
(Immediate Past President)



Mark Little ends his term as Councilor-at-Large, but will continue as a Councilor for the final year of his four-year term.

Student Representatives and the Student Advisory Council

GSA is dedicated to remaining relevant and responsive to its large student membership and to providing leadership opportunities that will ensure future career success. GSA's Student Advisory Council (SAC) is composed of student representatives serving on behalf of Divisions, Sections, and most GSA Committees. SAC gives voice to student issues and concerns in a consequential way.

SAC is a dynamic and influential committee that is empowered with a direct line of communication with GSA Council. SAC selects a chair each year from among its members who serves a concurrent term as a full voting member of the GSA Council and contributes a valuable student voice to the leadership of GSA.

Interested students should contact their chosen Division or Section and express an interest in being selected as a student representative. A simple email to the chair, secretary, or other officer will suffice to begin the process. To apply as a student representative on a GSA Committee, complete the nomination form at www.geosociety.org/GSA/About/sac.aspx.

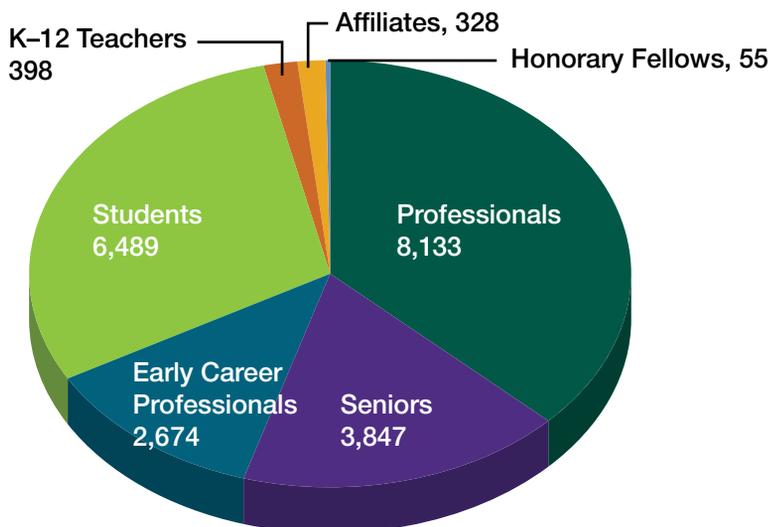
Awarding Excellence in the Geosciences

In support of its mission to advance the geoscience profession, GSA honors outstanding scientific achievement each year at the awards ceremony held during the Annual Meeting. The three highest awards are the prestigious **Penrose Medal**, the **Arthur L. Day Medal**, and the **Young Scientist Award (Donath Medal)**. Awardees are highlighted in the July *GSA Today* and are online at www.geosociety.org (click on "About" and then "Honors & Awards").

Other awards include:

- President's Medal of the Geological Society of America
- Randolph W. "Bill" and Cecile T. Bromery Award for Minorities
- Doris M. Curtis Outstanding Woman in Science Award
- GSA Florence Bascom Geologic Mapping Award
- GSA Distinguished Service Award
- GSA Public Service Award
- John C. Frye Award
- AGI Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell
- Honorary Fellows
- GSA Fellowship
- GSA Scientific Division Awards
- GSA International Initiatives

MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



Focus on Ethics



Nan Stout
*Ethics and
Compliance Officer*

Over the past year, GSA has stepped up its focus on ethics, becoming a leader in driving positive culture changes in the geosciences. On 31 August 2019, GSA hired Nan Stout as its first Ethics & Compliance Officer. We are pleased to share the following interview with Nan. Read on to hear what Nan has to say about her new role and the steps GSA is taking to advance professional ethics.

How did you get started in Ethics & Compliance?

I started my career as an employment attorney. I did a lot of trial work early on, but what I loved most was helping clients get ahead of problems by developing sustainable practices to do business the right way, both legally and ethically. I began dedicating myself to this kind of work in 2004, when I became head of global business conduct and ethics for a large multinational company. Since then, I've continued to work in the ethics field. I was drawn to GSA because of its mission and passion for making a difference in the way people are treated and welcomed into the profession. Prior to taking on my current assignment here at GSA, I was a clinical professor in business ethics at Colorado State University.

Why did the Society create the Ethics & Compliance Officer role?

Adding the Ethics & Compliance Officer role reflects GSA's longstanding commitment to promoting greater diversity, inclusion, integrity, and professionalism in the geosciences. GSA has had a Code of Conduct since the late 1990s, and the Society first published its Diversity Position Statement in 2010. In 2016, GSA launched the Events Code of Conduct through the Respectful Inclusive Scientific Events (RISE) program. In concert with all these efforts, in 2018, based on the recommendations of an Ad Hoc Ethics Committee, the GSA Council recognized that it wanted to be a leader in promoting professional ethical conduct and removing barriers to full participation of all talent within our profession. GSA invested in a dedicated Ethics & Compliance Officer to jump-start this process and quickly begin adding resources to weave ethics and integrity into everything it does.

Where have you focused your efforts since you started as Ethics & Compliance Officer?

Initially, I spent a lot of time researching best practices and learning about GSA's structure and operations so that I could tailor my recommendations to GSA's needs. I conducted a governance and operations risk assessment to prioritize my efforts. This work helped me build specific ethics recommendations related to policies, bylaws, complaint-handling, communication and training, leadership, and governance. In May 2019, I presented a comprehensive report to the GSA Council. I'm happy to report that Council signed off on all of my recommendations. GSA is implementing some of them right away, and other recommendations will take a little more time to develop.

Which parts of the ethics program is GSA implementing right away?

Right after the May 2019 Council meeting, GSA implemented two new initiatives. One is a complaint-handling policy known as the "Policy & Procedures for Handling Potential Ethics Violations," which sets forth the rules GSA will follow to process possible ethical violations. This policy was designed to balance GSA's goal of promoting ethics and integrity and to be fair to members alleged to have engaged in wrongdoing by providing them reasonable due process and an opportunity to be heard. (A copy of the policy is available online: go to www.geosociety.org, click on the "About" tab, and then click on "Ethics.") GSA also recently updated its bylaws to underscore the importance of ethics. Going forward, the bylaws make it clear that all members must comply with GSA's Code of Ethics and may be disciplined, up to and including termination, for failing to do so. Finally, GSA has updated many of its internal documents to ensure that it continues to select qualified candidates for leadership positions, honors, and awards—and that the individuals in these roles embody the Society's high ethical standards.

What changes are on the horizon?

One of the most exciting things GSA is doing is replacing its aspirational Code of Conduct—adopted in the late 1990s—with a new enforceable Code of Ethics. GSA's new Code of Ethics will describe the professional ethical standards of conduct GSA expect of its members, together with examples of prohibited behavior that may result in a member's discipline, suspension, or termination from the Society. An ad hoc committee has begun drafting the new Code of Ethics based on an outline approved by the GSA Council. Once the committee has completed an initial draft, members will be invited to review and submit comments. We plan to submit a final draft to the GSA Council at the GSA 2019 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Council also approved the idea of a Fellows revocation policy, so this will be coming sometime next year.

Does GSA work with other societies on these issues?

Yes! In addition to having periodic conversations with other societies to learn about their practices and provide assistance when appropriate, GSA has joined two external groups to advance ethics and diversity more broadly. GSA is a partner in the American Geophysical Union's Ethics and Equity Center. And, I am particularly proud that GSA has been named to serve on the Leadership Council in the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical fields (STEMM). The Consortium is a collective effort of 103 scientific and medical societies. It aims to advance professional and ethical conduct, climate, and culture across the STEMM fields and to remove barriers that previously have prevented full participation.

