

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA®
FISCAL YEAR 2009 ANNUAL REPORT
1 JULY 2008 - 30 JUNE 2009





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GSA FISCAL YEAR 2009 OFFICERS & COUNCILORS

GSA OFFICERS



PRESIDENT
Judith Totman Parrish
 University of Idaho
 Moscow, Idaho, USA



VICE PRESIDENT
Jean M. Bahr
 University of Wisconsin
 Madison, Wisconsin, USA



TREASURER
Robbie R. Gries
 Priority Oil and Gas LLC
 Denver, Colorado, USA



PAST PRESIDENT
John (Jack) M. Sharp Jr.
 University of Texas at Austin
 Austin, Texas, USA

GSA COUNCILORS

JULY 2005–JUNE 2009

John W. Geissman
 University of New Mexico
 Albuquerque, New Mexico,
 USA

Nancy J. McMillan
 New Mexico State University
 Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA

Jill S. Schneiderman
 Vassar College
 Poughkeepsie, New York, USA

JULY 2006–JUNE 2010

David Applegate
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Washington, D.C., USA

Jerome V. DeGraff
 USDA Forest Service
 Fresno, California, USA

Diane R. Smith
 Trinity University
 San Antonio, Texas, USA

JULY 2007–JUNE 2011

Monica E. Gowan
 University of Canterbury
 Christchurch, New Zealand

Jacqueline E. Huntoon
 Michigan Technological
 University
 Houghton, Michigan, USA

G. Randy Keller
 University of Oklahoma
 Norman, Oklahoma, USA

JULY 2008–JUNE 2012

Brian R. Pratt
 University of Saskatchewan
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,
 Canada

Murray W. Hitzman
 Colorado School of Mines
 Golden, Colorado, USA

Claudia I. Mora
 Los Alamos National
 Laboratory
 Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like most institutions, the Geological Society of America faced financial challenges this past year. Some of you may recall that GSA underwent significant cuts and reorganization several years ago, and in that exercise much of the “fat” had already been cut out. The current recession, with reduced revenues from both GSA and GSA Foundation investments and from other income streams, forced the Society into some significant belt-tightening this year, including postponing raises for staff, furloughs, and contract non-renewal. We appear, however, to have weathered the storm, and we are hopeful that, as the economy improves and our income-generating activities recover, we will be able to resume normal operations soon. Thanks are due to outgoing Treasurer Robbie Gries, Executive Director Jack Hess, and Controller Tom Haberthier for staying on top of the economic developments as they progressed and being proactive to prevent even further constriction. Thanks to GSA employees as well, who suffered no small personal sacrifice to keep the Society healthy.



This year we held a spring Leadership Weekend, a process that was initiated by President Jack Sharp in 2008. Although the intention is eventually to do this every two or three years, that first meeting was so successful that we felt it would be beneficial to do it again sooner to build up a head of steam on the process. We continued efforts, discussed in the first Leadership Weekend, to identify ways to streamline the process of getting the Divisions and Associated Societies more involved in Section meetings and to identify ways to strengthen the ties between the Divisions and Associated Societies.

For the first time, we posted results of the strategic plan on the internet. Executive Director Jack Hess had kept a running narrative from year to year on progress on the strategic plan, and that was so informative that we thought it should be shared with the members. The strategic plan has, in fact, guided decisions in the Society and the narrative allowed us to evaluate what does and does not work. We then used those results to guide us in drafting a new strategic plan, which was adopted by Council at the Fall 2008 meeting.

Progress has continued on the international front. The International Division became the International Section, and the North American sections were extended into Mexico (they already extended into Canada).

On a personal note, my travel activities on behalf of GSA were more limited during the latter half of my presidency than I had intended because of family concerns. I am grateful to Vice President Jean Bahr, Executive Director Jack Hess, and many GSA staff members who filled in for me or provided unusual support. I am indeed fortunate—as are we all—that GSA is populated not only by people who are smart, motivated, and active, but who are caring as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Totman Parrish".

GSA'S MISSION

The Geological Society of America's mission is to be a leader in advancing the geosciences, enhancing the professional growth of its members, and promoting the geosciences in the service of humankind and stewardship of the Earth.

