



GSA International

2014-2015 Newsletter

Executive Summary

As a new entity and directly associated with the GSA, **GSA International** officially made its debut in December of 2014 and the GSA International Committee has met several times since via emails and teleconference and has had a very successful start. In addition to the regular business activities that were a function of the International section, this past year was dominated by the need to restructure/reshape the international section into a broader, more inclusive entity that involves not only GSA members who are living outside north America but also involves a greater number of north American scientists who have significant international research, educational or business components. This restructuring of the International section into GSA International more fully reflect GSA's growing international opportunities and influence. Currently all of the positions of the GSA International Committee are filled (**Appendix 1**) and Nadine McQuarrie has been appointed to spearhead the GSA International as the International secretary and the chair of the International Committee. Operational functions of the GSA International committee are listed in **Appendix 2**. GSA International greatly acknowledges crucial support and timely assistance received from Vicki McConnell, Judy Parrish, Susan Lofton, Pam Fistell, and Anke Friedrich (Past Chair) that enabled us to move ahead and fulfill several objectives mentioned in this report. Our main focus this year was on developing a proposal for a GSA International Interdisciplinary Interest Group (IIIG) which we anticipate will make its debut pending GSA Councils approval this year.

The new IIIG will link and provide a communication platform for GSA members and promote international relevant discussions around global geoscience hot topics, meetings, and GSA global activities. The IIIG will encourage and host international geoscience and environmental related discussion topics through the Connected Community platform and promote meetings, exchanges of visiting scholars/lecturers, organize Annual Meeting topical sessions, and help organize and promote field workshops.

At a recently held GSA Spring Leadership Meeting, Nazrul Khandaker was appointed to act as a chair of the GSA International Interdisciplinary Interest Group (IIIG). To regain financial strength, GSA International and IIIG will work in unison to increase both North American and overseas membership numbers and collect dues for meeting future operational costs. While we have been in this critical transition generous and timely funding via GSA Foundation has given us help in moving forward and covering a portion of our operational costs until the 2018 fiscal year. This report details all of the major activities/accomplishments including the transition phase (July 2014 through December 2014), official launching of the GSA International (December 2014), GSA International-hosted Reception event held in Vancouver, BC (**Appendix 3**), and scheduled upcoming activities at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

GSA International Membership

Members who selected International Section on their membership forms are now members of GSA International; however, moving forward the membership arm of GSA International will be the International Interdisciplinary Interest Group (IIIG). We are currently soliciting names of individuals to populate this new interest group, which we anticipate being approved at the Baltimore GSA meeting. We encourage our former International Section members to look for and sign up for the International Interdisciplinary Interest Group (IIIG) when they renew their membership in late Fall of 2016.

The newly formed GSA International has multiple purposes:

- Promote, create, and enhance opportunities for international cooperation
- Provide a forum for science and policy discussions that are international in scope and relevance
- Build collaborative relationships with divisions that are international in scope and relevance
- Coordinate meetings, symposia, conferences, and lecture tours on the geology of regions beyond North America,
- Raise funds for foreign colleagues and students to participate in annual GSA meetings,
- Strengthen cooperation with overseas geoscientific societies.

In this report, we provide a more detailed overview regarding the GSA International's various activities. Foremost, we would like to congratulate the 2014 and 2015 award winners, Professor Shige Maruyama of Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan (GSA International Honorary Fellow 2014), Manfred Strecker (GSA Honorary Fellow 2015), Brian Fred Windley (GSA Honorary Fellow 2015), and Professor Farouk El-Baz (2014 International Section Distinguished Career Award), as well as the recipients of the 2015 international travel grants (Table 1). International Honorary Fellow is now elevated to a Society Award and GSA International is charged selecting the outstanding candidates nominated for receiving this prestigious award. GSA International, for the first time in its operational scope was able to select two outstanding geoscientists to represent 2015 GSA Thompson International Distinguished Lecturers presenting in-bound (to North America) and out-bound (to international locations) seminars. Our inbound lecturer Dr. Stefano Lugli (Professor of Geology at the University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy) and outbound lecturer Dr. Lisa L. Ely (Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at Central Washington University) already finalized a tentative itinerary in regard to delivering talks at various universities. Susan Lofton (GSA Staff) and Dr. Charlotte B. Schreiber (Chair of International Distinguished Lectureships, GSA International) are closely monitoring their lecture tours. Professor Lugli is currently planning a tour of Northeastern Universities in the month of November and Pacific Northwestern Universities during the months of April or May 2016. Professor Ely is currently planning a lecture tour that includes South American universities in Chile, Ecuador, and Peru in November 2015; and a second tour to Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean in April or May 2016.

With the upcoming launching of *GSA International* as a new and effective platform for international excellence, exchange, and collaboration, we may look forward to an increasingly diverse participation of more and more individuals to not only lead various committees, but foremost, to be directly involved in shaping and defining international geologic themes of global importance. On behalf of the GSA International Committee, we would therefore like to invite you to stop by at our new GSA International booth which will be located in the EXHIBIT area (**booth #1019**) in Baltimore to share your ideas and provide feedback on the reshaping of the GSA International and introducing IIIG. Those who will be attending GSA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, please join us greeting international attendees on November 2, 2015 in Holiday Ballroom 4, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm (Hilton Hotel, Baltimore). This event is called **“2015 GSA International Reception: Bridging Continents, Exchanging Greetings and Building Partnerships.”** Please join us to foster the new global theme embodying GSA's strategic vision, mission, and future outlook highlighted within the broader context of the GSA's Global Mission as outlined below.