Bringing Members Together in Countless Ways

GSA's Geographic Sections have their own governance boards and organize scientific meetings in their regions of North America. These meetings attract many geoscience students and provide outstanding learning and networking opportunities closer to home. Sections offer travel grants to the GSA Annual Meeting as well as their own meetings. Many Sections also offer research grants.



DID YOU KNOW...

The first Scientific Division established in 1947 was the Engineering Geology Division (now Environmental and Engineering Geology).

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- ✓ One complimentary Section affiliation is included with membership. Choose others when you renew your membership to expand your geographic interests.
- ✓ Students get one free Division with their membership.

“An opportunity to connect, reconnect, get inspired, and inspire others.”



GEOGRAPHIC SECTIONS

Cordilleran

The Cordilleran Section is the oldest of GSA's sections, established in 1901.

In the United States: The states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and that part of Arizona south of 35 degrees north latitude.

In Canada: The province of British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, and the Nunavut Territory.

In Mexico: The Distrito Federal and the states of Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chiapas, Colima, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, México State, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tlaxcala, and Zacatecas.

North-Central

Established in 1966.

In the United States: The states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
In Canada: The province of Manitoba and the western portion of the province of Ontario (west of the 89th meridian).

Northeastern

Established in 1965.

In the United States: The District of Columbia and the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New

Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

In Canada: The provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and that part of Ontario east of the 89th meridian.

Rocky Mountain

Established in 1948.

In the United States: The states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and that part of Arizona north of 35 degrees north latitude.

In Canada: The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

South-Central

Established in 1966.

In the United States: The states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

In Mexico: The states of Coahuila, Nuevo León, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz.

Southeastern

Established in 1947.

In the United States: The states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In Mexico: The states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán.

SCIENTIFIC DIVISIONS

GSA has 21 Scientific Divisions to help you stay connected with your colleagues worldwide and receive specific information related to your area of interest.

Divisions provide opportunities for leadership and service, offer awards and support for students, and help develop the GSA meeting technical program. Join one or more when you renew for 2020. Students get one free Division with their membership.

Continental Scientific Drilling (established in 2017) focuses on continental scientific drilling and coring research tools used in many GSA Scientific Divisions and fields.

Energy Geology (established in 1954) encourages energy research and interchange of scientific information about energy resources and related issues within the wide range of their geologic significance, and to act as an organized group in promoting these objectives within the GSA framework.

Environmental & Engineering

Geology (established in 1947) seeks to advance the ability of geologists to identify, characterize, and mitigate adverse geological and environmental conditions and hazards affecting human safety and the built environment.

Geoarchaeology (established in 1977) provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of papers on archaeological geology in order to stimulate and promote research and teaching within this field.

Geobiology & Geomicrobiology (established in 2001) promotes interdisciplinary research focusing on the interplay between the biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere.

Geochronology (established in 2018) aims to represent geochronologists of all types, as well as the many geoscientists who use geochronological data.

Geoinformatics & Data Science

(established in 2006) advances “Data to Knowledge,” providing GSA members with an opportunity to participate in the emerging field of cyberinfrastructure.

Geology and Health (established in 2005) focuses on the intersection of natural or anthropogenic geological conditions with health, disease, pathology, and death in modern and fossil humans, animals, and plants.

Geology and Society (established in 2003) advances the concept of “geology working for society” by providing GSA members with opportunities to bring together multiple fields of geoscience to address important societal issues.

Geophysics and Geodynamics

(established in 1971) facilitates the presentation and discussion of the ideas of scientists interested in geophysics and geodynamics, fosters communication among geophysicists and other earth scientists, and promotes research and publication.

Geoscience Education (established in 1991) fosters the active participation of GSA members in all aspects of earth-science education.

History and Philosophy of Geology (established in 1976) works to encourage the study and communication of the philosophy and history of geology.

Hydrogeology (established in 1959) focuses on the geologic aspects of hydrogeology, the role of geology in the hydrologic cycle, and the importance of hydrogeology to society and science.

Karst (established in 2014) studies karst terranes, which necessarily involves a wide variety of subjects and specialties, spanning almost every Division in GSA and scientific disciplines outside of GSA’s purview.

Limnogeology (established in 2002)

encourages research on both ancient and modern lakes around the world, the collaboration of scientists from all disciplines on lake research, and the fostering of student research and careers in lake studies.

Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (established in 2009)

promotes awareness, teaching, and research in these fields, and stimulates discussion about the knowledge, ideas, research results, and problems regarding these fundamental areas of the earth sciences.

Planetary Geology (established in 1981)

fosters interactions among planetary scientists, facilitates the presentation and discussion of their research and ideas, stimulates communication with other earth scientists, and promotes planetary geology to a broad audience.

Quaternary Geology and

Geomorphology (established in 1955) facilitates communication among scientists in these fields and the presentation of their research and ideas to the wider scientific community.

Sedimentary Geology (established in 1985) works to ensure the presentation of sedimentary-related topics and sessions at GSA meetings and actively nurtures the work of students.

Soils and Soil Processes (established in 2017) works on issues with particular solutions that include land stewardship, water quality and quantity, carbon cycling and paleoclimate reconstruction.

Structural Geology and Tectonics (established in 1980) focuses on the geometry and mechanisms of natural and experimental deformation at all scales and works to promote the research of scientists in these fields and to facilitate communication and discussion at all levels of the earth sciences.



The GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, in November 2018.

Connecting the Geoscience Community

DID YOU KNOW...

Fifty-eight countries were represented by attendees of the 2018 Annual Meeting & Exposition.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

✓ Members enjoy reduced meeting registration rates.

“My advice to all geoscience students is to attend GSA annual and section meetings, apply for student and conference travel grants, and to be an active member. You never know when you are going to meet someone who can help you.”

GSA offers a variety of meetings to geoscientists—from small research forums, to moderate specialty conferences, to the large Annual Meeting. These forums, conferences, and meetings are held around the globe throughout the year. GSA provides a platform for scientists to share their latest research, build upon current knowledge, and network with peers. GSA strives to keep meetings cost-effective yet provide the latest technology platforms for scientific exchange.

In fiscal year 2019 (FY19), GSA hosted six meetings and conferences, bringing together thousands of geoscience professionals and students. The GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, in November 2018.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING BY THE NUMBERS

- 5,600 attendees
- 58 countries
- More than 3,500 abstracts
- 17 Scientific Field Trips
- 18 Short Courses
- More than 200 companies, organizations, and universities exhibited

Hundreds of volunteers participate yearly in the GSA Annual Meeting—from local organizing committee members and the Joint Technical Program Committee, to the hundreds of session conveners from every geoscience discipline and the hundreds of student volunteers from campuses across the Americas

and abroad. There is something for everyone at the GSA Annual Meeting.

GSA’s Geographic Section Meetings are unique venues for interdisciplinary science and are an important hub for discussing and presenting current research. They provide an excellent opportunity for both professionals and students to attend and participate in technical sessions, field trips, and short courses close to home. The 2019 Section Meetings brought together more than 2,900 attendees. Meetings were held in Portland, Maine, USA (GSA Northeastern Section); Manhattan, Kansas, USA (joint GSA North-Central, South-Central, and Rocky Mountain Sections); Charleston, South Carolina, USA (GSA Southeastern Section); and Portland, Oregon, USA (GSA Cordilleran Section).

GSA PENROSE CONFERENCE AND THOMPSON FIELD FORUMS

GSA **Penrose Conferences** and **Thompson Field Forums** are GSA’s premiere small-group meeting and field-trip venues for collaborative research around the world. In FY19, GSA held one Thompson Field Forum: “Architecture and Evolution of the Crust during Continental Arc Magmatism: A Transect through the Coast Mountains Batholith, British Columbia.” GSA is now working to revitalize the Penrose Conferences and the Thompson Field Forums rolling out in the future, with the goal of hosting one of each in 2021 (see enclosed flyer).

