

GSA INTERNATIONAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

June 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 the members for electing new officers for the IS Management Board. The newly elected IS Management Board officers are:

OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT BOARD — 2010-2011

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Chair | Joann M. Stock California Institute Technology Seismological Lab 1200 E. California Blvd, MC 252-21 Pasadena, CA 91125-0001 | +1-626-395-6938 (office) +1-626-564-0715 (fax) jstock@gps.caltech.edu |
| First Vice Chair | Alan G. Smith Department of Earth Sciences Sedgwick Museum Downing Street Cambridge CB2 3EQ U.K. | Tel: +44-1223-333-439 Fax: +44-1223-333-450 ags1@cam.ac.uk |
| Second Vice Chair | J. G. Liou (Louie) Stanford University Dept of Geological & Environ Sciences 450 Serra Mall BLDG 320 Stanford, CA 94305-2017 | +1-650-723-2716 jliou@stanford.edu |
| Secretary | Nazrul I. Khandaker Dept. of Earth and Physical Sciences York College AC-2F09, 94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11451 | +1-718-262-2079 (x 2654) Fax: +1-718-262-3751 nkhandaker@york.cuny.edu |
| Treasurer | Maurice J. (Ric) Terman 3440 S. Jefferson St., Apt. 370 Falls Church, VA 22041 | (703) 842-3108 terman.ric@gmail.com |
| Past Chair | John Wakabayashi California State University Dept Earth & Environmental Sciences 2576 E. San Ramon Ave., MS ST-24 Fresno, CA 93740-8039 | +1-559-278-6459 (office) +1-559-278-5980 (fax) jwakabayashi@csufresno.edu |

International Secretary

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Note: GSA's International Secretary position will be changing as of July 1 2011, so please watch for an update on this position (appointed by GSA Council). This position is not the same as that of Secretary of the International Section. We expect to have the next International Section election before the October annual business meeting so watch for details on this as well.

Nominations Requested for International Section Second Vice Chair

The International Section is seeking nominations for Second Vice Chair, a position that will begin in October 2011 at the close of the International Section Annual Business Meeting. The Second Vice Chair's term will extend to October 2012. Normally this would be followed by a one-year term as Section Vice Chair (2012–2013) and then a one year term as Section Chair (2013-2014). **Please submit your nominations to Nazrul Khandaker by 1 July 2011 and they will be forwarded to the nominating committee who will select the nominees for the ballot.**

Active IS members are highly encouraged to nominate or volunteer for this position. Details regarding responsibilities can be obtained from the "officers" and "bylaws" sections of our Section web site:

<http://www.geosociety.org/sections/International/officers.htm>

<http://www.geosociety.org/sections/International/bylaws.pdf>

One of GSA's goals for the International Section is that more international members, from outside North America, will become involved in leadership of the section. We look forward to your participation.

Activities/Reports

Tectonic Crossroads Meeting, Ankara Turkey, Oct 2010 – Meeting Report

Mark Cloos

GSA International Secretary

The "Tectonic Crossroads: Evolving Orogenes of Eurasia-Africa-Arabia" meeting was held in Ankara, Turkey from October 4-8, 2010. This meeting, a collaboration of the Geological Society of America, the Chamber of Geological Engineers of Turkey, and the Turkish Association of Petroleum Geologists was hosted by Middle East Technical University (METU) in their magnificent Cultural and Convention Centre. The Co-Conveners of the meeting, whose efforts were appreciated by all in attendance, were Yildirim Dilek of Miami University and Erdin Bozkurt of METU. This global meeting was the first sponsored by the new International Section of GSA. The attendance was nearly 400 geoscientists from

more than 30 countries who presented 180 talks and 100 poster presentations divided into 50 sessions. The participants included approximately 150 students.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for earth scientists to exchange and discuss their recent research on crustal structure, mantle dynamics, and landscape evolution of active orogens around the world with a focus on the recent interactions between the African, Arabian, and Eurasian plates. Morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday were led off by invited Keynote Lecturers who provided state-of-the-art global perspectives on the topics related to the main themes of the meeting. These were followed by three or four smaller concurrent sessions of contributed talks. Each day, new poster sessions were established and at least an hour after the talks was devoted to viewing with authors in attendance. The lunch hour was the scene of fine dining with a wide variety of traditional Turkish cuisine. A celebratory dinner on Thursday evening was held in the convention center that featured Turkish music.

Monday sessions focused on landscapes and climate, ophiolites and blueschists, and strike-slip and transform tectonics. Tuesday sessions focused on crustal motions and mantle dynamics, magmatism in orogenic belts, and mélange forming processes. Thursday sessions focused on Aegean geodynamics, paleomagnetics, and seismology and archeoseismology of the Mediterranean region, collisional orogenies, and petroleum geology. Friday sessions focused on modern accretionary wedges and ancient analogues, with third and four sessions on ophiolites, blueschists, collisional orogeny, and mélange forming processes.