Key Components of GSA's Global Mission

- Scientific Research, Scientific Communication, Geologic Time, Technological Innovation
- Education, Outreach, Public Policy, Geologic Hazards

- Scientific Integrity, Sustainability, Natural Resources
- Professional Development, Workforce Development, Diverse Community, Philanthropy

GOAL 3. Develop and foster a robust, diverse, and sustainable professional geoscience community

Objective G.	Increase participation and collaboration within a global geoscience community through cooperative ventures with geosciences organizations outside the U.S.
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Transition Phase July 2014 – December 2014

1. GSA International Honorary Fellow (2014): Professor Shige Maruyama of Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan



According to citationist, Dr. John Liou (past GSA ISMB member and Chair of the Roof of the World meeting), “Prof. Maruyama is a data generator, and a master interpreter of global geological processes, from minerals through mountain ranges to the origin of life and planet. He has received many honors in Japan including the Japan medal in 2002 and the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon from the Japanese Emperor in 2006. He has trained many graduate students and is well respected by international scientists.”

Dr. John Liou also highlighted Professor Maruyama’s stalwart contributions concerning experimental petrology and listed the following salient points in his endorsement letter:

- Shige is simply the best Japanese Geologist as he is the only Earth Scientist in Japan who has received “Medal with Purple Ribbon” by the Japanese Emperor in 2006 and many other honors including the latest “Japan Geoscience Union Fellow” by the Japan Geoscience Union.
- His research accomplishment ranges from Experimental Petrology, Field-Structures through Plate Tectonics to Origin of Life and Planets and has been one of very few most productive scientists in the world evidenced from his long list of scientific publications.
- I have nominated him as GSA Honorary Fellow in 2007-8 with strong supporting letters from Gary Ernst, Akio Miyashiro, Doug Rumble, Ichiro Karato, David Yuan and Brian Windley; somehow, the GSA did not continue for such Honorary Fellowship that year. Shige would have gotten the honor even that time with his extraordinary accomplishment.
- I have been working with him since he was my post-doc and research associate in 1978-1984 including one-year Alan Cox visiting Professor at Stanford and have published more than 50 scientific papers and supervised more than 20 PhD students in Japan and at Stanford. He is the most dynamic and hard-working scientist that I have ever known.

The section’s Honorary Fellowship is presented to an international geoscientist who has distinguished him-or herself in geoscience investigations, promoting environmental awareness, linking science and society, providing notable service to implementing public policy in natural resource managements, or otherwise making outstanding contributions to science.

2. Distinguished Career Award (2014): Dr. Farouk El-Baz

The following press release was circulated:



The prestigious award recognizes worldwide scientific standing and the promotion of international geologic cooperation and his selection to receive this award was no surprise to the geoscience communities considering Farouk’s several decade-long stalwart contribution to promote globalization and bring awareness in terms of natural resource management, particularly in conflict and war-stricken regions such as Darfur and other sub-Saharan countries. It will be presented during the GSA Annual Meeting to be held on 19-22 October 2014 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Currently, Farouk El-Baz is serving as a first vice chair of the GSA’s International Section. In 1986 Professor Farouk El-Baz established, and continues to direct, the Boston University Center for Remote Sensing (CRS). Under his leadership, the CRS was selected by NASA in 1997 as a “Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing.” Dr. El-Baz also serves as Research Professor in the Departments of Archaeology and Electrical and Computer Engineering of Boston University.

(Boston) – The Geological Society of America (GSA) has announced the selection of Boston University Prof. Farouk El-Baz for its International Section’s 2014 “Distinguished Career Award.”

El-Baz is a veteran of NASA’s Apollo program of lunar exploration. He served as secretary of the Apollo lunar landing site selection committee as well as chairman of astronaut training in orbital observations and photography. He is a pioneer in applying space images to the study of the origin and evolution of desert landforms, and is particularly noted for research on the location of groundwater resources in arid lands.

He served as Science Advisor to the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and was elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. In 1999, the GSA established the “Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Studies” to reward excellence in the field. It was followed by the “Farouk El-Baz Student Award” to encourage students (one male and one female) to engage in the study of arid lands.

The *Distinguished Career Award* will be given to a geologist who has made numerous, distinguished, and significant contributions that have clearly advanced the international geological sciences through service and or scientific activities. The award will consist of a plaque inscribed with the name of the recipient, the name of the award, the name of the Section, and the emblem of The Geological Society of America.

Past Recipients			
2014	Farouk El-Baz	Boston University	citation/response
2013	B. Clark Burchfiel	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	citation/response
2010	W. Gary Ernst	Stanford University (emeritus)	citation/response
2009	Yildirim Dilek	The Miami University	citation/response
2008	Rolf Emmermann	GeoForschungsZentrum, Potsdam, Germany	citation/response
2007	Alan Gilbert Smith	Cambridge University	citation/response
2006	Eldridge M. Moores	University of California, Davis	citation/response
2003	John A. Reinemund	USGS Chief of International Programs	citation/response

3. The 2014 GSA Distinguished International Lecturer: Marjorie A. Chan

The Geological Society of America was proud to introduce the 2014 International Distinguished Lecture Tour, arranged under the auspices of the GSA International Section. GSA seeks to be a leader in promoting programs that actively involve the global community in geoscience activities, in fulfillment of our strategic goals. This tour was another step forward in communicating the importance and relevance of the geosciences in a global context.