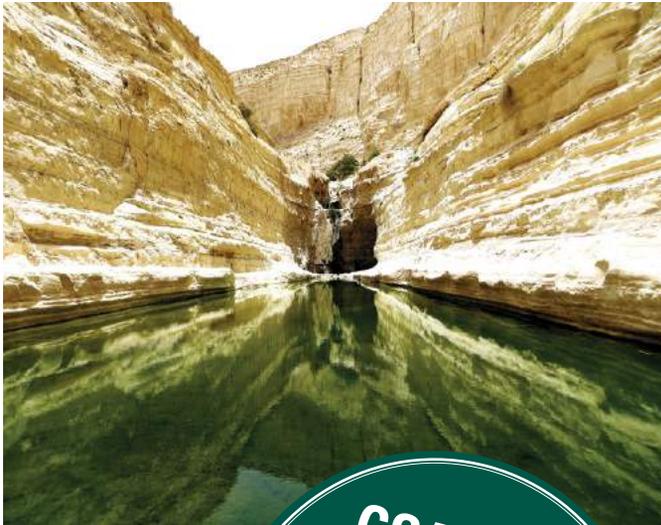
GSA INTERNATIONAL

GSA is active within the international geoscience community in the belief that science knows no borders. The GSA worldwide member community spans 118 countries outside of North America; most reside in the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Germany, and China.

The purpose of GSA International is to promote, create, and enhance opportunities for international cooperation, provide a forum for science and policy discussions that are international in scope and relevance, build collaborative relationships with GSA Scientific Divisions and Associated Societies on international issues, and strengthen cooperation with international geoscientific societies.

GSA International encourages and hosts international geoscience and environmental-related discussion topics through the online GSA Member Community platform and promotes meetings, exchanges of visiting scholars/lecturers, organizes Annual Meeting topical sessions, and helps organize and promote field workshops.

GSA International evaluates and recommends international awardees for the GSA Honorary Fellow, the International Distinguished Career Award, the James B. Thompson Jr. Distinguished International Lectureship, and the Farouk El-Baz Student Research Grant. It also recommends travel grant awards for international students and early career professionals to attend the GSA Annual Meeting.



Ein Avdat, Israel.



ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES

GSA has a long tradition of collaborating with a wide range of partners (first Associated Society: Geochemical Society, 1956; most recent: Geobiology Society, June 2019; 76 total as of that date) in pursuit of our mutual goals of advancing the geosciences, enhancing the professional growth of society members, and promoting the geosciences in the service of humanity. As GSA looks to the future, it will continue to build strong, meaningful partnerships with societies and organizations around the world in service to members and the larger geoscience community.

GSA COMMITTEES

GSA provides opportunities for every member to actively participate in its leadership. One of the most effective ways to do this is by serving on a GSA Committee. GSA Committees are advisory to Council and directly impact the direction of the Society. Serving on a committee allows members to network with fellow scientists, contribute ideas to science and education, and support the profession. Self-nominations are welcome, as well as nominations of other qualified student and professional members. Learn more by going to www.geosociety.org and clicking on “About” and then on “Committees.”

- Academic and Applied Geoscience Relations
- Ad Hoc—Ethics
- Ad Hoc—Membership
- Annual Program
- Arthur L. Day Medal Award
- Audit
- Bascom Mapping Award
- Congressional Science Fellowship Selection
- Diversity in the Geosciences
- Doris M. Curtis Memorial Fund for Women in Science Award
- Education
- Executive
- External Awards
- Finance
- Geology and Public Policy
- GSA International
- Investments
- Joint Technical Program
- Membership and Fellowship
- Nominations
- Penrose Conferences & Thompson Field Forums
- Penrose Medal Award
- Professional Development
- Programmatic Overview
- Public Service Award
- Publications
- Research Grants
- Student Advisory Council
- Young Scientist Award (Donath Medal)

Publications

GSA and its publications go way back—nearly as far back as the formation of GSA in 1888. The first article in the first issue of the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America* in 1890 contained the proceedings from the 1889 meeting where GSA organized as a Society.

NOTABLE BEGINNINGS (AND ENDINGS) AND A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

1890
Bulletin of the Geological Society of America

1890
Bulletin of the Geological Society of America

1934
Proceedings of the Geological Society of America (for 1933)
 Memoir book series
 Special Papers book series

1957
Engineering Geology Case Histories series

1959
 Map and Chart series

1961
Bulletin gets a name change to *Geological Society of America Bulletin*

1962
Reviews in Engineering Geology series

1966
The Geologist, GSA's first newsletter

1969
Abstracts with Programs

1973
Geology
Memorials series—previous memorials to deceased members appeared in the *Bulletin* or in *Proceedings* volumes.

1974
 GSA Data Repository established

1977
 GSA Council establishes the Centennial Planning Committee, a first step toward the creation of the Decade of North American Geology (DNAG) project

1979
GSA News & Information takes up where *The Geologist* left off
 Microfiche

1981
 End of microfiche

1985
 First DNAG volume and Continent-Ocean transects published

1990
 Journal subscriptions are “unbundled” from GSA membership, becoming an optional purchase

1991
GSA Today takes over for *GSA News & Information*

1992
 Journals on CD (expanded to DVD in 2010)

1995
Environmental & Engineering Geoscience, co-published with the Association of Engineering Geologists (previously published as the *Bulletin of the Association of Engineering Geologists*)

1999
 Field Guide series

2000
 Journals are offered online (digitization of all of GSA's journals and books back to volume 1, issue 1 of each continues for the next decade)

2004
 Digital Map and Chart series

2005
 The final piece of DNAG, Continent-Scale Map 001, *Geologic Map of North America*, is published
Geosphere
 GeoScienceWorld launches, with GSA as a founding publisher

2008
 The last *Memorials* bound volume is printed—individual *Memorials* continue to be produced, and all are posted open access on the GSA website
 GSA offers authors the option of making their papers open access

2009
Lithosphere

2011
 The first GSA calendar is published, featuring images from winners of a photo contest held at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, USA

2013
 GSA partners with Geofacets, a research tool using thousands of georeferenced geological maps and other content, including 80,000+ maps from GSA publications

2015
 Last print volume of *Abstracts with Programs* is produced—abstracts back to 2000 are in a searchable online database

2018
Geosphere and *Lithosphere* become 100% open access

DID YOU KNOW...

GSA's 20 science editors, along with about 160 associate editors and editorial board members and hundreds of reviewers, determine the content of GSA journals and books.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Subscribe to premier publications when you renew your 2020 membership.
- ✓ All members get free online *Geology* with membership.
- ✓ Supercharge your research with Geofacets—a web-based tool to access thousands of georeferenced maps—included with membership.

“GSA Membership means being part of a greater team and community which values the importance of Earth science across the world.”

THE JOURNALS AND BOOKS TODAY

The peer-reviewed journals *GSA Bulletin*, *Geology*, *Geosphere*, and *Lithosphere* are published at www.gsapubs.org, through the aggregate GeoScienceWorld, and on an annual DVD. *GSA Bulletin* and *Geology* are also available in print. *Geosphere*, *Lithosphere*, and *GSA Today* are 100% open access, and *Geology* is free online for all GSA members. Early career professional members, student members, and K–12 teacher members also get free online access to *GSA Bulletin*.

Published jointly by the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists and GSA, *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* (online at GeoScienceWorld) contains peer-reviewed papers on new theory, applications, and case histories illustrating the dynamics of environmental and applied disciplines.

The society publishes three peer-reviewed book series in print and online (www.gsapubs.org): Special Papers (seven volumes in fiscal year 2019 [FY19]) are for state-of-the-art treatments of evolving subjects; Memoirs (one volume in FY19) are intended to remain authoritative references for a number of years; and Field Guides (four volumes in FY19) feature guides from GSA or GSA-related field trips.