GSA'S VISION

The Geological Society of America will be a broad, unifying scientific society

- Fostering the human quest for understanding Earth, planets, and life;
- Catalyzing new scientific ways of thinking about natural systems; and
- Supporting the application of geoscience knowledge and insight to human needs, aspirations, and Earth stewardship.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This has been a financially challenging year for the Society. We saw across the board decreases in revenue and had to respond with expense cuts wherever possible including reductions in staff compensation. In the end we did close FY2009 with a slight surplus thanks to the hard work by GSA staff. On a positive note, the Washington Office as part of GSA's National Leadership Initiative has been extremely successful. GSA has been able to successfully speak for the solid earth community. This was a bold new step for the Society that has greatly strengthened the geoscience community's presence in public policy decision making. The Houston Joint Annual Meeting attracted nearly 10,000 attendees from all of our partners. Our participation in GeoScienceWorld continues to be very successful and our book publishing continues to grow. In the Education and Outreach arena, Earth-Caching is expanding rapidly around the world and the Teacher Advocate Program has seen significant growth. Mentoring programs are growing and expanding at both Annual and Section Meetings.

I continue to find that the Society has an active and loyal membership and a hard-working, dedicated staff striving to serve the members and help GSA Council and committees carry out the Society's Strategic Plan.

The four key ingredients to a strong GSA future are:

- **GSA Members**—GSA must continue to grow its world-wide membership through recruitment and retention. Special targets are students and members from the non-academic community. Members form the base from which to strengthen the Society and its service to humankind. To help this growth, GSA must continue to improve its internal and external communications with its members. The Society is now actively engaged in the use of social media to strengthen member communication.
- **Partnerships**—GSA must continue to build strong and meaningful partnerships with other societies and organizations around the country and world. The number of Associated Societies has reached fifty-two. I thank them for their participation with GSA.
- **The Society must be willing to be flexible** as it faces a rapidly changing global environment. It must address the questions of what is the future of the geosciences and what will GSA's role be in that future.
- **The membership must support the GSA Foundation** in growing the value of our investments. We are endowing the future of the Society.

I had three major goals for GSA when I became Executive Director in late 2001: 1) turn the Society around financially, 2) have the Society become more active in public policy, and 3) have the Society become more engaged globally. We have accomplished the first though we are currently facing some financial challenges, are well into the second, and are making a beginning on the third particularly with the creation of the new International Section.

My major role is to create an environment in which both the staff and Society leadership can, with appropriate resources, advance science through high-quality meetings and publications, develop strong and meaningful relationships with other societies and organizations around the world, facilitate GSA's role in the education of students, the public, and policy makers, and develop more sponsorship for GSA programs.

The Society has much to be proud of as we look forward to the coming years. We publish highly respected journals, present high-quality and exciting meetings, constantly work to improve service to our members and customers, and continue to build significant partnerships with societies around the world. The Society has strengthened its public policy efforts and is developing its strategic vision for its global role in the future.

Thank you for your continuing support. I look forward to a long-term, open, and positive relationship with the members, Council, and staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hess".

John W. Hess
Executive Director

MEMBERSHIP

Gateway to Valuable GSA Programs and Services

Year-end membership (31 December 2008) reached 22,065. Calendar year-end 2008 marked the fifth year in a row of steady membership growth—an increase of more than 25% since December 2003. GSA's membership growth is attributed in part to a healthy retention rate of just over 87%, and new members joining to take part in an array of membership benefits, programs and services.

GSA members from 97 countries represent 40+ scientific specialties and interests, belong to one or more of GSA's 17 Divisions, and are members of seven regional sections. Together they are shaping the future of the geosciences.

Embracing Diversity

GSA is dedicated to maintaining an organizational climate where differing ideas, abilities, backgrounds, and needs are welcomed.

GSA hosted a Geoscience Day for minority K-12 students and hosted a Minorities Reception at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Houston. Minority Student Annual Meeting Travel Grants are awarded annually, and with support from the GSA Foundation, minority student memberships are granted each year at no cost. Each year one to three minority students are awarded graduate student research grants, ranging from US\$300–US\$1000.

Supporting Students

GSA supports students in their pursuit of careers in the geosciences, offers programs to aid in their success, and provides benefits designed specifically around their needs.

GSA student members, who represent 27% of GSA's membership, receive free online access to GSA journals (over US \$190 annual value), access to mentor programs, employment services, travel grants, and research funding. In FY2009, the GSA Graduate Student Research Grants Program funded 194 research proposals for a total of US\$530,425. The maximum grant amount was US\$4,000.



