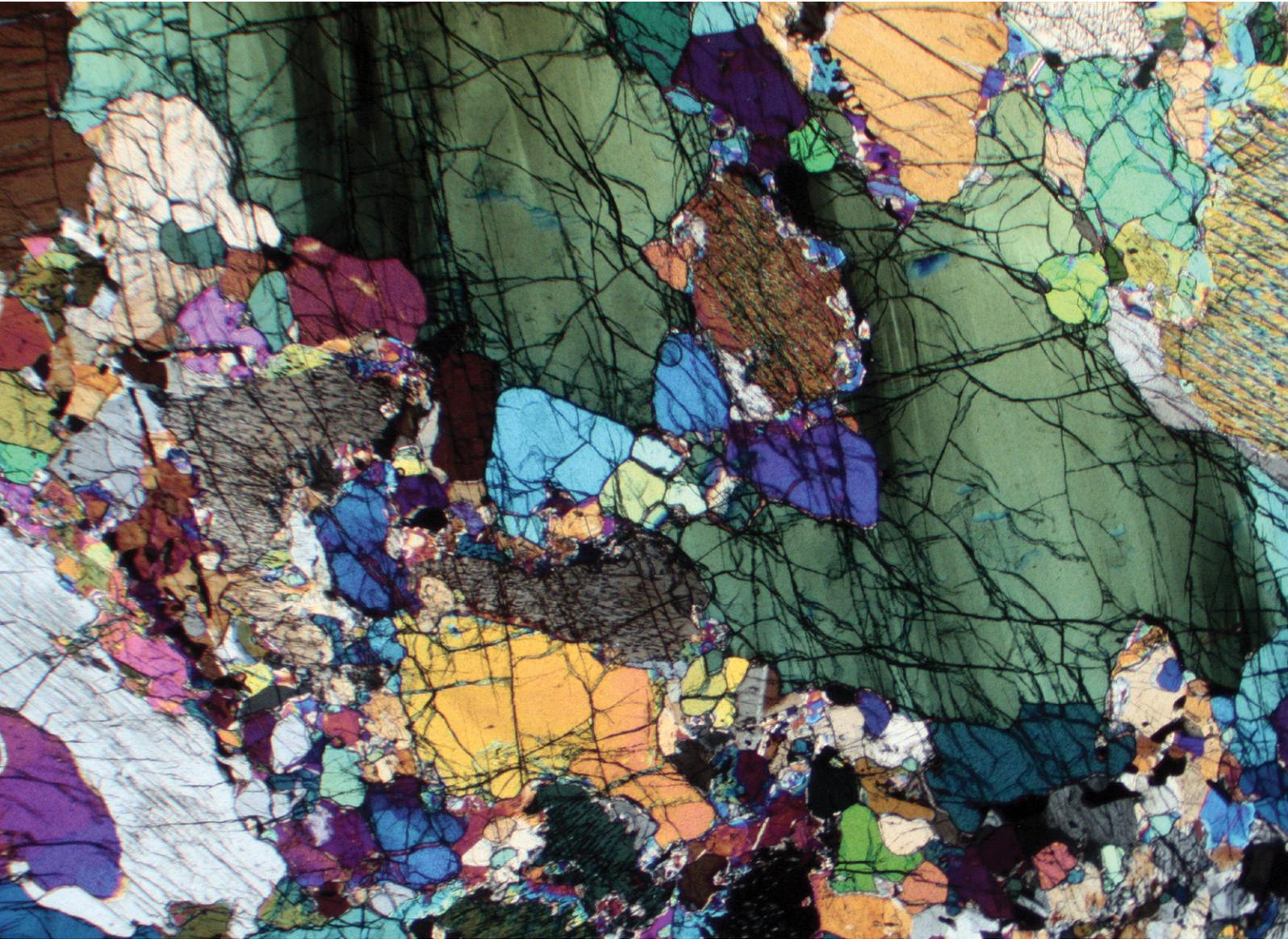


Annual Program Report

FY 2022



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Photo caption: A wehrlite is an ultrabasic igneous rock dominated by essential olivine and clinopyroxene with or without small amounts of orthopyroxene. Crossed nicols image, magnification 2x (field of view = 7mm). Image by Strekeisen via Wikimedia Commons. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en>

A Year of Transitions

Change remains the constant and this past year at the Geological Society of America (GSA) saw many transitions begin and continue to unfold in GSA's evolution. The planning for the retirement of our terrific Executive Director, Dr. Vicki McConnell; the sale of our headquarters building; the continued commitment to DEI; and the implementation of a key feature of the Decadal Strategic plan—spinning up GSA's Center for Professional Excellence. Driven by members, leaders, and staff, the stage is set for strengthening GSA, reaching out into a larger geo-ecosystem, and highlighting the vitality of the geosciences as a critical component needed to solve some of society's thorniest issues.

Beginning the Transition of the GSA Executive Director

My term began on 1 July 2021, the beginning of the FY2022 fiscal year, with a high priority task: initiating the search for the next GSA Executive Director (ED)/CEO. With the impending retirement of our current ED at the end of 2022, the multicomponent process of formulating transition plans and selecting a representative and high-quality search committee was a critical first step. While this change will be a challenge, it is an opportunity to explore a range of leadership models. With that as a backdrop, ED Vicki McConnell and I organized the annual leadership retreat in August 2021 with the expert facilitation by Seth Kahan of visionaryleadership.com. Thirty-five GSA leaders, councilors, staff, and past presidents embraced Kahan's thought-provoking presentations focused on leadership models for the ED, as well as transformative and scalable models for the Society. Spirited discussions resulted in a consensus document outlining essential and desired attributes of our next ED/CEO. Commensurate with this is GSA's desire to reach out to a larger ecosystem of membership, becoming more sustainable, and move beyond our traditional sphere of influence. To maximize our ED/CEO search options, we employed the search firm, Storbeck, to guide us through the search and identify strong candidates. They have been superb at every step. The ED/CEO search is well underway, led by past president Doug Walker and past Councilor Wendy Bohrsen. More exciting news will certainly follow as this effort comes to fruition.

Transition of Headquarters

Nearly two years ago, the Ad Hoc Campus Vision Committee outlined a plan for the GSA campus. The specifically designed and constructed headquarters (HQ) building, on a street—Penrose Place—named to honor an early GSA benefactor, is now 50 years old and is showing its age. Facing many facility issues, the 2020 Council voted unanimously to begin the sale of the building and campus. ED McConnell worked tirelessly to find a like-minded, mission-oriented, not-for-profit organization to purchase the building and surrounding land. Requiring mountains of paperwork, hours of legal consultation, and many negotiations, the sale of the building took place on 5 April 2022. A signing ceremony was held in Boulder followed by a reception at GSA headquarters for the new and old occupants, with online and in-person toasts. I had the pleasure of flying in for the event.



A generous leaseback allows GSA to occupy the building for two years, providing time to assess new workplace needs in an increasingly hybrid landscape. The pandemic brought a myriad of changes to the workplace environment, with GSA staff, Council, and leadership transitioning seamlessly to a remote work environment and now to a hybrid work environment. Assessing the new HQ needs will be in the hands of the incoming ED/CEO, with more transitions to occur.