Also online (and at the GSA Store) is the complete suite of Decade of North

American Geology volumes and maps, *Engineering Geology Case Histories*, Penrose Field Guides, and numerous non-series books. Memorials to deceased GSA members are open access at www.geosociety.org.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

GSA's 20 science editors, along with about 160 associate editors and editorial board members and hundreds of reviewers, determine the content of GSA journals and books. GSA publications could not exist without these hard-working and dedicated volunteers.

HELP FOR NEW AUTHORS

An early-career publishing workshop, held at GSA Annual Meetings and led by GSA science editors, covers many aspects of the process of preparing research for submission to scholarly journals, including the importance of contributing as a reviewer.

GSA STORE

Along with providing a storefront for GSA books, educational materials, specialty tools, and the Map and Chart collection, the GSA Store offers e-versions of hundreds of previously unavailable or out-of-print publications to researchers and citizen scientists alike.



2018 JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR (WEB OF SCIENCE GROUP, 2019)

JOURNAL	2019	5-YEAR
<i>Geology</i>	5.006	5.406
<i>GSA Bulletin</i>	3.970	4.708
<i>Geosphere</i>	2.847	2.989
<i>Lithosphere</i>	2.486	2.961
<i>Environmental & Engineering Geoscience</i>	0.844	0.761

Communicating the Value of Geoscience

DID YOU KNOW...

GSA Division websites include community features so Division members can interact with one another. If you are a member of a particular Division, you'll automatically be placed in that group's online community.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

- ✓ Join the community page.
- ✓ Follow GSA on social media.
- ✓ Visit GSA's website, www.geosociety.org, to stay up to date on news and communication.

“GSA membership has enriched my life professionally and intellectually.” —S. Stover



MEDIA RELATIONS

Supporting its strategic aspiration to link geoscience to society, GSA engages in media relations activities to enlarge the footprint of member research and publications.

GSA issues 50–60 press releases each year, highlighting peer-reviewed research published in GSA's journals and books, as well as new findings presented at GSA meetings. These are distributed to an extensive list of science journalists and posted on the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) online science news service, EurekAlert. In addition, GSA encourages and assists public information officers at universities and government agencies to write their own releases about their GSA-published research or presenting authors and then augments distribution of those releases for wider reach.

GSA invites journalists to attend Annual and Section Meetings with complimentary registration, and hosts a newsroom at the Annual Meeting.

As a result of these efforts, our science gets considerable press coverage, ranging from top-tier outlets like *Science*, *Nature*, *National Geographic*, *Forbes*, *The Economist*, *LiveScience*, *CNN*, *Newsweek*, and others, to more niche audiences in trade publications, blogs, and syndicated websites. Go to www.geosociety.org, click on the “News” tab, and select “GSA in the News” to learn more.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION FELLOWSHIP

For the past two years, GSA's communications team has included a Science Communication Fellow, thanks to generous support from the GSA Foundation's Bruce and Karen Clark Fund. This part-time, non-resident position is an opportunity for a science writer, journalist, or scientist with a passion for communicating to spend 10 months gaining experience and professional contacts, working in concert with GSA communications and member leaders. The goal of the fellowship is to help improve the communication of geoscience knowledge between the members of GSA and the non-scientific community.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION INTERNSHIP

Each year GSA accepts a small number of geoscience students who are interested in science communication as a possible alternative career path to collaborate with the GSA Science Communication Fellow during the Annual Meeting. Selected students work under the tutelage of the GSA communications staff and GSA's Science Communication Fellow with the goal of building their confidence and skills for conveying scientific subject matter in compelling ways.



Science Communication interns collaborate with Science Communication Fellow Sarah Derouin at the GSA 2018 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis.

GSA MEMBER COMMUNITY, POWERED BY YOU!

GSA's vibrant Member Community platform is a simple, dynamic way to communicate with your professional network. It allows GSA members to easily connect, learn, and share with fellow members online, and empowers groups to work together more effectively.

Here's a brief overview of some of the features:

- Centralized discussion groups with enhanced email capabilities—Members receive email notifications from discussion forums that are more structured and easier to read than listservs and allow participants to reply directly from email;
- Member directory—Within the Member Community platform, GSA member search is comprehensive and interactive; and
- Resource libraries help archive shared documents and collaborative work products.

Did you know?

GSA Division websites also include these community features so Division members can interact with and one another. If you are a member of a particular Division you'll automatically be placed in that group's online community.

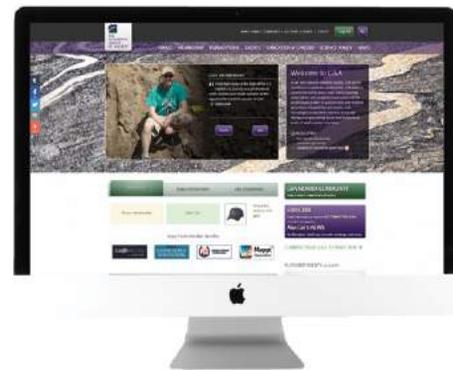
Features include:

- Division-scale member directories with powerful search capabilities;
- Division-wide discussion forums; and
- Division libraries (document sharing and archives).

Getting started is easy. Your Member Community awaits you. Go to **community.geosociety.org** and click on the "Login" button in the upper right-hand corner of the page to get started.

Interact with your peers today and get involved!

- Update your profile and add a picture;
- Find and connect with other GSA members;
- Post questions and comments to the Open Forum discussion;
- Join a discussion of interest; and
- Post your presentations, pictures, documents, videos, or other content you feel will help other participants in the geoscience community.



GSA WEBSITE

We've seen a busy year of updates, improvements, and redesigns across GSA's portfolio of web properties as we work to provide a modern, evolving user experience. We have leveraged our extensive database to provide more dynamic content on our sites, allowing us to serve up-to-date information efficiently and consistently in more places.

Our main site received more than three million views over the past 12 months, and the completely redesigned Annual Meeting site enjoyed a significant traffic increase compared to the same period in the previous year. The GSA Geologic Time Scale, job board, and scientific journals consistently draw large numbers of users, new and returning.

GSA has a lot to offer online, so we encourage members and nonmembers alike to continue taking advantage of the depth and breadth of high-quality resources available across our sites—and perhaps to spend a little time discovering something new. Start at www.geosociety.org.

TOP WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS IN FY2019

1. Home page (81k)
2. Geologic Time Scale (80k)
3. Job Board (59k)
4. GIP home page (37k)
5. Journals home page (16k+)

GSA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

GSA is a leader among our Society peers in reaching wide audiences with information about our events, publications, membership, programs, and activities through social media.

  Follow GSA @geosociety on **Twitter** (more than 38,000 followers) and **Instagram** and use hashtag #GSA2019 to keep up with the latest from the Annual Meeting.

 **Facebook**—Join more than 280,000 GSA fans worldwide at www.facebook.com/GSA.1888.

 **YouTube**—Learn more about GSA and careers in the geosciences at www.youtube.com/user/geosociety.

 **LinkedIn**—Network and stay connected to your professional peers at <http://linkd.in/1HsYwni>.





Supporting Professional Excellence

DID YOU KNOW...

GSA partnered with federal land management agencies and organizations to engage more than 185 participants through GeoCorps™ America and the National Park Service Geoscientists-in-the-Parks programs in 2019.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Student and early career professional members qualify for reduced membership dues.
- ✓ Some grants, such as AGeS2, are only open to GSA members.