Field trips were major highlights of the meeting. Two pre-meeting trips focused on the active faulting of western Anatolia and blueschists and ophiolites of northwest Anatolia. Two post-meeting trips focused on the Ankara mélange and the Cappadocian volcanic province. On Wednesday, nearly all attendees went on field trips to geological and historical sites near Ankara. This mid-meeting excursion ensured all international attendees had the opportunity to see some of the wonders of Turkey.

At the request of the Turkish Association of Petroleum Geologists, the GSA sponsored the travel of two distinguished scientists to the meeting. Dr. Terry Engelder, gave a keynote presentation on the Devonian-

Mississippian black shales of the Appalachian Basin as a model for global exploration for shale gas. Dr. Mark Rowan, gave a keynote presentation on fold-and-thrust belts detached on salt.

The meeting was a great scientific success. A broad cross section of geoscientists from around the world gave presentations that contrasted regional geology and processes with local experts working in this extraordinarily region – so active that it is one of the world's great natural geological laboratories.

Conference participants not only learned about and directly examined the geology of the Turkey, but they and their guests enjoyed the vibrant culture of Ankara.

All participants thank the Co-Conveners, Professors Dilek and Bozkurt, for their time and hard work to make the meeting so successful. Jack Hess, Melissa Cummiskey, and the rest of the staff at GSA Headquarters are thanked for their work to make this first meeting of the new GSA International Section a benchmark event. We all look to the next great international collaboration. The geoscience students of METU expertly assisted in registration and posters organization and provided professional service in running the computers and projectors in the session and speaker ready rooms. Dunder Caglan President of the Chamber of Geological Engineers of Turkey and Ismail Bahtiyar, Chairman of the Turkish Association of Petroleum Geologists are thanked for their endorsement and sponsorship of this meeting -- a meeting so exceptional that the fond remembrances will ensure most participants will return to Turkey for geology and tourism.

IS co-Sponsoring Pardee Symposium to honor the British geologist Arthur Holmes

This multidisciplinary symposium, scheduled for the afternoon of October 9 as part of the 2011 Annual Meeting, is being convened by Russell S. Harmon and Jon Davidson. This session will honor British geologist Arthur Holmes (1890–1965) who 100 years ago, while still an undergraduate student, established the technique to date rocks by the radioactive decay of U to Pb. Holmes also made highly significant contributions to the study of the origin of granite and to plate tectonics.

The convenors expect a strong turnout and are planning a special publication from the invited and volunteered contributions to the symposium that will be produced by either the GSA or Geol Soc London. In addition, because some of the senior members of the International Section may have met Holmes personally (or been inspired by using the textbook he wrote), we seek personal anecdotes about Holmes, and his influence on your career in geosciences, from any scientist who wants to contribute one to be shared during the symposium. Note that you can contribute an anecdote even if you are not planning to attend the symposium.

International Section Participation in the 34 IGC Conference (Brisbane, Australia)

Joann Stock (Caltech, Pasadena, CA, USA), chair and Anke Friedrich (LMU Munich, Germany) will be co-convening a special symposium at the 34th International Geological Congress in 2012 in Brisbane, Australia. This symposium, entitled

“International Perspectives on Teaching Geological Mapping” seeks participants to give talks about how field geology is taught, or should be taught, in the university curriculum in different countries or regions. Below is the symposium description:

What type of field mapping training is essential for the modern, international field geologist? Training in field mapping has varied with time, as new technology is adopted; and regionally, regarding types of field activities, group vs. independent work, and specialty mapping skills. This session seeks presentations from participants teaching field mapping in different countries, concerning the design, goals, and implementation of their field curriculum. Through presentations and discussion we hope to compare the global perspectives on such issues as: best practices in providing field training, at what stage in the students’ education, on what types of problems, and the type of mapping being taught.

If you would like to be invited to give a presentation in this symposium, please email one of the convenors. If you are invited to give a talk in this symposium, it will not count against the one-oral-presentation limit imposed for the IGC as a whole.

IS and IUGS Affiliate Organization

In case, you didn't know, GSA is an IUGS Affiliate Organization, so the International Section qualifies as an IUGS group.

Here is the full list of IUGS affiliate organizations:

<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=directory#AO>

IS Travel Grants

GSA's International Section is offering international travel grants to assist with the participation of international scientists and students in the GSA Annual Meeting, 9-12 October 2011 held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Travel grant funds are limited and grants will not cover the full cost to attend the meeting but are intended to help offset the combined cost of registration, housing, and travel. Deadline is August 1, 2011. For details, please use the following link:

<http://www.geosociety.org/sections/International/travelGrants.htm>

Questions about International Travel Grants should also be directed to the following individual.