As one final detail in the building sale, GSA Council had a special June meeting with the explicit task of investing the funds received. While exciting and daunting at the same time, Council met with our strategic investment advisors and, informed by our highly talented Investment Committee, made the decision for investing the funds to provide operating funds for the future HQ. These funds will be explicitly used for relocating into a new HQ space, buildout that may need to occur, upkeep, and other related expenses. With our stellar Investment Committee and advisors, GSA members can be assured that funds are secure, well invested, and will bring the needed resources to GSA for its continued success.

Transitions at the GSA Connects Annual Meeting and Section Meetings

Excitement permeated the Portland Convention Center as GSA Connects 2021 reunited geoscientists in October for one of the first in-person professional meetings following the COVID-19 shutdown. With local, state, and national rules changing daily, GSA Council unanimously voted to move ahead with the in-person meeting, hoping for the best, while also having a hybrid component such that members could choose their comfort level. GSA meetings staff superbly navigated the technological challenges and seamlessly transitioned to the various oral delivery styles. With vaccinations required and safety protocols in place, the many social engagements brought time for the oh-so-missed networking events.

GSA is unsurpassed in its student events, mentoring opportunities, and interactions. One of our biggest successes to foster engagement and a sense of belonging in underrepresented groups is GSA's On To the Future program. Supported by generous donations, this year inaugurated the largest class and had standing-room-only events. To further inclusivity and the sense of belonging, LGBTQ+ events were included in the program and attended by many. As always, there was the celebration of sharing excellent

science and honoring the accomplishments of awardees. When combined with the renewal of in-person networking events, GSA Connects 2021 was a meeting to remember.

Sprinkled throughout the U.S., highly successful Section Meetings brought together members in person as well as in a hybrid environment, with one Section transitioning to fully remote. Each Section Meeting was attended by at least one member of the executive team. These meetings are a hallmark of GSA, in part because of student participation and programs. GSA members volunteer endless hours to shape, organize, and host such meetings, and GSA staff ensures they succeed.



Transitions in Organizational Structure

Council meetings bring together dedicated elected council members with GSA leadership. This year, GSA Council met in person and remotely to advance GSA's activities, programs, and partnerships, and to implement the many recommendations made by last year's ad hoc committees. Exhausting hours on Zoom are to be applauded. GSA's continued commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) was highlighted by the hiring of our new associate director for DEI, Dr. Elizabeth Long. She will begin implementing recommendations from our ad hoc DEI working group. Commensurate with our commitment, changes to the nominations portal to incorporate DEI activities into the nominations process will be forthcoming.

Transformations have occurred in both the Council and the monthly Executive Committee meetings to make for more engagement by explicitly focusing on strategy for the future and strategic discussions of programs. Additionally, conversation centers around how to best message our members to effectively communicate of all GSA's benefits, opportunities, and programs.

Annually, GSA and the GSA Foundation celebrate the service of dedicated staff who have been at the Society for a landmark number of years: 5, 10, 15 and 20! This year I had the pleasure of remote participation by reading citations for the nine staff being recognized. The incredible depth and commitment of GSA's staff underscores their passion for the organization. Three staff members were

highlighted for 20 years of GSA service! Thank you to all who ensure that GSA functions smoothly and fulfills all the necessary tasks, typically behind the scenes.

Transitions of Essential Knowledge

GSA members and geoscientists are essential to providing solutions to many of society's most vexing problems. Critical is their role in climate-change solutions, water resources, energy development, and identification, exploration, and sourcing materials for the energy transition and for technological needs, yet geosciences are commonly underrepresented in these discussions and in research and policy decision making. To highlight our critical role in society, an additional consensus item from the leadership retreat was the need for refreshing of GSA's mission statement to provide a clear message that GSA members do science for humankind's best interest. This refresh is on deck for the coming year.

At the request of the National Science Foundation (NSF), GSA embarked on another successful crowd-sourcing event for transformative research in GeoHealth. Capitalizing on ideas and knowledge of constituents from across our membership and Associated Societies, GSA's Division of Geology and Health, and our D.C. Geoscience Policy Office, GSA's report was accepted with high marks by NSF leadership for its innovative ideas. The working group highlighted geomaterials for society's benefit as well as the challenges.

There are many more topics encompassing a myriad of other advances in GSA's highly successful publications, meetings, programs, awards, and committees. GSA is successful because of the amazing, hardworking staff and the many volunteers like yourselves who donate countless hours to advance the geosciences and the Society. Progress has occurred, and GSA is on the cusp of even greater impacts in the future. Watch for more transformations.

The synergy of leadership, membership, staff, and partners coupled with our passion for the geosciences will facilitate GSA's continued evolution and positive transitions into the future. All of these transitions affirm the leadership of GSA in the geoscience community.

It has been my pleasure and honor to work with all of you. The year has flown by.



Barb Dutrow,
2021–2022 GSA President

Invest in Yourself by Renewing Your 2023 GSA Membership Today

Renew by 1 November—Save up to \$15 off dues*

* applies to those in high income country/territories

www.geosociety.org/members

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear GSA members, leaders, staff, and geoscience community,

First, please take a moment to read through the entire report to get the whole picture of GSA's contributions to our members and the geoscience community. We continue to lead under the direction of GSA's leadership and through volunteers, as well as the dedicated and professional support of GSA staff.

I would like to introduce you to GSA's Associate Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Dr. Elizabeth Long. Elizabeth began her tenure at GSA in late January 2022 and rapidly became the lead on our DEI efforts. She is overseeing a variety of programs, including the On To the Future mentor program, and is working with all aspects of GSA programs and projects. Elizabeth represents GSA in all DEI activities involved in implementing the DEI recommendations, goals, and objectives of the Decadal Strategic Plan and the ad hoc DEI Working Group. She works closely with the newly formed Center for Professional Excellence, the GSA Unlearning Racism in Geoscience (URGE) pod, and the GSA Ethics and Compliance Office.

We are also very excited to be implementing one of the major goals of our Decadal Strategic Plan—the roll-out of one of the centers for excellence, our Center for Professional Excellence. Matt Dawson, formerly GSA education programs manager, has been appointed the interim assistant director of the Center and is working on the organization and coordinating activities. The overall objective is to centralize our professional development and career-support programs (for example, GeoCareers, research grants, scholarships, mentoring, awards, leadership training, etc.) and present them in such a way as to augment our member's usage and enhance their benefits. The Center is a virtual construct; thus, it fits nicely with the goal to reduce our physical footprint. We anticipate the roll out of the Center for Geoscience Discovery in 2023.

As President Barb Dutrow noted in her report, we have sold our Boulder headquarters and campus and are in the process of some serious downsizing and reformatting of our workplace and workforce policies, like so many other organizations. While the decision to occupy a smaller and more sustainable footprint was made before we had to adapt to a pandemic world that decision is now more relevant. The intent is to relocate somewhere in the Denver-Boulder corridor within the next year or so. The GSA workforce will be primarily remote-first, with a much smaller headquarters footprint. This will not affect our programs, services, or processes in the least. I am proud to report that the organization that purchased the property, Boulder Housing Partners, will be preserving the original wing of the GSA building and as much of the campus as possible while developing affordable housing for the Boulder community.

The other change will come soon after the GSA Connects 2022 meeting in October in Denver, when I retire as GSA's Executive Director. GSA leadership is actively recruiting for the new ED/CEO, and we hope to be introducing them to the geoscience community in Denver. It has been my honor and privilege to serve GSA these past seven years, and I hope to continue to contribute to its success and growth.

I thank all my geoscience colleagues and friends for your trust and support. I also humbly thank all the GSA staff I have worked with over the years. They are just the best.