“GSA has offered me numerous ‘firsts’—presentation, grant, GeoCorps, committees. GSA is more than just a membership. It is a community of learners and scientists ... and a way for me to be a leader.”—T. Rivera

Earth-science education and outreach activities are at the core of GSA’s mission to increase appreciation of Earth’s history, processes, and resources.

EXPLORE CAREERS

The Geological Society of America®

GEOCAREERS

The GeoCareers Program

GeoCareers disseminates career information, develops resources, and connects the geoscience community through webinars, mentoring, networking, and workshops at Annual and Geographic Section Meetings and throughout the year. With a goal of increasing knowledge of geoscience career pathways, GSA works with the geoscience community at all career levels.

Webinars

Two career-focused webinars were offered in the spring to students and early career professionals in collaboration with GSA’s Scientific Divisions and Associated Societies. The webinars were introductions to career pathways in some of today’s most popular fields. “Exploring a Career in the Environmental Industry” and “Exploring a Career in the Paleontology Field” were attended by more than 1,300 individuals, counting both the live webinars and those viewed at a later time. The recordings of these webinars are online—just go to www.geosociety.org, hover over “Education & Careers,” and click on “GeoCareers.”

Mentoring

Participating in a mentorship program can be a valuable experience for both mentors and mentees. Mentees report that they receive good advice related to their career or academic pathway and are introduced to other professionals in their area of interest. Mentors report altruistic gains when helping others as well as enjoyment in meeting promising young scientists. GSA has operated mentor programs since 1996 and recruits new mentors and mentees every year for the following:

- Roy J. Shlemon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience
- John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology
- GeoCareers Center
- Drop-in Mentoring in the GeoCareers Center
- Résumé Mentoring in the GeoCareers Center
- GeoCareers Panel Luncheon
- On To the Future

Networking

Developing relationships at meetings, workshops, and networking events is essential to building social capital in a field and provides critical connections to the profession. Networking programs offer students and early career scientists the opportunity to work on networking skills with practicing geoscientists from a variety of employment sectors.

- Early Career Professionals Coffee
- Networking Reception
- Women in Geology Career Pathways Reception
- Geoscience Career Workshops at Section and Annual Meetings
- GeoCareers Day

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

On To the Future Program

Expanding diversity and inclusivity is critical to innovation, scientific advancement, and solving tomorrow's geoscience challenges. GSA's On To the Future (OTF) program supports students from a diversity of backgrounds to attend their first Annual Meeting. In 2018, the Society funded 68 students to attend the Annual Meeting. There, students were paired in mentorships, met with GSA leadership, and learned about participation in internships, scholarships, and research opportunities.

OTF students also participated in a full-day professional development workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation. This partnership with the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, helped fund 20 OTF alumni to attend the Annual Meeting and go to the joint South-Central, North-Central, and Rocky Mountain Section Meeting in spring 2019. The workshop focused on helping students define their career goals and identify and begin an application for an internship and/or research experience to aid their transition into the geosciences workforce.

Northeast Urban Travel Award

The Northeast Urban Travel Awards Program provides financial assistance to non-traditional students attending urban universities in GSA's Northeastern Geographic Section. Non-traditional students are those who have delayed enrollment in post-secondary education associated with caring for dependents and/or working full-time, and who, due to competing non-academic priorities, are unable to participate in multi-day field or meeting experiences critical to geoscience education and training. This year, seven students were awarded scholarships grants. Since 2014, a total of 31 students have received this award.

GSA Foundation Field Camp Scholarships

The GSA Field Camp Scholar Award is a US\$2,000 award to undergraduate students to attend a field camp of their choice. In 2019, 15 students were awarded scholarships based on their economic and financial need, merit, and diversity.



Recent Minority Student Scholarship recipients. From left to right: David Davis, Lisa Duong, and Nora Soto Contreras.

Minority Scholarships

GSA awards six scholarships to undergraduate students, one from each of the Society's Geographic Sections, who are from minority backgrounds. In addition to the award, the students receive complimentary membership and registration for the Annual Meeting.

BY THE NUMBERS



1 hammer = 8 projects

44 GeoCorps positions filled in 2019



143
NPS-GIP
projects
recruited
for 2019

In 9 years, **US\$90,000** was awarded to geology field camps

 In 2019, **297 people** attended **short courses**

56% of these were students



Over **15 years** since the program's creation, **28,500+ EarthCaches** were developed in **205 countries**



US\$812,000 was awarded overall for **Graduate Student Research Grants**. The average grant amount was **US\$2,071**

AGeS2

20 proposals funded with **US\$8,186** average grant amount awarded

392 Graduate Student Research Grant proposals were funded in 2019

68 OTF students were funded to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting.



693 students were mentored by **135** mentors



Marie Jimenez at work during her 2018 National Park Service Geoscientists-in-the-Parks position at Fossil Butte National Monument.

FIELD AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

GeoCorps™ America and the National Park Service Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Program



GSA is driven to provide young scientists with real-world experiences that enable their learning and contributions beyond the classroom. Through partnerships in GeoCorps America and the National Park Service Geoscientists-in-the-Parks program (NPS-GIP), GSA supports our community’s

involvement in science-driven projects that help meet the current scientific questions, management needs, and stewardship goals of public lands nationwide. GSA partnered with federal agencies, including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, and other organizations, including the Stewards Individual Placement Program and Aerotek Inc., to engage more than 185 participants through these programs in FY2019.

The EarthCache™ Program



The EarthCache program, a longstanding partnership between GSA and Geocaching HQ (Geocaching.com), is now in its 15th year. This educational program gets members of the public outdoors to experience geology in the field, thus increasing their knowledge and support of the geosciences. At the 2018 Annual Meeting, GSA hosted a series of presentations about Indiana geology aimed at the geocaching community, educators, and the general public, with the goal of engaging more people in the Earth-Cache program and in the geosciences. In February 2019, 14 members of the volunteer review team joined GSA and Geocaching HQ staff for a teleconference to discuss the program, which resulted in some positive updates to the guidelines for participants. There are more than 28,500 EarthCaches in 205 countries.



“I am hugely grateful that this sort of recognition exists.”

GSA/ExxonMobil Field Camp Programs

The GSA/ExxonMobil Field Camp Excellence Award is given annually to a geology field camp that demonstrates safety awareness, diversity, and technical excellence. In May 2019, the US\$10,000 award went to the University of California Riverside.

The GSA/ExxonMobil Bighorn Basin Field Award offers students and faculty an introduction to integrated basin and petroleum systems analysis and is taught by ExxonMobil staff. In August 2019, three faculty, seven graduate students, and 15 undergraduate awardees headed to the Bighorn Basin.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The GeoTeachers™ Program and Related K–12 Activities

The GeoTeachers Program was created to provide professional development workshops and field experiences for K–12 teachers with little to no geoscience background. During the summer of 2018, field workshops were held in Flagstaff, Arizona, USA, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA, engaging 38 educators. At the 2018 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, a one-day field workshop engaged six educators. Due to the relatively small number of teachers reached and the limited resources available, GSA decided in late 2018 to discontinue the GeoTeachers program. GSA is seeking input from its Education Committee to determine how best to serve the K–12 and 2-year-college (2YC) communities moving forward. This may involve GSA using new and existing partnerships, as it is doing at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, where it is collaborating with the National Earth Science Teachers Association (NESTA) to host a one-day workshop for educators. This workshop and partnership may serve as a new model for GSA to serve K–12 and 2YC educators via its Annual Meetings.

