

GSA INTERNATIONAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2011

GREETINGS

The purpose of the Geological Society of America's (GSA) International Section (IS) is to reach out to various overseas geological/earth science societies and strengthen the relationships among the geoscientists through regular communications, meetings, and participation. In the past, these activities were accomplished by interacting with overseas geosciences societies, hosting international meetings, and providing logistical support to overseas geoscientists and students to attend annual GSA meetings.

Changing of the Guard

IS extends a big thank you to Sally Pennington, Section Secretary/Treasurer (2008-2010), for her service. Attached is the new **International Section ballot** for Chair (Joann M. Stock), First Vice Chair (Alan G. Smith), Second Vice Chair (J.G. Liou), Secretary (Nazrul I. Khandaker), and Treasurer (Maurice Ric Terman) openings 2010 - 2012.

Activity Highlights

Yildirim Dilek (IS) organized a successful overseas meeting **Tectonic Crossroads: Evolving Orogenes of Eurasia-Africa-Arabia** in Ankara, Turkey (4-8, October 2010). Dr. Yildirim Dilek (IS) and Dr. Erdin Bozkurt (Middle East Technical University, Turkey) were the lead organizers. This global meeting was made possible through the generous support of the Geological Society of America and GSA's International Section, Turkish Association of Petroleum Geologists, and Chamber of the Geological Engineers of Turkey. Several partnering organizations including European Geosciences Union, Middle East Technical University, Turkey, The Geological Society of London, International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), and GSA Structural Geology & Tectonics Division closely worked together for bringing this meeting to a successful completion. Numerous scientific sessions covering topics such as Aegean Geodynamics, Paleomagnetic perspectives on the Africa-Arabia-Eurasia plate interactions, Sedimentary basin evolution and oil fields in the Middle & Near East, Landscape, climate, and archeological evolution of the Mediterranean region, etc. were the highlights among the presented papers.

Complete details of the meeting can be [obtained from
\[www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010turkey/sessions.htm\]\(http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010turkey/sessions.htm\)](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010turkey/sessions.htm)

IS awarded **2010 GSA International Division Distinguished Career Award** to Dr. Gary Ernst (Professor Emeritus, Stanford University) at the Annual GSA Meeting 2010. Yildirim Dilek presented the award to Dr. Ernst and said "Gary has led and shaped our thinking and ideas about

convergent margin tectonics and metamorphism through his multi-faceted international contributions for over 50 years. He is truly a distinguished international scientist.” Dr. Ernst while accepting Distinguished Career Award commented “I am pleased beyond expression, but equally humbled and embarrassed by this recognition – especially when I consider the large number of Earth scientists conducting international geological research. To receive such an honor, one must be industrious, intelligent, and lucky – I’d choose the latter.”

International Section Travel Grant Recipients

IS provided several travel grants to overseas professionals and students to participate annual GSA and Tectonic Crossroads (Turkey) meetings. Travel Grant awardees for the **Denver 2010 GSA meeting** were: Vivien Cumming* (UK), Matthew De Paoli (Australia), Maxim Gavrilenko* (Russia), Emilia Jarochowska* (Poland), Eliana Mejia* (Colombia), Mario Parise (Italy), Lorena Rayo* (Colombia), Tiffany Rivera* (Denmark), and Gustavo Voldman (Argentina, see picture).

Travel Grant awardees for the **Tectonic Crossroads (Turkey, 2010)** meeting were: Dede Kolndreu (Albania), Liber Galban-Rodriguez (Cuba), Yasser Abd El-Rahman (Egypt), Gaelle Plissart* (France), Mahnaz Rezaeian (Iran), Abdolreza Ghods (Iran), Hadi Shafaii Moghadam (Iran), Saman Sanaei* (Iran), Amir Eskandary* (Iran), Madjid Abbasi (Iran), Ali Al-Jumah* (Iraq), Marco Beltrando (Italy), Laura Federico* (Italy), Jotham Kirwa (Kenya), Mohammed Sayab** (Pakistan), Francesca Meneghini (South Africa), Bridgette Barr* (USA), Erkan Toraman* (USA), Kamil Erkan (USA), and Inna Miroshnichenko** (Uzbekistan). * **Student recipients.** ** **didn't attend the meeting**

The Maurice “Ric” Terman Fund Awards

This grant fund provides support for one year of Ph.D. and post-doctoral research for scientists from the following East Asian countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and Vietnam. The recipients for **2009** were: Nguyen Thi Hai Van of Vietnam and Namphon Khampilang of Thailand.

GSA Distinguished International Lecturer

With a seed-funding financial contribution from a potential donor to the GSA Foundation, the IS is in the process of establishing a Distinguished International Lecturer position. The IS will seek nominations for a dynamic speaker who will travel internationally and give lectures on the cutting-edge geosciences topics, promote GSA, and cement relationships with the overseas geoscientists. A 7-8 member nominating committee will oversee this process. The tour is scheduled to begin in the fall/winter of 2011.

Reminders

Topical Session Proposals due for the GSA Annual Meeting 2011: January 11, 2011

2011 GSA Annual Meeting-Minneapolis, MN October 9-12, 2011

The joint GSA/GV/DGG **Fragile Earth** meeting is in Munich, Germany, in Sept. 2011. Field trip and session proposals due Jan. 15, 2011. Abstracts due April 15, 2011.

IGC meeting is in Brisbane, Australia, in 2012

Student Travel Grant, deadline is February 1, 2011

Plans for Overseas Meeting 2013; possible locations Bali, Indonesia or China

Go to: www.geosociety.org for more info.

Please Keep Us Posted

If you have international news items to submit to GSA, please send them to:

Nazrul I. Khandaker

nkhandaker@york.cuny.edu

York College (The City University of New York)