Vicki McConnell,
GSA Executive Director

Thank You GSA Volunteers!

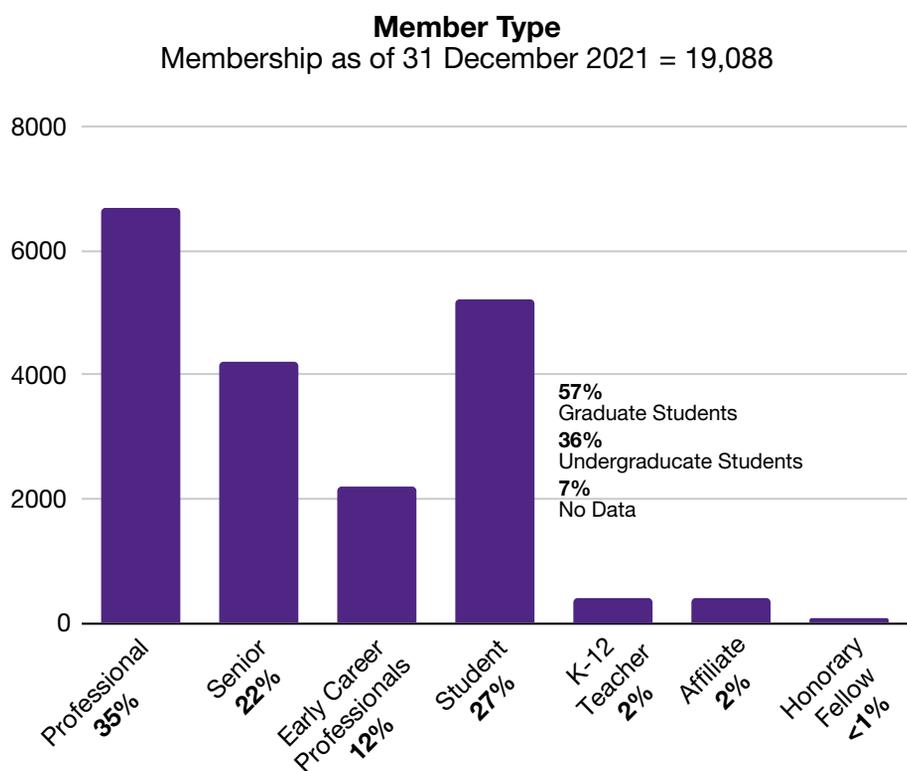
Looking back each year at all the work we have done together and the goals we have accomplished, we are reminded that the “secret ingredient” in the success of our Society is the wealth of dedicated and hardworking members who give generously of their time and talents. From planning meetings, to editing journals, to reviewing grants and awards applications, to serving on committees, running our scientific Divisions, serving students as mentors and campus reps... the list goes on. A huge “thank you” goes out to all of them.

To members who are not currently active but who might like to engage more deeply with GSA, please know that there is a myriad of ways to further your personal goals as well as the aims of the Society through service. We invite you to join a scientific Division, self-nominate for a committee, or let us know how you'd like to get involved. Email gsaservice@geosociety.org with questions.

Stay Connected to GSA

-   Follow GSA @geosociety on **Twitter** and **Instagram**.
-  **Facebook**—Join 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 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/geological-society-of-america>.

Membership



GSA members represent more than 27 scientific specialties and interests and have the option to belong to one or more of GSA's 22 scientific Divisions, six regional Sections, and GSA International.

Did you know?

- GSA members save up to \$15* off dues if they renew their 2023 membership by 1 November.
*Applies to those in high-income country/territories.
- Lifetime membership is now an option—Support GSA and receive membership benefits for life!
- Individuals in non-high-income countries/territories qualify for reduced GSA membership dues.
- **New this year:** Scientific Division dues are now standardized:
 - Student members: US\$2 each—and join one for free
 - Early-career professional & K–12 teacher members: US\$5 each
 - Professional, Senior* & Affiliate members: US\$10 each
 * Senior members may still opt for dues waiver(s) or choose to financially support their Division(s).
- The GSA/GSA Foundation Membership Assistance Program and Fund enables those who cannot afford the cost of membership—or who experience difficulty in transferring funds from their country to the USA—to become members.

Member Benefits

- One complimentary Section affiliation is included with membership. Choose others when you renew to expand your geographic interests.
- Join one or more scientific Divisions when you renew your membership—Expand your network and collaborate with others who share your professional interests. Student members get one free Division of choice; additional Divisions are only US\$2 each.
- Student and early-career professional members qualify for reduced GSA membership dues and reduced scientific Division dues. Take advantage of webinars, mentor programs, research and travel grants, and more!
- Members enjoy reduced meeting registration rates and reduced abstracts fees.
- Special opportunities for student members at meetings—mentor luncheons, networking events, and volunteer opportunities to offset the cost of attending GSA meetings.
- Communicate and collaborate with fellow members in GSA's online member community and discussion forum.
- All members get free online access to *Geology*. Student and early-career professional members also get free online access to *GSA Bulletin*.
- Supercharge your research with GSA Millennium Edition of Geofacets—a web-based tool to access thousands of georeferenced maps—included with membership.
- Subscribe to premier publications at member-only rates when you renew your 2023 membership.
- Opportunities for leadership, mentoring, service, and awards.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Awards Committees submitted revised award rubrics to Council, following the guidelines of the ad hoc Nominations and Awards Committee. GSA staff worked to implement the recommendations to the nominations and awards process for incoming Committee members to utilize in the coming year.

Acting on recommendations from GSA Council and membership, including the ad hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, GSA initiated a hiring search for a full-time, director-level staff position to oversee DEI efforts.

In January, Dr. Elizabeth Long joined the GSA staff as the organization's first associate director of DEI. Priorities for this position include working with membership to improve DEI work at the annual meeting and Section Meetings; revising GSA's nominations and awards processes, in partnership with member-guided committees; and securing funding to increase and improve the sustainability of DEI efforts.

In the fall, GSA's ad hoc Committee on Nominations and Awards submitted its report to Council outlining proposed revisions designed to improve inclusivity and equity of GSA's awards as well as increase

diversity and inclusion on all committees. The report was approved by Council, and GSA staff began the implementation process.

GSA held its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, USA, in October 2021, using both virtual and in-person formats. After receiving feedback from attendees, GSA members, and our larger community, GSA committed to a fully hybrid and accessible annual meeting in October 2022. In addition, GSA incorporated feedback from membership to improve inclusion at the annual meeting, highlighting events such as the LGBTQ+ reception, live-streaming talks for presenters who are unable to attend in person, and revising ethical guidelines and codes of conduct for programs such as poster sessions.

Members of our National Science Foundation-funded Geosciences ASCEND RCN (Geosciences Associated Societies Committed to Embracing and Normalizing Diversity Research Coordinated Network) project met for a virtual planning summit in early 2022. In June, Geo ASCENDS hosted its first Community Conversation, a virtual format open meeting designed to allow participants to workshop specific topics, challenges, and goals with peers from other RCN project team members. The monthly Community Conversations are facilitated by project personnel and largely driven by GSA members.

Ethics

GSA updated and enhanced its Events Code of Conduct and related resources, including a new training guide for session chairs, to foster respectful, inclusive scientific events (RISE; www.geosociety.org/rise). More than 300 GSA members, ranging from Councilors to student volunteers, were trained on procedures to promote a welcoming culture where meeting and field-trip participants feel safe coming forward with concerns.