Dr. Marjorie A. Chan is GSA's 2014 Distinguished International Lecturer and is a Professor of Geology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah. She received a B.S. in Geology from the University of California – Davis in 1977 and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1982. Her research topics have spanned the geologic time scale from the Precambrian to the Pleistocene. Her recent projects connect geology and planetary science to better understand and interpret the red planet Mars.

Recent blog posting by Dr. Marjorie A. Chan: 06 June: Departing Beijing – 2014 GSA Distinguished International Lecture Tour. “Before leaving Changping (the north outskirts of Beijing) we were able to visit the Ming Tombs arriving early to beat the crowds and long lines of traffic. I got a tour of impressive facilities at China University of Geosciences closer to the central city of Beijing. Nearby we visited the Summer Palace vacation home for the Ming and Qing emperors. At the Old Summer Palace Yuanmingyuan it was sad to see how it had been looted and destroyed in the 1860s. In a country of 1.35 billion, in a city of 21 million, a familiar face says hi to me at the hotel breakfast bar. It is colleague Dr. Lisa Pratt from Indiana who has been doing field work in China. Ok, we were both staying at the hotel on the China University of Geosciences campus, but still what are the chances of that?!”

For details please refer to this article: GSA's Distinguished International Lecture Series: Global Impact [GSA Today](#), Volume 24, Issue 8, Page 22 (August 2014).

4. GSA IS Hosted Reception at the 2014 GSA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada

All international participants were cordially invited to attend a reception on **Oct. 21, 2014 (6 to 7.30 p.m.)**. Travel grants awardees were recognized and pictures taken. Light refreshments were provided. Several key management board members including Anke Freidrich, I-Ming Chou, and Nazrul Khandaker briefly talked about the formulation of the GSA International and encouraged attendees to take a greater role, particularly establishing GSA IIIG. Susan Kay and GSA International Honorary Fellow (2014): Professor Shige Maruyama of Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan also highlighted the role of international collaboration and scientific exchange to foster GSA's strategic globalization objectives. Well-over 100 participants came to this reception and enjoyed hospitality rendered to them by the GSA International.

5. GSA International Booth (Pangaea) at the Vancouver Meeting 2014

GSA International welcomed participants to promote international collaboration and get involved with this new initiative and to allow greater knowledge-sharing for global partnerships. Several key members of GSA International including Anke Freidrich and Nazrul Khandaker manned the booth and greeted international members and kept them abreast of what's happening with geosciences pertaining to societal needs and global partnerships. The booth proved to be great location for networking in particular for students who are looking for international field trips and field camps or exchange programs.

Highlights on 2015 activities and accomplishments

Planned activities at Baltimore GSA:

6. **2015 GSA International Reception: Bridging Continents, Exchanging Greetings and Building Partnerships** (November 2, 2015 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm). Sponsored by the GSA and Geological Society of China
Holiday Ballroom 4 (Hilton Hotel, Baltimore). Light Refreshments will be provided. Please join us!

International Participants are highly encouraged to visit GSA International and Interdisciplinary Interest Group (IIIG) Booth 1019 and discuss matters of mutual interest and support formulation of IIIG.

7. 2015 GSA Thompson International Distinguished Lecturers

The Geological Society of America is proud to announce the recipients of the 2015 GSA Thompson International Distinguished Lecturer award. GSA seeks to be a leader in the global geoscience community in fulfillment of our mission and goals.

The 2015 GSA Thompson International Lecture Tours are made possible through a gift to the GSA Foundation by James B. Thompson, Jr., whose bequest contributed to the endowment of two lecture tours by distinguished geologists, one a non-North American scientist to tour academic and related institutions within North America, and the other a North American scientist to tour foreign universities and geological institutions. Both tours are arranged under the guidance of GSA International.



Stefano Lugli, Ph.D.

University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy

Stefano Lugli is a Professor of Geology at the University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy. His recent projects regard the geology of evaporite deposits and the geoarcheology of ancient sites. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed professional articles on a wide range of topics involving evaporite and travertine sedimentology, petrography and geochemistry (China, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Israel, Spain), the archeometry of Roman mosaics and historic building (including Pompeii in Italy, Greece and Jordan) and the geoarcheology of buried sites since the Bronze Age (including the Medieval World Heritage UNESCO site of Modena).

Professor Lugli is currently planning a tour of Northeastern Universities in the month of November and Pacific Northwestern Universities during the months of April or May 2016.



Lisa L. Ely, Ph.D.

Central Washington University, USA

Lisa L. Ely is a Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at Central Washington University, where she has been a faculty member since 1994. She received her B.S. from Principia College in Illinois (1982); M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona (1992); and an NSF Post-doc at Pennsylvania State University (1992-94). Dr. Ely's research interests are in Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology, specifically fluvial geomorphology, tsunami deposits, paleoflood hydrology, and catastrophic events. Some of her recent research projects include tsunami deposits in Chile and India, long-term links between climate change and large floods, bedrock canyon evolution, geomorphic effects of natural and man-made dams, and sediment transport processes in gravel-bed rivers. As a member of the Geological Society of America, she has

served as Division Chair and on the Management Board of the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division, as well as on several award and program planning committees.