AGeS2 (Awards for Geochronology Student Research 2) Program

In 2018, GSA partnered with Becky Flowers (University of Colorado Boulder) and Ramón Arrowsmith (Arizona State University) to apply for and obtain a three-year, cross-programmatic award from the NSF to support the AGeS2 (Awards for Geochronology Student research 2) program, which expands the AGeS1 program into a wider initiative. AGeS offers opportunities for graduate students to develop the scientific rationale for projects involving geochronology and then provides them with hands-on experience acquiring data in labs, all while being mentored by geochronologists. This grants program is available to GSA student members and is separate from, but complementary to, GSA's long-standing Graduate Student Research Grants program. The AGeS2 student awardees will participate in teleconferences with the cohort of funded AGeS students over a two-year interval. Each awardee will also receive an additional US\$500 to attend an AGeS cohort workshop preceding the 2020 or 2021 GSA Annual Meeting, and will be encouraged to present their results at the meeting. Learn more at www.geosociety.org/ages.



"This course blew my expectations out of the water."

Short Courses

GSA offers Short Courses at each of our Geographic Section Meetings and at Annual Meetings. The courses are taught by professional geoscientists and enable attendees to learn new topics, build skills, and network. If you plan to run a field trip or a field camp, consider taking our Field Safety Leadership Course at our next Annual Meeting. An attendee last year said it was an "excellent short course that should be mandatory for all field camp directors, faculty teaching field camp, and any field geologist!"



Graduate Student Research Grants

GSA's Graduate Student Research Grants Program continues to be one of the largest and most prestigious funding programs for graduate students in the geosciences. The goals of the program are to

- Support graduate student research in the geosciences and ultimately enhancement of the geoscience workforce;
- Provide career-development opportunities for students by gaining experience with grant writing, project development, and research; and
- Increase the diversity of the geosciences through opportunities for students from underrepresented communities to achieve success in research.

In collaboration with the Research Grants Committee, GSA staff developed an anti-plagiarism strategy to help educate students about writing research proposals that meet ethical standards.

2019 was the third and final year of GSA's latest three-year NSF grant; GSA staff is currently working on writing a new proposal to seek NSF funding to support the program through 2022.





Bridging the Geosciences and Public Policy

DID YOU KNOW...

Five GSA Geographic Sections sponsored students to attend Congressional Visits Day in September 2018.

HOW GSA MEMBERS CAN GET INVOLVED:

- ✓ Attend Congressional Visits Day.
- ✓ Advocate for science policy.
- ✓ Simply paying your dues helps GSA to work in this area.
- ✓ Apply to be a GSA Science Policy Fellow or GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow.

“From field camp to the halls of the U.S. Capitol, my journey as a professional earth scientist was made possible by the opportunities and the people of GSA.”—D. Szymanski

GSA MEMBERS MEET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

GSA provides opportunities for its members to meet with policy makers by holding Congressional Visits Days and associated training sessions. Participants begin with an orientation workshop that covers relevant legislation, the structure of Congress, and strategies to build relationships between scientists and policy makers before conducting congressional visits.

GSA led the organization of Geosciences Congressional Visits Day in September 2018, during which 40 geoscientists from multiple scientific societies conducted visits to 70 congressional offices. Five GSA Geographic Sections sponsored students to attend, joining GSA leadership and scientists selected through GSA’s online application process. Vanessa Swenton, the Cordilleran Section student

representative, reflected, “I learned so much about geoscience policy, legislation, and how we, the scientists, can have a positive impact on the continuation of geoscience federal funding and support from Congress members. This was an amazing opportunity.”



GSA student representatives meet with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) during Congressional Visits Day.



GSA Geology & Public Policy Committee members meet with Congressional Research Service staff.

GSA SCIENCE POLICY FELLOW



GSA Science Policy Fellow Laura Szymanski began a one-year term as the in-house fellow in September 2018, working in GSA's Washington, D.C., office to

bring science and scientists into the policy process. Laura assisted with planning and facilitation of Congressional Visits Day, wrote blog posts ([Speaking of Geoscience, https://speakingofgeoscience.org](https://speakingofgeoscience.org)) to keep GSA members updated on policy, represented GSA at hearings on relevant geoscience legislation and programs, and developed resources for GSA members to engage in policy.

GSA-USGS CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE FELLOW



Each year, GSA and the U.S. Geological Survey jointly sponsor a geoscientist to spend a year working in the office of a member of Congress or congressional

committee. Caitlin Keating-Bitonti, an earth scientist with expertise in paleontology, spent 2018–2019 working in the office of Senator Tom Udall (D-NM). Caitlin earned her B.S. in geology from Syracuse University, her M.S. in geology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and her Ph.D. in geological and environmental sciences from Stanford University.

VISITING SENIOR POLICY ADVISER



Dr. Monica E. Gowan spent two weeks in Washington, D.C., contributing to and assisting the GSA Geoscience Policy Office in representing the shared

interests of the geoscience community in the federal policy process, collaborating and providing advice on current and emerging science policy issues impacting the geoscience community and society at large, and leveraging opportunities for improving science advice to policy makers.



Above from left: Stephen Moysey discusses virtual reality technology with congressional staff at the Coalition for National Science Funding Exhibition. GSA Director for Geoscience Policy Kasey White presents the 2018 USGS Coalition Leadership Awards to Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX).

GSA TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF GEOSCIENCE FUNDING

GSA Director for Geoscience Policy Kasey White testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in support of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). GSA also submitted testimony for increased funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for fiscal year 2020. GSA is an active member of coalitions that submitted testimony and letters in support of these and other geoscience agencies, including the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), the Coalition for Aerospace and Science, USGS Coalition, the Energy Sciences Coalition, and the Task Force on American Innovation.

GSA ON THE HILL

GSA showcased geoscience research via Capitol Hill exhibits that drew hundreds of congressional members, staff, and executive branch leaders. At the 25th Annual CNSF Exhibition, in support of NSF research, Stephen Moysey, East Carolina University, and Kelly Best Lazar, Clemson University, presented “Virtual Reality Geoscience Field Trips: Bringing the World into the Classroom” to members of the National Science Board, congressional staff, and other policy leaders.

The 2018 USGS Coalition Leadership Awards were presented to Reps. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) and Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) on 12 Sept. 2018. USGS Director James Reilly, Dept. of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tim Petty, congressional staff, USGS representatives, and scientists were in attendance.

GEOSCIENCE AND SOCIETY SUMMIT

GSA was a cosponsor of the Geoscience and Society Summit in Stockholm, Sweden, in March 2019, which created an interactive forum for scientists and users of scientific information to tackle global and local challenges around sustainability of natural resources and systems, global health, and resilience.

NEW AND UPDATED POSITION STATEMENTS

GSA Council adopted minor revisions to three statements: “Managing U.S. Coastal Hazards,” “Integrating Geoscience with Sustainable Land-Use Management,” and “The Role of the Geoscientist in Assuring the Safety and Integrity of Infrastructure.”

STATE AND LOCAL POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Kasey White attended the National Conference of State Legislators Legislative Summit in August 2018. Laura Szymanski led district visits to the Maine delegation for participants attending the 2019 Northeastern Section Meeting.



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
F O U N D A T I O N

Serving Geoscience and the Profession

DID YOU KNOW...

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the GSA Foundation every time you shop, at no additional cost to you, on smile.amazon.com (the same products as on Amazon.com). Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your purchases to GSAF when you designate us as the charitable organization of your choice.



HOW GSA MEMBERS CAN GET INVOLVED:

✓ Support students, research, and education through a contribution to the GSA Foundation when you renew your 2020 membership.

“GSA, in the forms of inspiring programs, grants and awards, and beautiful rocks, has been there to help guide me along my winding path.” —M. Richards

The mission of the Geological Society of America Foundation is to develop and provide funds to support the goals and programs of the Geological Society of America. These funds are distributed according to the needs of the Society and in a manner consistent with the desire of the donors.

The responsibilities of the Foundation are twofold: (1) to support GSA programs, and (2) to preserve the Foundation’s assets for the future.