Joann Stock

Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences

California Institute of Technology

jstock@gps.caltech.edu

GSA Distinguished International Lecturer

The IS is in the process of finalizing a **Distinguished International Lecturer position**. Nominations were received from Chairs of Divisions and Affiliated Societies. The IS recently set up a selection committee for selecting 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. The tour is scheduled to begin in the fall/winter of 2011.

Farouk El-Baz Student research award to encourage and support desert studies

IS has been charged with selecting two student members of GSA to receive the Farouk El-Baz Student Research Award for 2011. An award of \$2500.00 is given each year to one male and one female applicant who are conducting desert research studies as part of an undergraduate, master's or PhD program. The award checks and plaques will be presented at the Student Awards Ceremony at the GSA 2011 Annual Meeting. Award recipient names are announced in May of each year. See the web page <http://www.geosociety.org/grants> for application information.

Upcoming GSA Meetings and Deadlines

- **Penrose - Deformation Localization in Rocks: New Advances**

27 June – 2 July 2011 - Catalonia, Spain

<http://www.geosociety.org/penrose/11spain.htm>

- **FRAGILE EARTH: Geological Processes from Global to Local Scales and Associated Hazards**

4-7 September 2011 - Munich, Germany

The geosciences are one of the most important scientific fields of the 21st century. The growing world population faces risks due to geological hazards — such as the great Tohoku-Oki earthquake-tsunami events of March 11, 2011, in Japan — but also profits from geological resources. Mitigation of risks and availability of resources depends on the *understanding of complex and transient geological processes acting at global, regional and local scales*. This conference provides an international platform for research on global geodynamic processes and plate motion, regional plate boundary processes and their associated resources (e.g. oil, gas and geothermal energy), and on dynamics of fault networks and magmatic systems with their associated hazards (e.g. earthquakes and volcanic eruptions). We look forward to welcoming you in Munich. Anke Friedrich (LMU Munich)

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011munich/>

- **Penrose - Comparative evolution of past and present accretionary orogens: Central Asia and the Circum-Pacific**

Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China - 4 – 10 Sept. 2011

<http://www.geosociety.org/penrose/11spain.htm>

- **GSA Annual Meeting 2011**
9 - 12 October 2011 - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Space Request for Side Meetings: 7 June

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/>

Abstracts deadline: 26 July

- **GSA Annual Meeting 2012**
4 – 7 November - Charlotte, North Carolina
- **34th International Geological Congress**

5-10 August 2012 - Brisbane, Australia

<http://www.34igc.org/>

GSA AT A GLANCE: EVENTS CALENDAR

For all other important activities, please click on the following:

<http://www.geosociety.org/flyers/gsaEventClrd-Date.pdf>

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP DUES

Note that students from developing countries are eligible for reduced membership dues with GSA. Please see the GSA web site, and encourage your students to join as members.

Donations Needed: International Travel

The GSA Foundation is currently seeking funding to defray travel costs for foreign applicants who wish to attend GSA meetings. Funding is also needed for Honorary Fellows to attend GSA Annual meetings. These funds help GSA to provide more travel grants to our members and student members from lower income countries. If you are a member of the International Section and plan to make a donation to GSA, please consider directing your donation to supporting this worthy cause, which will strengthen the International Section's program, and help your fellow.

GSA Foundation Update – February 2011

By, Donna L. Russell, Director of Operations

Funding Student Research as Global as our Science

GSA Research Grants—International Program

GSA has initiated a non-North American-based Graduate Student Research Grants Program to include GSA's international student members. We are asking for your help with the funding of this exciting new Program.

The current North American Program is one of the largest and most prestigious funding programs for geoscience graduate students in this arena. The Program helps fund field and laboratory costs of geoscience projects conducted by masters and doctoral students at universities in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America. Since its inception in 1933, GSA has awarded over \$11.6 million to almost 10,000 students. This Program is an essential element in supporting the education and training of future geoscientists, while instilling in our student members a sense of loyalty to the Society.

In order to initiate this Program in the near future we need to build the fund for this Program. You can contribute in two ways:

- (1) Send your check payable to the **GSA Foundation** to: PO Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301. Please note on the memo line that your donation is for "GSA Research Grants—International Program."

- (2) Go to the **GSA Foundation's** Web site (<http://gsafweb.org/>) and click on the “Make a Donation” tab at the top-center of the page. Enter the amount of your donation and select “**GSA Research Grants—International Program**” from the pull-down menu.

We thank you in advance for your interest in growing GSA's support in student research.

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)