The 2021 Annual Ethics Report is online at www.geosociety.org/documents/gsa/about/ethics/2021-annual-ethics-report.pdf. This report provides transparent information about GSA's ethics

policies, the types of concerns being raised, and how GSA has resolved them. Using fair, rigorous enforcement procedures, GSA continues to take all complaints seriously and to impose sanctions for proven violations, up to and including the revocation of membership and fellowship status.

GSA continues to serve on the Leadership Council of the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM, a coalition of professional societies formed to share and promote leading practices to advance a culture of inclusion, excellence, and integrity across fields in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine.

July

GSA connected 223 students and ECPs with enriching, interdisciplinary projects led by the USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management.



August



Emily Zawacki (above) begins term as GSA's 2021–2022 Science Communication Fellow.

GSA welcomes Morgan Disbrow-Monz (below) to begin a one-year term as GSA's Science Policy Fellow.



September

Scientific Division members and non-members were surveyed to gain insight as to why the membership of some Divisions have increased or decreased, why a portion of GSA members choose not to belong to any Divisions, and how membership in scientific Divisions can be more relevant and valuable.

Meetings

GSA offers a variety of meetings to geoscientists—from small research forums, to moderate specialty conferences, to a 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 while providing the latest technology platforms for scientific exchange.

GSA hosted its first hybrid meeting in October 2021 in Portland, Oregon, USA. All Pardee Keynote Symposia, Noontime Lectures, Halbouty Distinguished Lecture, and the GSA Presidential Address, along with 80+ selected topical sessions, were live-streamed and recorded for on-demand viewing by registered attendees. There were close to 3,000 attendees in Portland (1,000 online) for GSA’s first in-person meeting coming out of the pandemic. Twenty-two short courses were offered online and six in person. More than 108 companies, organizations, and universities exhibited during the meeting, up from 53 in 2020. GSA successfully implemented its Commitment to Care program to keep attendees in Portland healthy and safe, requiring all attendees to be vaccinated, test before arriving, wear a mask, and socially distance.

Hundreds of volunteers participate yearly in GSA Connects—from Local Organizing Committee members and the Joint Technical Program Committee to the hundreds of session conveners from every geoscience discipline. There is something for everyone at GSA Connects.

GSA Section Meetings are unique venues for interdisciplinary science and are important hubs 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.

In 2022, GSA was able to host two in-person Section Meetings, one online Section Meeting, and one hybrid. The South-Central Section Meeting kicked things off with an online meeting on 14–15 March with 143 attendees. Right on South-Central’s heels was the Cordilleran & Rocky Mountain Section Joint Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, on 15–17 March with close to 600

GSA CONNECTS 2021 STATS

2,864 In-Person Attendees	61 OTF Mentors	34 Short Courses
1,109 Online Attendees	50 GeoCareers Mentors	12 Field Trips
76 On To the Future (OTF) Scholars	50 Countries Represented	2,703 Abstracts Accepted

attendees. Next up was the Northeastern Section Meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA, on 20–22 March; they had close to 680 attendees. The North-Central & Southeastern Joint Section Meeting closed things out on 7–8 April in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, and online, with 845 attendees.

GSA Penrose Conferences and Thompson Field Forums are GSA’s premiere small-group meeting and field-trip venues for collaborative research around the world. GSA hosted a Penrose Conference titled “The Geological Fingerprints of Slow Earthquakes” on Santa Catalina Island, California, USA, on 1–5 April 2022, with 49 attendees, after having reschedule multiple times in 2021. A Thompson Field Forum titled “Old or Young? The Topographic Evolution of the Sierra Nevada” was held from 20–27 June going between Nevada and California, with 40 attendees. A second Penrose Conference titled “Progressive Failure of Brittle Rocks” was hosted at the Highland Lake Inn and Resort in Flat Rock, North Carolina, USA, from 20–24 June, with 85 attendees.

While the pandemic continues to cause havoc for many organizations and scientific societies, this past fiscal year has shown that folks are ready to meet back in person, especially when safety procedures are put into place and followed by fellow geoscientists.



October

GSA hosted its first hybrid meeting in October 2021 in Portland, Oregon, USA.

Amanda Labrado began a one-year term in the office of Representative Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) as the GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow in September 2021.



149 professionals, 108 early-career professionals, 544 students, 13 K–12 teachers, and 54 affiliates were elected to membership.

Eighteen scholars who were selected for the On To the Future Program (OTF) program in 2020 deferred their awards until 2021. They joined 58 diverse students who were selected to participate as the OTF cohort at GSA Connects 2021.

Government Affairs

Policy Webinars

With health and safety concerns limiting access to Capitol Hill, GSA joined with other geoscience societies to hold webinars to facilitate the ability of geoscientists to engage in policy remotely. These webinars are archived in GSA’s members-only online toolkit.

- Connecting Close to Home: Engaging Federal Policymakers in Your Community
- Experiences of Being a Geoscience Congressional Fellow: A Primer for Applicants
- Geoscience Policy Update
- Engaging with Policymakers in and out of D.C.

Additionally, GSA and its partners held several virtual briefings for congressional staff about key geoscience issues, including:

- The Devastating Power of Tsunamis & What They Mean for the Coastal U.S.
- Unpredictable & Dangerous: Lessons from the 2022 Tonga Eruption
- Minerals for the 21st Century Economy

GSA Letters and Testimony

GSA submitted testimony requesting increased funding for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Science Foundation (NSF), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for fiscal year 2023. GSA is an active member of coalitions that also submitted testimony and letters in support of geoscience agencies, including the Coalition for National Science Funding, the Coalition for Aerospace and Science, USGS Coalition, the Energy Sciences Coalition, and the Task Force on American Innovation.

Among the letters GSA sent to policymakers included the following statements:

- Supporting the “Reconciliation in Place Names Act,” which creates a process to review and revise offensive names of public lands
- Calling on Congress to lead with science to understand and address the effects of climate change

- Supporting open science and sustainable public access
- Advancing scientific research on the microbiome

GSA Science Policy Fellow

GSA welcomed Morgan Disbrow-Monz to begin a one-year term as the “in-house” GSA Science Policy Fellow in August 2021. Disbrow-Monz earned her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, where her research focused on better understanding the microstructural processes in natural ice that play a major role in glacier and ice sheet movement. Morgan reflects, “As a lifelong scientist with a limited policy background, the fellowship is providing me with the essential skills, mentorship, and professional network to be an effective communicator in the policy arena. ... I rely on creative communication strategies to serve as a liaison between GSA members and policymakers, which includes writing about current legislation on GSA’s *Speaking of Geoscience* blog, expanding GSA’s public toolkits for effective meetings with policymakers, developing informational webinars, and interacting with members directly at GSA’s various meetings.”

“This position fulfills my curiosity needs by allowing me to continue expanding my knowledge of scientific issues but with an emphasis on building human relationships to promulgate that knowledge.” —Morgan Disbrow-Monz, 2021–2022 GSA Science Policy Fellow

GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow

Amanda Labrado began a one-year term in the office of Representative Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) as the GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow in September 2021. Labrado is a biogeochemist who received her Ph.D. from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), where she studied how microbes facilitate the formation of minerals on the top of salt domes. She writes, “Engaging in the policy-making process has allowed me to utilize the skills geoscientists learn to sharpen in different ways. The ability to make observations, analyze data, apply knowledge, and

November

Changes to the GSA Fellowship Program, as recommended by the Fellowship ad hoc Committee and approved by Council, were implemented. These changes included updated criteria for nominators, clarified eligibility requirements for nominees, and new nomination categories.