HONORING ACHIEVEMENT

From top to bottom left and right:

Penrose Medalist and Donath Medalist extend congratulations.

Farouk El-Baz congratulates one of two Farouk El-Baz Student Awardees in Desert Research.

GSA's inaugural Bromery Award for the Minorities.



Learn more about GSA honors and awards at www.geosociety.org/aboutus/honors-awards.htm.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY

Fostering Active Dialogue with Decision Makers

GSA established an office in Washington, D.C. in 2007 to help achieve its mission of promoting the geosciences in the service to humankind and stewardship of the Earth. The overarching goal of the Washington office is to provide GSA and its members with leadership in public policy decision-making processes.

Congressional Testimony. In 2009, GSA testified at two congressional hearings and submitted written testimony to four House and Senate subcommittees in support of increased federal investments in geosciences research and education. The testimony draws upon GSA's Position Statement on Public Investment in Earth Science Research, which was adopted by Council in 2008. GSA was also the lead author of House and Senate testimony submitted on behalf of the USGS Coalition.

Congressional Briefings. GSA cosponsors congressional briefings on geoscience topics of special interest to Congress. More than 200 people attended the following briefings:

- *Disaster Mitigation: Lessons from the Great Southern California ShakeOut*
- *Climate Change: Intersections of Science and Policy*
- *Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction*

Congressional Visits Days. More than 60 geoscientists visited over 100 House and Senate offices during the first-ever Geosciences Congressional Visits Day on 9-10 September 2008. GSA worked with other geosciences societies to organize this highly successful event, which was designed to increase visibility and support for the geosciences in Congress. GSA participants included president Judith Parrish and vice president Jean Bahr. GSA also served on the working group that planned the 14th Annual Science-Engineering-Technology Congressional Visits Day on 28-19 April 2009. In addition to numerous constituent meetings with House and Senate offices, these Congressional Visits Days feature training sessions and receptions on Capitol Hill.

Capitol Hill Events. GSA helps organize a wide range of events on Capitol Hill.

- **Congressional Press Conference.** GSA Councilor Randy Keller was among several prominent scientists and engineers who spoke at a press conference with Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.) and Rep. Judy Biggert (R-Ill.), co-chairs of the Congressional R&D Caucus, to address the imperative for increased federal funding for science. GSA helped organize this press conference in conjunction with Science-Engineering-Technology Congressional Visits Day.
- **Awards to Congressional Leaders.** GSA's Director for Geoscience Policy presented the first USGS Coalition Leadership Awards to Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Wash.) and Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), chair and former chair, respectively, of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. More than 150 people attended this event, which included a science exhibition and reception.
- **Congressional Science Exhibition.** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and House Science Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.) were among the Congressional leaders who attended a science exhibition and reception sponsored by the Coalition for National Science Founding. Pelosi thanked the scientific community for its successful role in encouraging Congress to include more than \$20 billion for science in the economic stimulus package. By co-sponsoring exhibits at this annual event, GSA enables geoscientists to discuss their NSF-funded research with Members of Congress, congressional staff, and NSF officials. Nearly 300 people attended this event on 24 March 2009.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) thanks the scientific community for its efforts to increase federal funding for science.



Lucy Jones speaks at a GSA-co-sponsored congressional briefing on *Disaster Mitigation: Lessons from the Great Southern California ShakeOut*.

Coalitions. GSA leverages its resources by participating in coalitions to promote the geosciences and improve the use of geoscience information in public policy decision making.

- *USGS Coalition.* GSA's Director for Geoscience Policy serves as co-chair of this coalition, which is an alliance of 70 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the U.S. Geological Survey.
- *Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF).* This coalition advocates for increased federal funding for the National Science Foundation. GSA co-sponsors CNSF's Annual Exhibition and Reception on Capitol Hill.
- *Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance.* As a member of this alliance, GSA helps organize a series of congressional briefings on natural hazards and highlight the role of the geosciences in natural hazards mitigation.
- *American Geology Consortium.* GSA is represented in the American Geology Consortium (AAPG, AAPG, AASG, AEG AGI, ASCE Geo-Institute, and GSA) at the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures. This event provides a unique opportunity to further cooperation among geoscience societies and present a united geoscience message to numerous officials in state government.

Congressional Science Fellowship. The GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellowship is offered as part of a program administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Congressional Science Fellows work as special legislative assistants within the congressional staff system.