2018–2019 Highlights

VENTURING INTO DEATH VALLEY WITH GSAF

Camaraderie over happy hour after dusty days in the field, friendships forged under hot desert sun, new personal and professional connections—although these things may not be what lured attendees to GSAF’s first-ever Rendezvous in April 2019, they are the kinds of experiences had and connections made after a six-day trip based in Shoshone, California, USA.

GSAF was thrilled to kick off the Death Valley Rendezvous, the first in what we hope will become a series of one to two trips per year, with 25 participants from coast to coast. Some attendees were longtime friends of the Foundation, and some we were meeting for the first time; some were students, some current professional geologists across disciplines, others retired from long careers, and some were family members of geologists attending. The trip held interest for all, from a fascinating spectrum of geology to a presentation on the local ecology with a Nature Conservancy naturalist. Trip leader Darrel Cowan led lively, rich discussions at each site. One of the students, a Wright-Troxel Research Grant recipient, gave an evening presentation on his research focused on a nearby site.

Feedback from participants was so positive, and the slots filled so quickly, that we are encouraged to hold similar Rendezvous trips in the future. Keep on the lookout to see where our next destination will be.





ON TO THE FUTURE

Thanks to dozens of individuals, Associated Societies, GSA Geographic Sections, and corporate sponsors for continuing to help advance On To the Future (OTF), GSA’s flagship diversity-enhancing program. We are pleased to report that the Foundation was able to fully fund 75 students to attend the OTF program at the GSA 2019 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, 22–25 Sept.



Amy Moser, GSA Field Camp Scholarship recipient.

FIELD CAMPS

Our donors, recognizing how vital it is to help students attend field camp, responded so strongly to a campaign we ran that we were able to provide 15 scholarships to help students attend field camps of their choice. We are expanding our efforts to secure funding on a continuing basis for this purpose.

TEKTONIKOS

In 2018, the Foundation was inspired to recognize our 1,133 student donors by naming their unique giving circle Tektonikos. The accompanying tagline, “Building the Future,” conveys their important role in the geosciences.



Tektonikos student donor receiving a thank-you gift.

GEOCAREERS

Corporate partnerships supported a sixth year of the GSA GeoCareers Program, now including year-round resources for students and early career professionals and a presence at GSA Geographic Section Meetings.

PARDEE LEGACY CIRCLE



Also in 2018, the Foundation unveiled newly branded materials with updated messaging for our Pardee Legacy Circle, which recognizes those who have included the Foundation in their estate plans. New members of the Legacy Circle have been included on recent donor visits to steward and cultivate this group.

The Foundation is pleased to help donors support GSA programs and priorities important to them. Looking forward, the Foundation and GSA are collaborating to carry out even more effective resource-building strategies. With your help we will shape a strong future for GSA.

We encourage every member to avail themselves of the opportunity to serve GSA and to support the Foundation in their combined efforts to ensure the dynamism and strength of the geosciences. Please visit the Foundation’s website (www.gsa-foundation.org) for information and ideas regarding ways you can make a philanthropic impact for GSA and the geosciences.

John W. Hess
President GSA Foundation

Wesley Ward
Chair GSA Foundation
Board of Trustees

Broadening Corporate and Organizational Relationships

GSA and the GSA Foundation collaborate with a wide range of partners and sponsors supporting the Annual Meeting and more, including field camp excellence recognition, geoscience students' field camp attendance, diversity programs, and a number of in-kind services. We are pleased to be welcoming companies in a more integrated way during the Annual Meeting, such as in Technical Sessions, Short Courses, and Field Trips, which are now searchable by four different industry tracks, along with applied geoscience sessions. Additionally, representatives from our corporate partners have served on proposal teams, strategic planning task forces, and our careers

program committee, and even attended a Foundation field trip along with individual donors.

The combined efforts of business and science can make a greater difference than any organization alone. As GSA continues to convey its relevance to the private sector, we look forward to expanding corporate relationships in a variety of industries. Together, we can foster the growth of current and future leaders in the geoscience community, engaging business and industry as a positive force to advance science, stewardship, and service.

We thank the companies that join us in the meaningful impacts of partnership (asterisk indicates in-kind contributions).

Thank You FY2019 Sponsors

DOUBLE DIAMOND



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Paleontological Society

CONTRIBUTOR

Society of Economic Geologists

Take Advantage of the following GSA Partnerships with your 2020 Membership



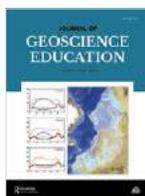
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*Applies to those in high income country/territories



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Journal of Geoscience Education (JGE) Special Offer

Peer-reviewed publication for geoscience education research concerning the pedagogy, assessment, and philosophy of teaching and learning—published for the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) by Taylor & Francis. Online subscription US\$45 including archives (US\$35 savings).



Interior Federal Credit Union Membership (IFCU) Special Offer

IFCU funds the first US\$25 deposit into a savings account to establish membership. IFCU also offers a young adult account—ideal for GSA student and early career professional members.



Mappt Standard Special Offer

Powerful mobile GIS and data collection app for Android. Easily map and capture data offline in the field using a tablet or mobile phone. Mappt integrates with all major desktop GIS software.

GSA Operations Report

(In millions)

Fiscal Year 2019 (“FY19”) ended with a change in net assets before investment earnings \$114 thousand below Fiscal Year 2018 (“FY18”). This results from operating gross revenues and total expenses \$251 thousand and \$213 below FY18, respectively. Section transfers to the GSA Foundation were \$76 thousand greater than FY18. The principal operational changes result from Publications revenue \$511 thousand greater than FY18, net Meetings results \$396 thousand lower than FY18, and net Education & Outreach operations \$68 thousand below FY18. With many significant program challenges during FY19

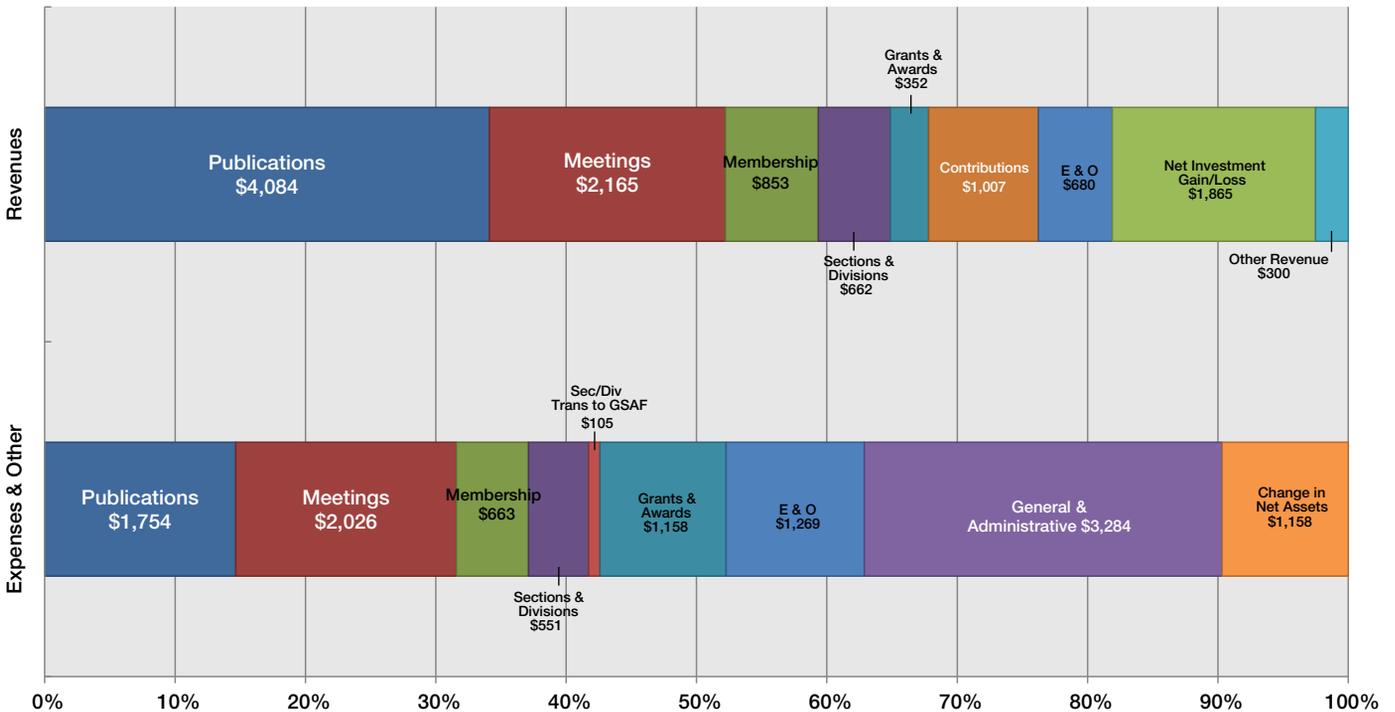
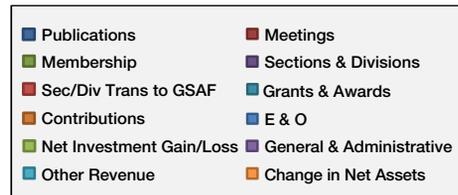
the results reflect the continuing dedicated commitment of all staff, volunteers, and leadership to the ongoing financial health of the organization.