GSA’s ad hoc Committee on Nominations and Awards submitted its report to Council outlining proposed revisions designed to improve inclusivity and equity of GSA’s awards as well as increase diversity and inclusion on all committees.

December

A working group of scientific Division leaders was formed to further analyze the Divisions members and non-members survey results, make recommendations to strengthen scientific Division memberships, and better serve their members.

All Division websites were updated to cleaner design.



effectively communicate have been crucial to me in learning how to present policies, work in a bipartisan manner, and remain calm and productive during tight turnarounds.”

GSA Updates Seven Position Statements

Over the past year, GSA Council approved a major revision to the Water Resources position statement, now titled Water Resources: Quantity. Minor revisions to the following position statements were also approved: Supporting Planetary Exploration, Teaching Evolution, Rewarding Professional Contributions in Public Spheres, Geoheritage, The Value of Geologic Mapping, and Freedom of Scientific Expression. GSA members are encouraged to use the statements as geoscience communication tools when interacting with policymakers, students, colleagues, and the general public. These are online at www.geosociety.org/positionstatements.

Geoscience and Human Health (GeoHealth): Impacts and Mitigation of Impacts on Human Health Due to a Changing Natural Environment

Under the overarching theme of GeoHealth, the National Science Foundation (NSF) requested GSA contribute innovative ideas that have the potential for solving societal problems and provide commercialization potential on a short time frame. GSA gathered feedback from its network, including members and Associated Societies, through a series of targeted brainstorming sessions, online questionnaires, Section Meeting events, and directed outreach to experts in the community of practice. GSA is grateful to its members and the broader community for their thoughtful input and to the NSF for the opportunity to participate.

The responses underscore the fundamental linkage that the health of Earth influences the health of humans. It is essential that geoscientists, who analyze all of Earth’s spheres, partner with those in the health, epidemiological, and toxicological fields to

maximize synergy in identifying, monitoring, communicating, and mitigating impacts on human health that occur through geologic processes. In concert, those same partners provide synergy to use geological materials to improve human health. The full report is online at www.geosociety.org/geohealth-solutions.

Policy Outreach

GSA’s policy office conducted an interactive, gallery-style, outreach activity at the Northeastern Section Meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA, to gain a better understanding of what the GSA membership views as the most pressing geoscience policy issues and how the community recommends working toward solutions to these issues. Diversity, equity, and inclusion, education, and climate change were the top broad issues that emerged. GSA hopes to continue and expand on this activity at future meetings to track how priority issues change over time.

Speaking of Geoscience Blog Policy Updates

Over the past year, the policy office contributed nine policy posts to GSA’s *Speaking of Geoscience* blog: Energizing the Future: House of Representatives passes the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act; Reconciling with our Past: The Reconciliation in Place Names Act; Budgeting for Science: What the White House’s Budget Request and Congress’ Appropriations Mean for Federal Science Agencies; Science Policy at the GSA Connects 2021 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon; Bipartisan Investment in The nation’s Infrastructure: H.R.3684 Signed into Law!; Revisiting the 1872 Mining Law; FY22: Less Than Expected Increases for Science; GSA Fellow, Dr. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, Confirmed to Lead the Department of Energy Office of Science; and Dr. David Applegate’s Nomination to be the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Moves to the Senate Floor.

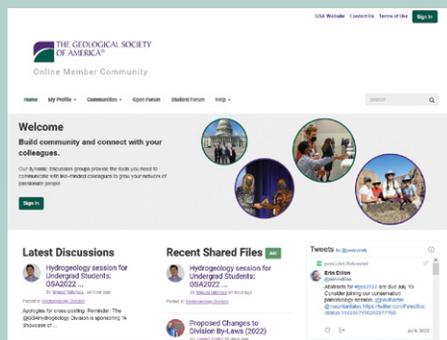
2022

January



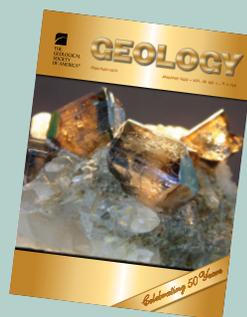
Dr. Elizabeth Long joined the GSA staff as the organization’s first associate director of DEI.

New user experience for the online member community was launched.



February

Research grants and awards deadlines culminated this month, with hundreds of grant applications.



Geology reached a milestone, publishing volume 50 in 2022.

Education & Outreach

EXPLORE CAREERS

GeoCareers & Mentoring

Throughout the year, GSA members had access to Mentoring365, a virtual three-month mentoring program. GSA's networking and mentor programs engaged 540 mentees and 141 mentors.

For GSA Connects 2021, our GeoCareers Corner was back in person. Drop-in and résumé/CV mentoring were available, and jobs were posted for attendees to view. The following programs remained online: Early Career Networking Event, Networking Event, Women in Geology Panel, GeoCareers Résumé Workshop, GeoCareers Company & Agency Information Session, and the GeoCareers Career Pathways Webinar.

Three of the four Section Meetings were in person in 2022. All four of them featured a Roy J. Shlemon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience and a John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program. The three-part career series addressed topics from career development planning to information on best practices for crafting a résumé and cover letter. Finally, a geology club meet-up was offered so that club officers could network and exchange ideas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Webinars

Sixteen webinars were offered in collaboration with scientific Divisions, Associated Societies, government agencies, and other organizations. These webinars drew more than 700 attendees and covered topics related to geoscience careers, graduate school, science policy, research funding, and more.

GeoScene

This is GSA's monthly digest for students and early-career professionals (ECPs) who are charting their education and career. Issues are emailed monthly to ~12,500 people and contain upcoming deadlines for awards and scholarships, professional

GSA CONNECTS 2021 SHORT COURSE STATS

24 short courses (6 in person; 18 online)	47% of participants were students	22 participants per course, on average
531 short-course participants	13% of GSA Connects attendees participated in a short course	US\$27 average cost per course

development opportunities, science stories written by students and ECPs, career information, highlights on diversity, and available jobs and internships. Visit GSA's website (www.geosociety.org) to subscribe and review previous content.

Student and ECP articles in *GSA Today*

In FY22, seven articles were written by students and ECPs with content of interest to that audience. Topics included professional geologist licensure, museum careers, poster presentation tips, undergraduate research survey results, becoming a science policy fellow, and reports from both a field-camp scholarship recipient and an On To the Future (OTF) awardee. This initiative began as a way for students and ECPs to publish and provide information to one another.

Short Courses

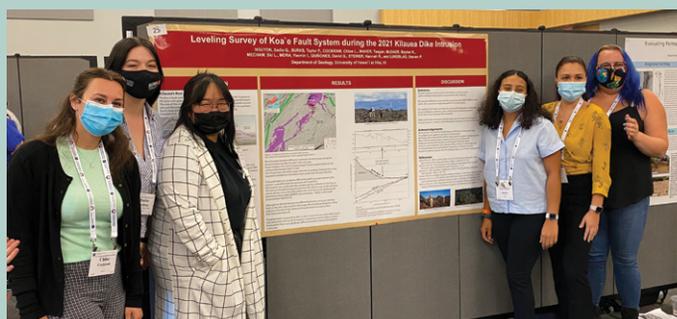
GSA Connects 2021 offered 24 short courses, which were taught by professional geoscientists and enabled attendees to learn new topics, build skills, and network.