GSA Position Statements. GSA promotes the use of geoscience information in public policy decision-making. To support this goal, GSA develops position statements on subjects of importance to the geoscience community. In fiscal year 2009, GSA Council approved nine new or revised position statements on the following topics:

- *Public Investment in Earth Science Research (September 2008)*
- *Water Resources (September 2008)*
- *Energy and Mineral Resources (October 2008)*
- *Natural Hazards (November 2008)*
- *Geologic Mapping (November 2008)*
- *Integrating Geoscience with Sustainable Land-Use Management (May 2009)*
- *Geoscience Data Preservation (May 2009)*
- *Open Data Access (May 2009)*
- *Valuing Professional Contributions to Geoscience Public Policy and Education (May 2009)*

In addition to policy recommendations, these statements include information on opportunities for GSA and its members to help implement the recommendations.

PolicyComNet. GSA launched PolicyComNet, a new online geoscience-based networking tool to assist GSA members in planning communications with public policy officials on pending regional, state, and local decisions.



GSA's Craig Schiffries (left) presents the first USGS Coalition Leadership Award to Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Wash.) and introduces USGS Director Mark Myers (right).



AAAS CEO Alan Leshner, former Senator Timothy Wirth, and National Medal of Science Recipient Susan Solomon (left to right) participate in a congressional briefing on climate change.



Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, accepts an award during Science-Engineering-Technology Congressional Visits Day.

PUBLICATIONS

Crown Jewels of the Society's Geoscience Contributions



Books and Maps

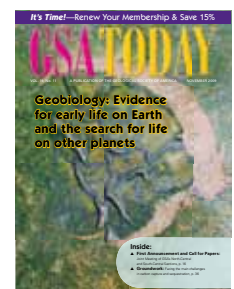
GSA published 22 peer-reviewed scholarly books in fiscal year 2009. The Special Paper series (15 volumes) is for state-of-the-art treatments of rapidly evolving subjects. The Memoir series (three volumes) is for works likely to remain an authoritative reference for a number of years. Field Guide volumes (three in FY09) feature guides from field trips held at GSA meetings and those of associated organizations. *Reviews in Engineering Geology* (one volume) is produced in cooperation with GSA's Engineering Geology Division. One map and one volume of *Memorials* (to deceased GSA members) were published in FY09. The last volume of the International Book Series also came out in FY09.

Journals

- *Lithosphere*, GSA's newest journal, launched in February 2009. The journal aims to provide an outlet for the high interest in tectonics with papers on tectonic processes at all scales that affect the crust and upper mantle, from the surface to the base of the lithosphere.
- *GSA Bulletin*, published since 1890, is distributed in print and online bimonthly, with the journal's accepted articles posted online ahead of print. Archives from 1945 to the present are available online.
- *Geology* features short papers on new investigations and provocative topics from all earth science disciplines. Published monthly in print and online, the journal also has online archives available from its first issue in 1973 to the present.
- *Geosphere*, published since 2005, is a bimonthly online-only journal covering all geoscience disciplines and featuring themed issues plus papers with animations, sound, and movie files.
- *GSA Today*, GSA's science and news magazine for members and the earth-science community worldwide, features science articles as well as member news and announcements.

GSA publications also are available on the annual GSA Journals on Compact Disc (*GSA Bulletin*, *Geology*, *Geosphere*, *Lithosphere*, and links to *GSA Today*'s science-related articles and various search and indexing tools); via online purchase of individual papers through Bloc of Docs subscriptions; and through GeoScienceWorld (*GSA Bulletin*, *Geology*, *Geosphere*, *Lithosphere*).

Published quarterly in a joint effort between the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists and GSA is *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience*. Online at GeoScienceWorld, it contains new theory, applications, and case histories illustrating the dynamics of environmental and applied disciplines.



MEETINGS

Vibrant Interactions Among the Community of Geoscientists

GSA Annual, Section, and specialty meetings provide a platform for professional and student geoscientists to exchange and discuss leading-edge research. Our meetings are also widely acknowledged as prime networking events.

The 2008 Joint Annual Meeting—Celebrating the International Year of Planet Earth, was a new experience for GSA members and attendees. This meeting, held in Houston, Texas, was a joint meeting between 5 other societies—*American Society of Agronomy*, *Crop Science Society of America*, *Soil Science Society of America*, *Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies*, and the *Houston Geological Society*. It recorded the largest meeting in GSA history with 9,941 in attendance, and nearly 6,000 abstracts being presented.