Brock and Company CPAs, P.C. completed their combined audit report of GSA for FY19 and issued an unqualified opinion.

For FY19, the Society had net investment income of \$1.87M compared to a net investment gain in FY18 of \$2.31M. This change principally reflects a market slowdown after strong growth through FY18.

GSA Audit Report Summary

year ended 30 June 2019 (in thousands)



The Treasurer’s report can be accessed at <http://geosociety.org/aboutus/fiscal/treasurerRpt.pdf>

A full copy of the combined audit report can be accessed at http://www.geosociety.org/aboutus/fiscal/ann_Audit.pdf

GSA / GSAF COMBINED INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT

During FY19, the total combined investment portfolio in total increased \$4.79M (9.2%). There were no draws from investments in FY19. The graph presented is for the combined investment portfolio and excludes a separately managed GSAF Pooled Income Fund.

GSA and GSAF have a well diversified combined investment portfolio and a dedicated team of volunteer members to manage these assets. Through FY19, the joint Investment Committee was composed of nine dedicated and knowledgeable voting members. The Committee relies on expertise and guidance provided by an outside consulting firm, Ellwood Associates. The Investment Committee continues to follow an investment strategy of diversification among investment asset classes within strategic allocation targets.

The Committee continues to search for members with the interest and aptitude to serve on the Investment Committee in the future. This service is a key component to the long term health of the portfolio, and consequently, the mission and longevity of GSA.

The Society’s investment portfolio balance is primarily comprised of funds from R.A.F. Penrose (donated in the 1930’s) and from Joseph T. Pardee (donated in the 1990’s) and accumulated earnings on those funds.

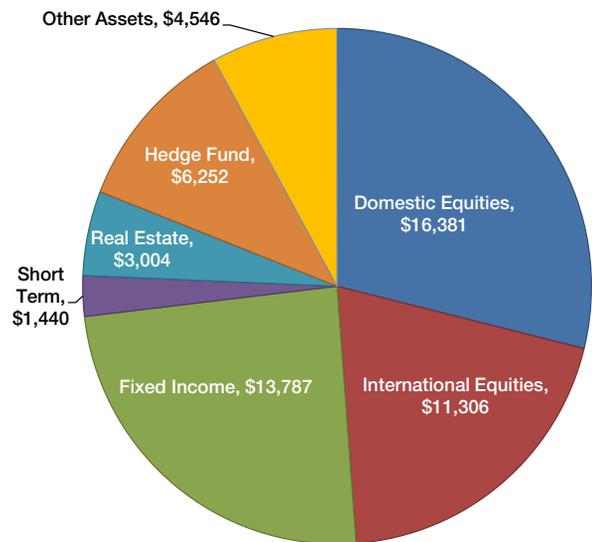
Unrestricted funds are vital to the future of the Society because they can be used where Council designates there is greatest need. In recent years, these funds have supported strategic projects such as Penrose Conferences, Government Affairs, strategic planning, diversity programs and staffing, international programs, and Capital Campaign initiatives.

As indicated in the chart below, GSA investments have primarily increased or decreased due to overall varying market conditions. The investment balances also fluctuate from investment earnings, less amounts paid from the Pardee fund for Research Grants and amounts designated from unrestricted funds for strategic spending initiatives approved by GSA Council.

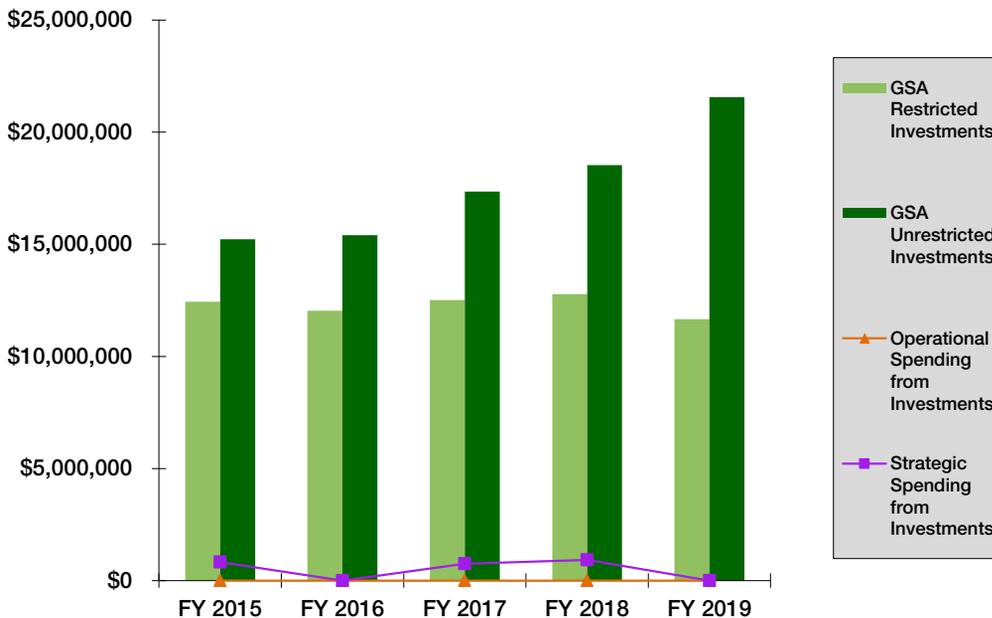
Council approved using Pardee funds for the student research grant program beginning in Fiscal Year 2004 and then approved spending unrestricted funds for strategic programs beginning in Fiscal Year 2006. This spending is governed by policy to ensure viability of the portfolio over the long term to ensure the continuing mission of GSA.

GSA gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of Richard Berg, Treasurer, and Carl P. Fricke, GSA Investment Committee Chair, for service to the Society and preparation of the financial and investment data included in this report.

**GSA and GSA Foundation
Jointly Managed Combined Investment
Portfolio (in thousands)
30 June 2019**



The Investment Committee Chair’s report and summary of the portfolio can be accessed at <http://www.geosociety.org/aboutus/fiscal/InvestCommRpt.pdf>



The orange line indicates amounts paid to cover the gap between revenues and operating expenses which has been flat over the time presented. The purple line shows the fluctuation in strategic spending.