K–12 (Kindergarten through 12th grade) Education and 2YC (2-Year Colleges)

GSA staff worked with member volunteers and the Next Generation Science Standards–Earth and Space Science (NGSS-ESS) Working

March

Six non-traditional students attending urban universities in GSA's Northeastern Section were provided financial assistance to attend the 2022 Northeastern Section Meeting.



The South-Central Section Meeting kicked things off with an online meeting on 14–15 March followed by the Joint Cordilleran & Rocky Mountain Section Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, on 15–17 March. The Northeastern Section Meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA, took place on 20–22 March.

In March, members of Student Advisory Committee successfully helped facilitate the GSA online GeoHealth Brainstorming Sessions in partnership with the National Science Foundation.

Group to offer an online workshop about “Virtual Contexts” for ~30 educators in conjunction with GSA Connects 2021.

FIELD AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

GeoCorps™ America and The National Park Service (NPS) Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program

GSA connected 223 students and ECPs with enriching, interdisciplinary projects led by the USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Program participants were placed at 132 federal public-land sites and offices and completed more than 116,000 hours of critical work related to the geosciences and other natural-resource fields.

GSA Connects 2021 featured 12 GeoCorps and SIP participants presenting their work.

“The biggest take away from this experience for me was realizing how I can use my education background and skills and apply that in the real world to help make a positive difference. This has been the most meaningful work experience I’ve had the opportunity to participate in and it felt incredibly fulfilling.” —Summer 2021 GeoCorps Participant, Superior National Forest

GeoCorps Participant, Superior National Forest

GSA Field Camp Excellence Award

This US\$10,000 award went to the University of Iowa Field Camp in recognition of its commitment to safety awareness, diversity, and technical excellence.

“We are so honored to be recognized for our excellent technical merit and dedication to field safety. We will continue to be dedicated to those aspects while also focusing on increasing the diversity and accessibility of our field camp. We would like to earnestly thank GSA for supporting us in pursuing these goals.” —Emily Finzel, The University of Iowa Field Camp

Graduate Student Research Grants

GSA continued to support graduate-level research by using funds from GSA, the GSA Foundation, and a three-year (2020–2022) award from the National Science Foundation, which is aimed at supporting GSA’s efforts to increase the level of diversity among the students who apply for and receive grants. In 2022,

more than 330 students were funded, with over US\$750,000 provided in total. *This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1949901.*

Undergraduate Student Research Grants

Four GSA Sections awarded 17 undergraduate students with research grants, totaling over US\$17,000 in funding.

AGeS-DiG

GSA facilitated applications for the AGeS-DiG (Awards for Geochronology Student Research, Diversity in Geochronology) program, which provided six research grants aimed at expanding access to geochronology for those underrepresented in the earth sciences. *This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under EAR-1759200, -1759353, -1759201 awards to R.M. Flowers (CU-Boulder), J.R. Arrowsmith (ASU), and V. McConnell (GSA).*

GSA/ZEISS Research Grant

A US\$10,000 research grant was provided to Olivia Barbee, an early-career researcher at Michigan Technological University, for a research proposal titled: “Developing novel correlative 3D and 2D microscopy of quartz from volcanic supereruptions on Earth.”

TRAVEL GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

On To the Future Program

Eighteen scholars who were selected for the OTF program in 2020 deferred their awards until 2021. They joined 58 diverse students who were selected to participate as the 2021 cohort at GSA Connects 2021 in Portland, Oregon, USA.

Northeast Urban Travel Award

Six non-traditional students attending urban universities in GSA’s Northeastern Section were provided financial assistance to attend the 2022 Northeastern Section Meeting.

J. David Lowell Field Camp Scholarships

Thirty undergraduate students were each provided US\$2,000 to attend the field camp of their choice. This year, Brunton gifted

April



The GSA Foundation's Death Valley Rendezvous donor trip reconvened.

Penrose Conference titled “The Geological Fingerprints of Slow Earthquakes” on Santa Catalina Island, California, USA, occurred from 1–5 April.

The sale of the building took place on 5 April.



Launched full Connects 2022 website build.



The Joint North-Central & Southeastern Section Meeting, held 7–8 April in Cincinnati, Ohio, was a success.

each awardee with a Brunton Orange Standard Transit in a personalized leather case.

Expanding Representation in the Geosciences Scholarships

Six diverse undergraduate students were each provided a US\$1,500 ERG scholarship, a GSA student membership, and full meeting registration for GSA Connects 2022.

CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

To better serve our community and achieve our mission, GSA is launching two centers, the Center for Professional Excellence and the Center for Geoscience Discovery, Integrity, and Rigor. Each Center fosters collaboration across all of GSA and facilitates partnerships with our organization. In spring 2022, staff began to shape the Center for Professional Excellence, which supports the growth and excellence of geoscientists throughout their career trajectory. The goal is to begin widely publicizing this center at GSA Connects 2022.

Student Advisory Council

Fiscal year (FY) 2022 Student Advisory Council (SAC) Chair Yueyi Che (Stanford University) has been leading a variety of efforts to improve student member engagement within GSA. During GSA Connects 2021, SAC held an in-person mixer for students to get to know each other and student representatives at the meeting. Shortly after GSA Connects 2021 and at the beginning of the spring of 2022, SAC held two meetings to discuss how GSA could make its student resources more accessible and student leadership opportunities more equitable. Led by Che, SAC is proposing structural changes to GSA Council related to students and student leadership in GSA. SAC is also reconnecting with the campus reps. In March, members of SAC

successfully helped facilitate the GSA online GeoHealth Brainstorming Sessions in partnership with the National Science Foundation. FY22 SAC Chair-Elect Miguel Valencia (Florida International University) created an SAC webinar handbook to guide the student representatives in hosting their own webinars. Student representatives have been actively hosting webinars and creating a mentorship program within their Sections/Divisions. Finally, SAC is busy preparing for the upcoming GSA Connects 2022. We hope to provide more support for first-time attendees and create physical space at the meeting for students to meet peers and have a sense of belonging at the meeting. We look forward to the rest of the year and wish to see you in Denver.

GSA 2023 Membership

**Being an engaged member will help you advance your career.
Renew by 1 November—Save up to \$15 off dues***

* applies to those in high income country/territories

www.geosociety.org/members

May



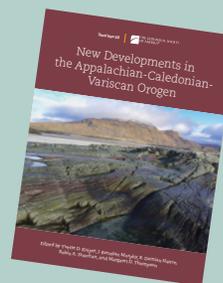
Thirty undergraduate students were each provided US\$2,000 via the J. David Lowell Field Camp Scholarship Fund to attend the field camp of their choice.

June

38 members were granted Fellowship; two others were granted Honorary Fellowship.

141 professionals, 91 early-career professionals, 821 students, 23 K–12 teachers, and 66 affiliates were elected to membership.

Council approved the standardizing of scientific Division dues as recommended by the Division Leaders Working Group that derived from suggestions from the Division members survey.



In FY22, GSA published 12,439 pages written by 3,352 authors from 53 countries representing 119 disciplines and subdisciplines.

Publications

Geology has reached a milestone, publishing volume 50 in 2022. In 1970, GSA leaders looking for new ways to disseminate scientific information assigned the task to an ad hoc study group, which proposed a “short-note, rapid publication journal.” GSA Council gave the go-ahead in 1972 (the same year that the Society’s headquarters building was completed at 3300 Penrose Place in Boulder, Colorado, USA), and the first issue of *Geology* was published in September 1973. Along with short, peer-reviewed articles, early issues included book reviews, letters, and summaries of *GSA Bulletin* papers. Today, the journal is at the top of its game and has been the leading geoscience journal for many years.