GSA held six section meetings. A total of 3,077 people attended these six meetings.

One Penrose Conference was held: *Plumes and Their Role in Whole Mantle Convection and Recycling* held in Pico, the Azore in May 2009.

One Field Forum was held: *Late Archean Crust: Magmatism and Tectonics of the Abitibi Subprovince, Canadian Shield* held in Abitibi granite-greenstone belt and Kapuskasing structural zone in Ontario and Québec, Canada in July 2008.



2008 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING. HOUSTON, TEXAS



Houston, Texas exhibit hall.



International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)



Poster session.



Employment job posting bulletin board.



Geology in government mentor program.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Nurtures Current and Future Generations

Earth science education at all levels is at the core of GSA's mission to increase appreciation of Earth's history, processes, and resources. Outreach activities aim to extend our passion for unlocking Earth's secrets beyond the boundaries of GSA membership.

The Teacher Advocate Program (TAP) continues to develop teaching resources, market and distribute those resources and run workshops for teachers at conferences. TAP also operated two field trips for teachers to the Galapagos Islands and Australia this year.

GeoCorps™ America has had another record-breaking year with 82 participants working on geoscience projects at National Parks, National Forests, and Bureau of Land Management sites across the nation. The program continues to expand with enthusiastic support from our partners.

GSA Mentor programs continued to be a highlight for students at the 2009 Section Meetings and the 2008 Annual Meeting. Through the year, these programs provided mentoring opportunities for more than 1,400 students.

The Short Course program continues to grow dramatically. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, more courses were offered (20), significantly more participants attended these courses (271), and the average fee per course dropped (US\$63).

The Employment Service Center, GSA's on-line résumé database system offers free résumé service to all GSA members, including job-hunting tools and access to job postings from our registered employers. We also offer an on-site interview service at the GSA Annual Meeting.

The EarthCache™ project, which provides fun, educational opportunities to the general public, has doubled in the past year, boasting more than 6,000 sites in 93 countries worldwide. More than a quarter of a million people have logged visits to these sites.

The EarthTrek™ citizen science program launched on 1 June with over 650 participants signed up to collect data. Three science projects started on 1 July and more projects are under development with scientists around the globe.

A Public Forum exploring Geology and Evolution was presented by experts at the Houston Annual Meeting, and was Webcast live for teachers.

EarthCache™

GeoCorps™ America

GeoVentures

Mentor Programs

Short Courses

Teacher Advocate Program

EarthTrek™



GeoVenture



Mentor Program



EarthTrek™ Citizen Science Program – Gravestone Project

GSA FOUNDATION REPORT

The Foundation was established in December 1980 as an independent not-for-profit corporation. To accomplish its mission, the Foundation seeks contribution revenue from individuals, corporations, other foundations, and institutions, and ensures that all gifts are used in a manner consistent with GSA and GSAF principles and donor wishes.

The GSA Foundation provides funding for the education, research, publications, student support, public outreach, and other geoscientific programs of the Geological Society of America.

FY2009 Highlights

(All funds are noted in U.S. dollars.)

The Foundation raised \$2,419,329 in contribution revenues from 5,382 donors during the fiscal year. This amount includes five bequests totaling \$1,711,337 and \$172,554 in dues contributions.

The Foundation transferred \$645,475 to GSA compared to \$653,007 in FY08. This amount includes the Foundation's match of \$24,850 in Student Travel Grants for the Sections. In addition to the transfers to GSA, the Foundation provided each Section Endowment Foundation Fund with \$5,000 (\$30,000 total) to match new contributions into the Section Endowment Funds.

Between the Houston Board meeting in 2008 and the Portland meeting in 2009, three Trustees left the Board (Charles Mankin, Michael Thonis, and Edward Warner). Farouk El-Baz and Susan Landon's terms end at the Portland meeting. Five new Trustees were added (Mohamed El-Ashry, Douglas Rankin, Lisa Rossbacher, Robert Sterrett, and Michael Thonis). The Board size remains at 18 Trustees.

An *End of Year Two Update* report has been issued for the Five-Year Plan that started in July of 2007.

A Sponsorship Agreement was finalized between the Foundation and GSA that identifies the differences between donations and sponsorships and also identifies responsible parties for these fund-raising activities.