Professor Ely is currently planning a lecture tour that includes South American universities in Chile, Ecuador, and Peru in November 2015; and a second tour to Mexico, central America and the Caribbean in April or May 2016.

8. 2015 GSA International Honorary Fellows

GSA International's Honorary Fellowship is presented to an international geoscientist who has distinguished him- or herself in geoscience investigations, promoting environmental awareness, linking science and society, providing notable service to implementing public policy in natural resource managements, or otherwise making outstanding contributions to science. The inaugural award was presented at GSA International's reception at the 2012 GSA Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA.

Manfred Strecker, currently a distinguished professor at the Universität Potsdam, Institut für Erd- und Umweltwissenschaften, Germany and his research interests include geomorphology of fault zones, evolution of tectonic stress fields, relations between tectonics and climate in landscape evolution, catastrophic mass movements, impact of climate variability on erosion and sedimentation patterns at different timescales. In 2005, he served as A. Cox Professor at Stanford University. Dr. Strecker has well over 30 years of outstanding teaching and research experience in various geoscience fields.



Brian Fred Windley, United Kingdom

Please welcome Brian Windley, Professor of Tectonics, Leicester University, UK and winner of 1985 Murchison Medal, The Geological Society of London, as GSA's 2015 Honorary Fellow recipient. With his 326 publications including the classic book *The Evolving Continents*, **Professor Windley's research includes** Crustal Evolution, Central Asian Orogenic Belt/Altaids.



Past Recipients			
2014	Shigenori Maruyama	Tokyo Institute of Technology	Japan
2013	Shuwen Dong	Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences	China
2012	Sospeter Mwijarubi Muhongo	University of Dar Es Salaam	Tanzania


9. Bridging Two Continents Reciprocal Meeting

SECOND JOINT SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF GSA AND GSC

1-2 NOVEMBER 2015 • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, USA

Held in conjunction with the GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition (1-4 November)

Downloads



Bridging Two Continents
Second Joint Scientific Meeting of GSA and GSC
1-2 November 2015
Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.
(To be held in conjunction with the GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition, 1-4 November 2015)

Second Circular

To promote and encourage greater understanding of Earth Sciences, the Geological Society of America (GSA) and the Geological Society of China (GSC), at the suggestion of the International Section of GSA, initiated a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2011 on holding two joint scientific meetings in the second decade of the 21st century.

The first meeting, *Roof of the World*, was held in Chengdu, China, 17-19 June 2013. This very successful meeting brought together many world-class scientists from the two societies to discuss a wide range of topics including: Evolution of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Continental Deformation and Deep Lithosphere Processes, Intra-Continental Deformation and its Relationships to Geo-hazards, Accretionary Orogenesis, Deep Earth Processes through Geochemistry, Mineral Deposits, Basins and Petroleum Resources, the Permian-Triassic Mass Extinction, Ultra High-pressure Metamorphism, Ophiolites, Carbon Sequestration, Water Resources and Hydrogeology, Gas Hydrates, Critical Transitions in Earth's History, and Foreland basin tectonics.

The second joint meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. during the 2015 Geological Society of America's Annual Meeting & Exposition. This GSA-GSC joint scientific meeting will be a "meeting within a meeting" and will be held on Sunday, 1 November - Monday, 2 November 2015 at the Baltimore Convention Center. It also features two pre and post-conference workshops: the "meeting within a meeting" and the "meeting within a meeting".

[Second Circular](#)

[First Circular](#)

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Center. A pre-meeting field trip will also be held covering the North American Cordillera. The duration of the field trip is 3 days.

a. Topical Sessions led by GSA International Section/GSA International key management board members (An Yin, John Wakabayashi, Yildirim Dilek, Paul T. Robinson, Shuwen Dong, Yildirim Dilek, Paul T. Robinson, Peter G. DeCelles and Juhn G. Liou)

T1. Bridging Two Continents: Active Intracontinental Tectonics in Asia and North America and the Associated Geohazards

Jing Liu-Zeng, An Yin, Mian Liu

Intracontinental tectonics, exemplified by the diffuse crustal deformation in central Asia and the western U.S., and mid-continental earthquakes in North China and the eastern-central U.S., remains enigmatic. This session seeks researchers from all disciplines to exchange data and ideas to better understand active intracontinental tectonics and associated geohazards.

T2. Bridging Two Continents: Advances in Crustal Subduction and Ultrahigh-Pressure Metamorphism

Jane A. Gilotti, Yongfei Zheng

GSA Structural Geology and Tectonics Division; Mineralogical Society of America; GSA Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology Division; Geochemical Society

Presentations that explore the mineralogical, petrological, geochemical, geochronologic, and tectonic aspects of crustal subduction and ultrahigh-pressure metamorphism are welcome. Papers presenting theoretical, analytical, or conceptual advances toward the understanding of deep subduction-zone processes are encouraged.