Published by GSA since 1890, *Geological Society of America Bulletin* has fulfilled many roles, recording GSA’s activities, meeting abstracts, proceedings, and memorials to members, finally settling into the sole purpose of publishing peer-reviewed research. In the early 2000s, when GSA digitized and posted all issues back to volume 1, usage soared, and the journal’s impact factor climbed. But one nagging problem has followed *Bulletin* off and on for decades: a backlog of accepted papers waiting to be published. A victim of its own popularity, *Bulletin* has always had long papers and lots of them. (Some readers may recall the most [in]famous solution to the problem: microfiche.) Today, papers are published online as soon as they are ready, but there is still a long wait for papers to be assigned to a print issue, even after the number of papers in each issue was doubled. In April 2022, GSA Council approved a Publications Committee proposal to cease the print version of *GSA Bulletin* after 2023, and the journal will carry on as an online publication.

Born online-only in 2005 and made fully open access in 2017 is *Geosphere*, which continues to enjoy a climbing impact factor. A few libraries still request print copies of *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience*, published jointly by the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists and GSA, but its online presence at GeoScienceWorld brings its content of new theory, applications, and case histories to a wider audience.

2022 JOURNAL IMPACT FACTORS™ (FROM CLARIVATE, 2022)

Geology:
6.324; five-year: 6.456

Geosphere:
3.944; five-year: 4.284

GSA Bulletin:
5.410; five-year: 5.250

*Environmental
& Engineering
Geoscience*:
0.779; five-year: 0.860

GSA books are produced in print but are also online at GeoScienceWorld, and print and ebook versions are sold in the GSA Store. GSA published nine Special Papers, three Memoirs, and three Field Guides in fiscal year 2022. Legacy series, available online or in the GSA Store, include Reviews in Engineering Geology and Maps and Charts. Additional ebooks available at GeoScienceWorld include Engineering Geology Case Histories, Penrose Field Guides, and numerous non-series books. At the GSA Store and online is the complete suite of Decade of North American Geology volumes and maps.

GSA’s peer-reviewed journals and books are made possible by 18 science editors, 127 associate editors and editorial board members, and 1,831 reviewers!

A top member benefit is *GSA Today*, GSA’s open-access science and news magazine, featuring peer-reviewed science articles, hot-topic and issue-driven articles, member news, and announcements.

All members get free online access to *Geology* and free access to the GSA Millennium Edition of Geofacets, a web-based tool to access thousands of georeferenced maps. Student and early-career professional members also get free online access to *GSA Bulletin*.



Thompson Field Forum titled “Old or Young? The Topographic Evolution of the Sierra Nevada” was held from 20–27 June going between Nevada and California with 40 attendees. A Penrose Conference titled “Progressive Failure of Brittle Rocks” was hosted at the Highland Lake Inn and Resort in Flat Rock, North Carolina, USA, from 20–24 June with 85 attendees.

Six diverse undergraduate students were each provided a US\$1,500 for the Expanding Representation in the Geosciences Scholarship Program (ERG), a GSA student membership, and full meeting registration for GSA Connects 2022.



Justin Samuel began his role as GSA’s Marketing and Communication Director.

SIP 2022 winter application closed with 1,274 applicants.

Marketing & Communications

Press Releases

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 issued 70 press releases in FY22, highlighting peer-reviewed research published in the Society's top-rated geoscience journals, presenting new findings from GSA meetings, and providing Society news. 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 hosted a newsroom. Go to www.geosociety.org, click on the "News" tab, and select "GSA in the News" to read some of the latest coverage.

Science Communication Fellowship

Emily Zawacki served as GSA's 2021–2022 Science Communication Fellow. Accomplishments from her term include crafting press releases on a variety of topics from signs of water on Mars to environmental justice issues around dam removals to volcanic hazards. Emily helped advance GSA's social-media goals by piloting TikTok videos to accompany several of her deliverables.

"The GSA Science Communication Fellowship has afforded me the opportunity to hone my skills as a professional science communicator, mixing traditional writing with multimedia products." — Emily Zawacki, GSA's 2021–2022 Science Communication Fellow

GSA Website

In fiscal year 2022, we improved the design and technology supporting GSA's web properties with an eye to the future. We overhauled the user experience of the online Member Community, giving it a clean and modern feel with strong ties to GSA branding. We continued to support our Divisions and volunteers with training, resources, and direct access to GSA staff, and we transitioned all Division sites to a new theme developed last year.

Behind the scenes, we are refactoring some of the technology that supports GSA's websites to make them resilient for the future. We analyzed GSA's performance on search platforms like Google and identified ways to continually improve our visibility.

TOP WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS IN FY2022:

154,000	64,000
GSA Homepage	GSA Job Board
139,000	50,000
Geologic Time Scale	Field Experiences
125,000	
Scientists in Parks	

Throughout the year, we supported GSA through its regular cycle of meetings and programs with custom web properties, always designed with intentionality and an aspiration toward improvements in process and performance.

GSA hosted over 2.9 million pageviews over the last year. Visit us at www.geosociety.org.

Speaking of Geoscience™

GSA posted 17 blogs on this channel, sharing ideas and dissecting issues ranging from geoscience policy to an interview with Black in Geoscience Week organizers to profiles of GSA's On To the Future Program participants. In FY22, *Speaking of Geoscience* had a readership of more than 1,200 visitors per month, with a total of nearly 20,000 blog views.

GSA Today

GSA's member communications magazine offers a monthly science article as well as program updates and news about meetings. In FY22, *GSA Today* shipped out an average of 10,217 copies to GSA members, plus had a following of more than 11,300 readers who requested email alerts for when a new issue became available online.

GSA Connection

GSA Connection is GSA's monthly electronic magazine, which is sent out to more than 30,000 readers. User opens average 57.4%, which is well above the industry standard of 24%. The highest clicks are on the *GSA Today* science article and on the trivia answers link.

Department Director Transition

GSA's Director of Communications and Marketing, Christa Stratton, retired in June 2022 after 23 years of dedicated service. Justin Samuel, a long-time GSA employee, was selected to take over this role. We are pleased to have Justin as our new director and wish Christa all the best.

Thank You FY2022 Sponsors

Corporate and Organizational Relationships

GSA and the GSA Foundation collaborate on a range of sponsorships supporting the GSA Connects and more: field camp excellence recognition, geoscience students' field camp attendance, diversity programs, and a number of in-kind services and member benefits are all made possible thanks to partners and sponsors. We are pleased to include companies in a more integrated way: technical sessions, short courses, and field camps are searchable by four different industry tracks, and applied geoscience sessions occur at GSA Connects. Additionally, representatives from our corporate

partners have served on proposal teams, strategic planning task forces, and our careers program committee.

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 and organizations that join us in the meaningful impacts of partnership.

Organizational Partner



Brunton

Platinum



Image Audiovisuals*



Zeiss

Gold



Chevron



ExxonMobil



Paleontological Society



Lithium Americas

Silver

Grindstone Labs

Bronze

Anonymous

Elsevier

*denotes in-kind sponsorship

Member Benefit Partner



Brunton

DOVETAIL WORKWEAR

Dovetail Workwear



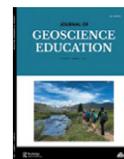
Enterprise Rent-a-Car/National Car Rental



Geofacets



Interior Federal Credit Union



Journal of Geoscience Education



Geological Society of America Foundation

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.

2021–2022 Highlights

In a second consecutive year of challenging, uncertain circumstances across the globe, donors to GSA through the Foundation continued a robust showing of support: In FY2022, the GSA Foundation received Annual Campaign contributions of more than US\$1.25M from individual GSA members and corporations. There were 7,040 separate gifts at all levels from over 5,700 donors (almost 30% of members), a testament to the dedication of steadfast supporters.

While it has been a fruitful last year, we are looking ahead eagerly: We can make a still greater impact. With graphics like the one below, we aim to build awareness across all of GSA's membership, beyond our current donors, about the value of giving back to the Society. Our loyal base of donors gives year after year. We hope to reach the remaining 70% of GSA's membership with the message that small gifts from many members make a big difference in what GSA can offer. You will see more of these facts and figures in the year ahead, as we encourage every member to find their own fit in service to GSA and support of the Foundation as we work together to ensure the strength and presence of the geosciences.



We are deeply appreciative of those who include the Foundation in their estate plans; Legacy Circle gifts are vital to

unrestricted funding. In Fiscal Year 2022, we received nearly US\$175,000 from bequests. While many annual contributions meet an immediate need, these usually unrestricted legacy gifts can ensure support far beyond current needs and, often, on a larger scale. They allow GSA leadership to plan for important priorities of the Society or new initiatives that would not otherwise be possible. Over the past year, we learned of eight additional donors who are including GSA, through the Foundation, in their planned giving.

The GSA Foundation's student giving circle, Tektonikos – Building the Future, had another strong showing, with 1,350 donors from our student membership. We are eager to engage and encourage this group to remain involved as the future of the Society's membership and leadership.

Our spring mini-campaign supported On To the Future, bringing students from underrepresented groups to their first GSA meeting by covering registration, a year's membership, a travel stipend, and pairing with a one-to-one mentor. A longtime donor once again matched your contributions up to US\$10,000, a challenge this member has offered for a number of years to bolster this important initiative.

The GSA Foundation was able to provide funding for a record 30 J. David Lowell Field Camp Scholarships—10 more than when the program was solely funded by a corporate sponsor. This year-end campaign kicked off on Giving Tuesday, including a donor's US\$10,000 matching challenge to fellow supporters. Helping students obtain vital field experience remains a passion of our GSA members. Organizational partner Brunton upped their contribution to match this increase in scholarships by providing thirty engraved Transit compasses to recipients.

Support by the Numbers

Of GSA members **6,128** donate to GSAF to support programs that benefit **30.5%** 20,075 members and beyond

If every member gave simply the price of a coffee from a cafe, it would fund the cost of our Science Policy Fellow or it could provide...

50 On To the Future grants to serve those from groups under-represented in the geosciences

If the members who have yet to contribute gave just \$5 each, **35** GSA student members could receive scholarships toward a field camp of their choice—a hallmark of many geoscientists' training

Did you know...

Just 313 members gave **\$60,000** as part of GSA CARES during the COVID pandemic, and that all but **8** were regular donors?

836 student members to help provide assistance to

You get the point. Join your peers in helping your organization provide the very best. It doesn't take a lot of \$. **It just takes a lot of us.**

<https://gsa-foundation.org>

Alexandra Banks: My Field Camp Experience (18 Nov. 2021)

As a non-traditional student, receiving the J. David Lowell Field Camp Scholarship allowed Alexandra Banks to participate in field camp, which helped her find her place in geoscience.

Where did you attend field camp?
I attended the Southern Illinois University Geology field camp. We spent a majority of the time learning field mapping in Montana. We also visited various locations throughout Wyoming and Idaho to learn about the geologic processes that formed some of this country's most beloved parks.

What did receiving the J. David Lowell Field Camp Scholarship mean to you?
A field course is commonly required to complete a degree in geology and it is a really important experience for students. Receiving this scholarship alleviated the financial strain due to not only the cost of the course, but taking six weeks away from work. As a non-traditional student, I am primarily responsible for all of my school and living expenses. This scholarship allowed me to focus on all that I had to gain, rather than how I was going to make it through the summer.

What did that experience teach you about the geosciences, yourself, and your future career?
I learned that the field of geoscience is very diverse. There are many different applications, and I found myself interested in facets that I had never thought much about before. I also learned that I really enjoy working outside. Fieldwork is very challenging, and the hard work makes me feel strong and confident. The physical aspect of many geology jobs is not something that intimidates me. Rather, I look forward to it.

What opportunities did attending field camp provide that you wouldn't have had otherwise and in your opinion, how important is field camp for geoscience students?
Attending field camp allowed me to be able to apply fundamental geologic concepts to real landscapes and features. Field camp is integral to the success of a geology student, because reading about something and recognizing it in the field are two different things. Field camp provides the opportunity for students to visit very diverse landscapes and learn in 3D. It also helps students orient themselves in the world of geosciences and really find out what interests them the most.

Why should individuals support field camp opportunities for students?
Support is so important because field camp is such a valuable and important part of our education, and is required for most geology degrees. However, it is quite costly and requires time away from work. The scholarship program that I participate in for fall and spring semesters does not extend financial support for the summer. Students should not have to decline opportunities, or avoid programs that require a field course due to financial strain.

Stories like this and of many other GSA program recipients can be found on the Foundation's News & Events page of our website (<https://gsa-foundation.org/news-events/>).

Each year, we work with donors to create a number of new funds that often support research grants or awards. An example of a less-common fund in the past year is the Christopher I. and Irene N. Chalokwu Travel Grant for Students in Africa. GSA International oversees selection of the grant, which aims to support high-quality research by students on the African continent, bring African geology into focus for U.S. professionals and institutions, shine a light on studies that are underreported, and broaden participation at GSA Connects and beyond. With the introduction of this fund, Dr. Chalokwu and his wife, Dr. Irene N. Chalokwu, provide an outstanding example of how individuals can create opportunity across geopolitical borders and realize impacts far beyond a single place or time. We hope that this vision and generosity inspires others who also support international scientific exchange.

After two years of postponement due to the pandemic, the second *Death Valley Rendezvous* took place in the spring of 2022. Participants included geologists and their guests. Darrel Cowan led us throughout the region, looking at the Kingston Peak Formation, stromatolites as an early record of microbial life on earth at different times in the Proterozoic, Tecopa lake beds, pup fish, and more, including a day with Nature Conservancy naturalist Len Warren talking about birds of the area. Since the trip was once again in high demand, it will also run in Spring of 2023.

The Foundation is pleased to help donors support GSA programs and priorities important to them. Looking forward, we are eager to maintain the increased annual funding level achieved in the last several years and to work with GSA in identifying engaging and effective resource-building strategies. With your help, we will continue to shape a strong future for GSA.

How Members Can Get Involved:

Support students, research, and education through a voluntary contribution to the GSA Foundation when you renew your 2023 membership.

Help others be part of our GSA member community. The Membership Assistance Program and Fund enables those who cannot afford the cost of membership, or who experience difficulty in transferring funds from their country to the USA, to become members. Support and spread the word.

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

Debora B. Marcinkowski

Executive Director
GSA Foundation

Jeffrey Oslund

Chair
Foundation Board of Trustees