T3. Bridging Two Continents: Comparative Studies of Accretionary Orogenesis in the Central Asian Orogenic Belt, North American Cordillera, and Other Orogenic Belts

John Wakabayashi, Wenjiao Xiao, Laura E. Webb

GSA Structural Geology and Tectonics Division; Mineralogical Society of America; GSA Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology Division

We seek contributions on aspects of the accretionary orogenesis of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt and the North American Cordillera. Comparative studies or research on either belt, or on other accretionary orogens, are welcome.

T4. Bridging Two Continents: Diamonds, Zircons and Native Elements in the Mantle: New Discoveries and Models on the Properties and Petrogenesis of Oceanic Mantle Lithosphere

Yildirim Dilek, Paul T. Robinson, Juhn G. Liou, Jingsui Yang

GSA Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology Division; GSA Structural Geology and Tectonics Division; MSA Mineral Physics; GSA Geophysics Division; Mineralogical Society of America; Geochemical Society

Contributions on the processes of element fluxing, crust-mantle recycling, and petrogenetic evolution of the mantle, based on studies of ophiolites and oceanic lithosphere and using mineralogical, geochemical, and geodynamic data for modeling at nano, micro, and global scales are welcome.

T7. Bridging Two Continents: New Insights into the Mechanisms of Continental Deformation from Sinoprobe Deep Seismic Reflection Profiling And Receiver-Function Studies Of The Lithosphere

Shuwen Dong, Larry Brown

International seismological observations recently achieved significant progress; the SinoProbe of China continues to explore lithospheric structures from efforts of many scientists. This session allows scientists to exchange new findings and insights, and stimulates cooperation and discussion to better understand the mechanism of continental deformation and tectonics.

T8. Bridging Two Continents: Supercontinents In Earth's History: New Perspectives from Precambrian Geology of Asia and North America

Mingguo Zhai, J. Brendan Murphy, Joseph G. Meert

This session will concentrate on paleogeographic reconstructions of Precambrian paleocontinent/supercontinents

with specific emphasis on Asian and North American cratons, early Earth geodynamic and tectonic processes, and the effect of supercontinent cycles on the distribution of mineral resources and evolution of the hydrosphere and atmosphere.

10. GSA Special Nepal (Gorkha) Earthquake Session

Co-Sponsored: GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA International; GSA Geology and Society Division; GSA Structural Geology and Tectonics Division; The Geological Society of America

Anke Friedrich; Elizabeth Catlos

In response to the devastation caused by the earthquake that occurred on April 25, 2015 in the Nepal Himalayas, and subsequent catastrophic mass movements and aftershocks, The Geological Society of America will offer a special session in response to this historic event at the 2015 Baltimore Annual Meeting to bring it to the full attention of GSA membership.

The goals of this session are to provide a forum for those studying the earthquake to disseminate and gain information from diverse fields and to develop realistic and meaningful paths forward in terms of earthquake forecasting in the Himalayan region to minimize future impacts of large-scale earthquakes on society. The Himalayas has global importance due to its role as the largest zone of active continental plate collision. In this, the region attracts attention from a number of sub-disciplines in geology, including structural geology and tectonics, geophysics, atmospheric and climate dynamics, geomorphology, glaciology, and hydrology. The earthquake that is the focus of this session has the potential to affect the most fundamental research in all of these disciplines, and we welcome diverse contributions from those working in the Nepal, India, Bhutan, and Pakistan Himalayas, Tibet and northern China.

Invited Speakers:

Jean-Philippe Avouac (Cambridge) • **Rebecca Bendick** (University of Montana) • **Roger Bilham** (Univ. Colorado, Boulder) • **Sara Carena** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität) • **Peter G. DeCelles** (Univ. Arizona) • **John Elliott** (Oxford University, UK) • **Sean F. Gallen** (ETH-Zurich) • **Niels Hovius** (GFZ Potsdam, Germany) • **Thorne Lay** (UCSC) • **Peter C. Lippert** (University of Utah) • **Brian Tucker** (GeoHazards International) • **Bishal Upreti** (Tribuvan University, Nepal) • **Steven G Wesnousky** (Univ. of Nevada, Reno)

11. Update on GSA and Geological Society of Africa Meeting in Ethiopia 2017

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in connection with the proposed 2017 International meeting titled "*Geological Evolution of Africa: Making and Breaking of a Continent*" in Ethiopia. Suzanne Mahlburg Kay (Member-at-Large) and Prof. Aberra Mogessie (Member-at-Large, International Associated Society Rep) are taking the lead to make it happen.

12. European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2016 **Vienna April 17-22 2016**

Theme: Meeting the water needs of a growing global population: groundwater contamination, monitoring, abatement and adaptation in developing countries

A safe and sustainable supply of water is essential for human health, food security and economic growth in developing countries. Much of the world's population depends on groundwater for its drinking water supplies, even as population growth, environmental change and other competing pressures put increasing stress on groundwater systems.

This session will examine the challenges posed by contamination in groundwater in developing countries. Contamination can be natural or anthropogenic in origin, and may be exacerbated by environmental change, groundwater abstraction regimes and other human activities. The session will seek to develop our understanding of such contamination and its impacts, as well as strategies for cost-effective and appropriate monitoring, abatement and adaptation. Abstracts are invited addressing these topics in a developing country setting in relation to any contaminants – these might include arsenic, fluorides and salinity.

The session is sponsored by the Geological Society of London (GSL) and the Geological Society of America (GSA). Our two organizations aim both to bring together a diverse group of scientists whose research will help to address the pressing challenge of sustainably meeting the demand for potable water in developing countries, and to highlight the value of these scientists' work to wider scientific, political and public audiences. It will be promoted in the UK as part of GSL's Year of Water in 2016.

13. Farouk El-Baz Awards for Desert Research

This award is given to students to encourage and support desert studies and GSA International has been charged with selecting two student members of GSA to receive the Farouk El-Baz Student Research Award for 2015. An award of \$2500.00 was given to one male and one female applicant who are conducting desert research studies as part of an undergraduate, masters or PhD program.

Nazrul Khandaker coordinated the selection process and following two individuals were unanimously selected for 2015 awards:

- **Abotalib Z.A Farag** (Western Michigan University, Department of Geosciences)

Project Title:

Did groundwater processes shape the Sahara landscape during the Quaternary?

- **Tara N Jonell** (Louisiana State University, Geology and Geophysics)

Project Title:

Climatic controls on sediment buffering and transport in the Himalayan rain shadow, Zaskar River, northwest India

14. **GSA International Representing GSA Leadership Meeting (April 24- 26, 2015)** Susan Kay and Nazrul Khandaker attended the GSA Leadership Meeting in Boulder, Colorado. He was briefed on day-to-day GSA activities, by-laws, responsibilities associated with newly elected councilors, and other section management procedures. Dr. Vicki McConnell (GSA Executive Director) and Dr. Harry McSween (President, GSA) led the discussion and GSA International was one of the top items discussed by the councilors.

15. GSA International Travel Grant 2015

Table 1

Used following criteria in the selection process:

Country of Origin, United Nations Designation On Least Developed Countries , Originating Flight, Ability to Secure Additional Funding, Past history of receiving GSA International Travel Grants, Scientific Merits, and Career

Level. A total 160 students applied for travel grants and following persons were selected for receiving grants to attend GSA 2015 Annual Meeting. The maximum travel grant we were able to award was \$1000.

Bishal Upreti, Nepal
Salif Koné, Mali
Sara Raic, Austria / Croatia
Shilpi Yadav, India
Borhan Bagherpour, Switzerland / Iran
Yevhenii Rohozin, Ukraine
Anamika Shrivastava, India
Ibiyemi Ogungbuyi, South Africa/Nigeria
Karolina Kosminska, Poland
Birimwiragi Namogo Didier, Democratic Republic of Congo
Manuela Mazzitelli, Argentina
Soma Baranwal, India
Andrew Scott, UK

a. VISA STEPS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

We remind international participants that if they plan to attend the 2015 Annual GSA meeting, and they need a letter from GSA in order to apply for a US visa, they can request a letter of invitation at any time. Please forward your request to Nazrul Khandaker and he will pass it along to the GSA Headquarters, who will provide to you a letter of invitation that you can use to request a visa. The letter of invitation does not imply any financial commitment on the part of GSA, nor does it imply that your abstract has been accepted for presentation. It is best to request the letter of invitation and get started on your visa application early (even before you have been notified if your abstract has been accepted for presentation). This year, some applicants who waited until the abstract acceptance deadline did not have enough time to arrange the necessary interviews and get their US visa.

Advance planning by foreign travelers is critical, including these planning steps for your visa (as provided by the U.S. Department of State). For details, please visit the following:

http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/Visa_steps.htm

16. Future GSA International Agendas

International participation at GSA: We suggest that it would be useful to examine the issue of how the international participants are paying for abstracts and meeting registration for the GSA Annual Meeting. In particular we will look at statistics on how many overseas participants pay their registration fees in advance by credit card versus how many of them register and pay the registration fee on site with cash. It is our impression that a substantial number of international participants pay on site because of these difficulties with credit cards. If so, we would like to work with GSA to find a solution that would be easier for everyone.

Support for international colleagues: In addition, several invited topical session invitees (mostly professionals) were uncertain about attending GSA annual meeting in Baltimore due to lack of funding. Some of them were not able to receive GSA International travel grants since we always focus on supporting students' attendance (over 80%) over professionals. In the past we successfully negotiated with the GSA to waive registration fees for few individuals. An idea for supporting these invitees is to have a means for GSA International participants to donate funds to support travel to national GSA meetings for their international colleagues. This way we are not calling on specific GSA funds, or section funds to support key international speakers. We are looking for ways to help facilitate greater international representation at sessions that deal with topics of international interest. Please let us know any ideas you may have.

Finally, GSA International extends warmest greetings to its members and cordially invites to take part in IIIG and solidify international friendship and promote increased scientific collaboration. We are open to your suggestion and please feel free to write us back to join hands in this global pursuit. Your increased participation will ensure our success as a global geoscience organization and promote deep appreciation of geosciences pertaining to societal needs, economic growth, and sustainability aspects. We also welcome our overseas members sharing news with us and tell us what's happening in your neck of the wood. Be Well.

Respectfully submitted by

Nadine McQuarrie and Nazrul Khandaker

October 10, 2015

APPENDIX 1

**GSA International
OFFICERS AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

2014-2015

Officers		
Chair International Secretary	Nadine McQuarrie University of Pittsburgh Dept. of Geology & Planetary Science 4107 O Pittsburgh, PA 15260-3332	+1412-624-8870 nmcq@pitt.edu
Secretary & Member-at-Large Coordinator of International Travel Grants and Awards Program	Nazrul I. Khandaker Dept. of Earth and Physical Sciences York College The City University of New York 9420 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11451, USA	+1-718-262-2079 (x 2654) Fax: +1-718-262-3751 nkhandaker@york.cuny.edu
Member Chair of the Interdisciplinary Interest Group	Nazrul I. Khandaker Dept. of Earth and Physical Sciences York College The City University of New York 9420 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11451, USA	+1-718-262-2079 (x 2654) Fax: +1-718-262-3751 nkhandaker@york.cuny.edu
Member Chair of Subcommittee for Proposals for International Meetings	Brendan Murphy St. Francis Xavier University Dept. of Earth Sciences PO Box 5000 Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2W5 Canada	+1-902-867-2481 bmurphy@stfx.ca
Member Chair of International	Peter G. DeCelles Visiting Professor	+1-520-621-4910 decelles@email.arizona.edu

Awards Subcommittee	Geologisches Institut, ETH NO G 65 Sonneggstrasse 5 8092 Zürich, Switzerland	
Member Chair of International Distinguished Lectureships	Charlotte B. Schreiber University of Washington Dept. of Earth and Space Sciences PO Box 351310 Seattle, WA 98195	+1-206-297-1454 geologo1@uw.edu
Member-at-Large International Technical Program Rep for JTPC	An Yin University of California, Los Angeles Dept. of Earth & Space Sciences PO Box 951567 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1567, USA	+1-310-471-8896 yin@ess.ucla.edu
Member-at-Large International Associated Society Rep	Aberra Mogessie University of Graz Institute of Earth Sciences Universitaetsplatz 2 Graz A-8010 Austria	+43-316-380-5523 mogessie@uni-graz.at
Member-at-Large North America	Suzanne Mahlburg Kay Cornell University Dept. of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences 3140 Snee Hall Ithaca, NY 14853-1504, USA	+1-607-255-4701 smk16@cornell.edu
Member-at-Large Outside North America	Reynaldo Charrier University de Chile Departamento de Geologia Plaza Ercilla 803 Santiago, Chile	+56 2 29784533 rcharrie@ing.uchile.cl
Member-at-Large GSA Council Liaison	John J. Clague Simon Fraser University Dept. of Earth Sciences 8888 University Drive Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 Canada	+1-778-782-4924 jclague@sfu.ca

GSA Liaison Vicki McConnell 303-357-1039 VMcConnell@geosociety.org	GSA Primary Contact Susan Lofton 303-357-1040 slofton@geosociety.org	GSA Contact Pam Fistell 303-357-1044 pfistell@geosociety.org
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APPENDIX 2

Committee Rules and Guidelines

Approved 4 September 2014

GSA International Committee

This committee will operate in accordance with GSA Guidelines for All Committees (attached).

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Serve as GSA's coordination and communication resource seeking to promote, create, and enhance opportunities for international cooperation related to the scientific, educational, and outreach missions shared by GSA and like-minded professional societies, educational institutions, and government agencies. Build collaborative relationships with Divisions and Associated Societies in International issues and serve as channel for member generated proposals for international themes.

MEMBERS and TERMS

The Committee will consist of 12 voting members, each serving 4-year terms and will be chaired by an International Secretary responsible to Council. The Committee can have up to two non-voting headquarters members including a GSA staff liaison person and the Executive Director.

Committee Members (appointed by Council through the Nominations Committee)

1. International Secretary/Chair
2. Secretary (newsletter coordinator and other duties)
3. Chair of International Interdisciplinary Interest Group
4. Chair of Subcommittee for Proposals for International Meetings
5. Chair of International Awards Subcommittee
6. Chair of International Distinguished Lectureship (former lecturer or member-at-large)
7. Coordinator of International Travel Grants and Awards Program
8. International Technical Program Representative to serve on JTPC
9. Representative of an International Associated Society
10. Member-at-large (North American)
11. Member-at-large (outside North America)
12. GSA Council Liaison (sitting council member)
13. GSA Executive Director (non-voting)
14. GSA Staff Liaison (non-voting)

COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE

The Committee is chaired by an International Secretary, who is responsible to and appointed by GSA Council. The Chair recommends strategic and tactical opportunities to Council. The Committee organizes activities by forming task-oriented teams, sub-committees and ad-hoc committees, the member of which may include individuals who are not members of the Committee.

A Vice Chair can be selected by the Committee from amongst the voting members. The Chair will submit a budget proposal to the GSA Executive Director and Executive Committee regarding strategic initiatives and activities that align with the GSA Strategic Plan. The annual work plan and Committee activities will be dependent upon the ability to secure support and funding from various sources.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The Committee will meet in-person during the Annual Meeting and additional phone conference and email discussions relating to activities and work plan. The Chair may call for a face-to-face meeting in the spring if

required to undertake Committee business. Most Committee business will be conducted through email correspondence and conference calls. No specific travel support will be granted from Committee funds for the Committee meeting during the Annual Meeting.

REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Committee Chair and Secretary will jointly organize and prepare a report to GSA Council for the April/May Council meeting and for the Annual Meeting Council meeting.

CURRENT GSA STAFF LIAISON

Susan Lofton

Geological Society of America 3300 Penrose Place

PO Box 9140 Boulder, Colorado 80301 USA

(303) 357-1005

Revision of Draft Committee Rules and Guidelines reviewed by GSA Executive Committee on 9 July 2014 by the Ad Hoc Committee to form the GSA International Committee.

APPENDIX 3

Picture Gallery

2014 GSA ANNUAL MEETING

GSA INTERNATIONAL-hosted Reception

Vancouver, BC

Appendix 3



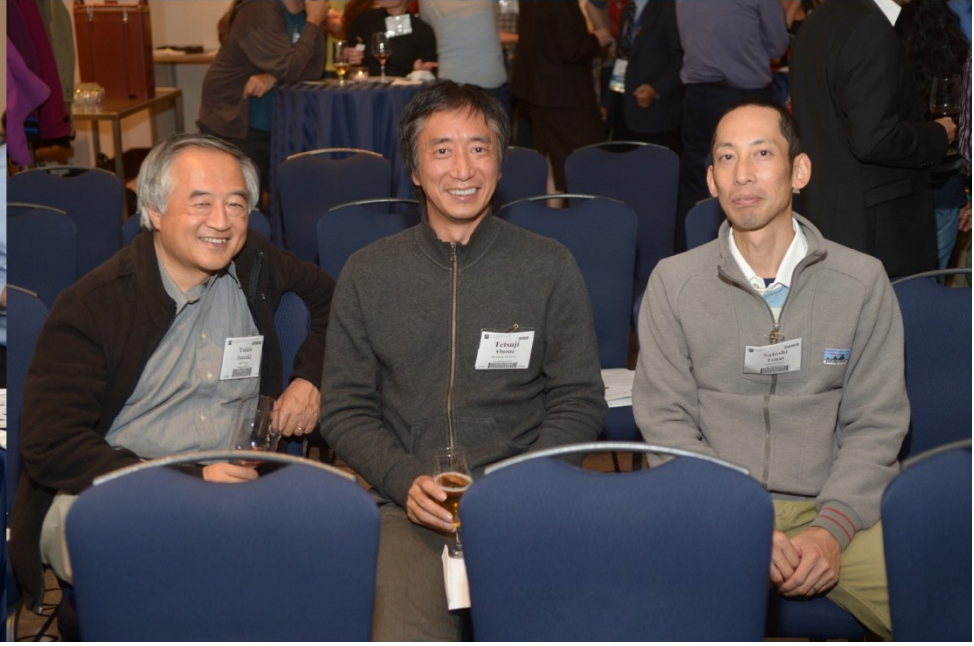
2014 GSA International Reception, Vancouver, BC



2014 GSA International Reception, Vancouver, BC



2014 GSA International Reception, Vancouver, BC



2014 GSA International Reception, Vancouver, BC



2014 GSA International Reception, Vancouver, BC



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

International Section

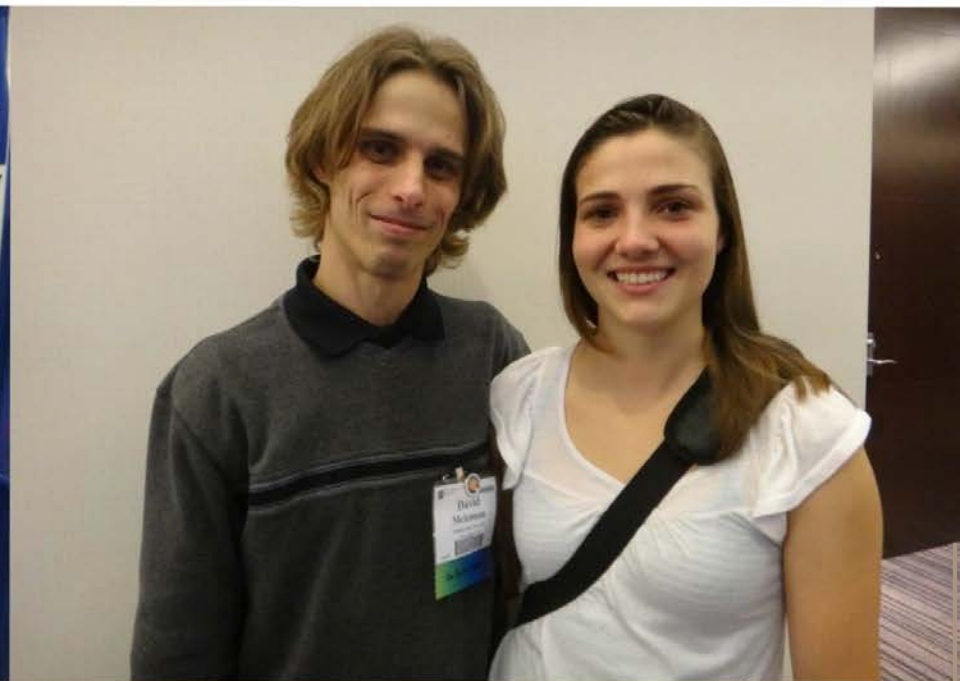


starting In 2015

GSA INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
International Interdisciplinary Interest Group
Grassroots



2014 GSA International Reception, Vancouver, BC



2014 GSA International Reception, Vancouver, BC