A new Development Committee was created that had its inaugural session at the Portland GSA meeting. This committee is chaired by Mike Thonis and has 20 non-Trustee members, with the Trustees serving as *ex-officio*. The members are from academia, industry, agencies, past GSA officers, and Honorary Trustees. The purpose of this group is to assist the Board of Trustees in planning and executing the fund-raising activities of the Foundation on behalf of the Society.

The Miller Group of Fort Collins performed an evaluation of the Foundation's goals and performance. The Board is currently making decisions on implementing the Miller recommendations.

Board of Trustees Effective October, 2009



Robert Rutford, Chair (Texas & Wyoming)
Geoffrey Feiss, Vice Chair (Colorado)
Michael Manship, Treasurer (Montana)
Charles Andrews (Maryland)
Bruce Clark (California)
Margaret Eggers (California)
Mohamed El-Ashry (Washington, D.C.)
Carl Fricke (California)
Patrick Leahy (Virginia)

George Linkletter (California)
Elaine Padovani (Arizona)
Douglas Rankin (Washington, D.C.)
Lisa Rossbacher (Georgia)
Virginia Sisson (Texas)
Robert Sterrett (Colorado)
Michael Thonis (Massachusetts)
Harvey Thorleifson (Minnesota)
John Wise (California)



INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

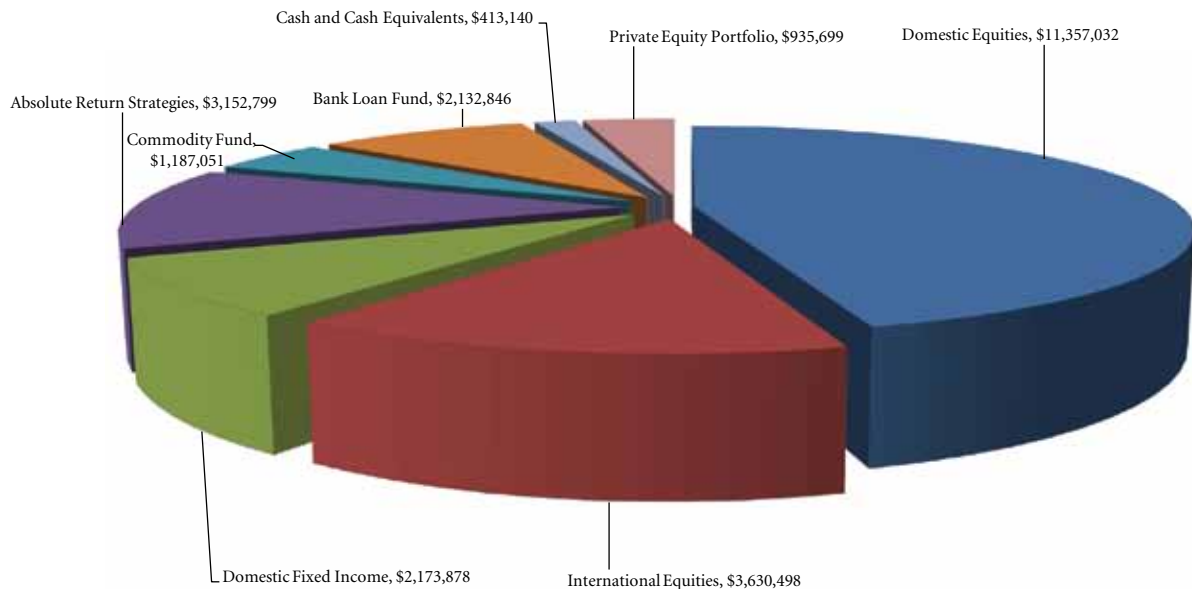
(All funds are noted in U.S. dollars.)

Investment balances were materially affected in FY09. During the year, the GSA portfolio in total decreased \$6,837,545 (28%) due primarily to the significant overall decline in market conditions through year-end coupled with withdrawals for strategic and other approved purposes.

GSA and the GSA Foundation are fortunate to have a diversified investment portfolio and a dedicated team of volunteer members to manage these assets. Through FY09, the joint Investment Committee was composed of eight dedicated and knowledgeable voting members. The Committee relies on expertise provided by an outside consulting firm, Innovest Portfolio Solutions. A formal evaluation of these services was performed in FY07, resulting in high marks and a recommendation to continue the long standing relationship with Innovest. The organization continues to follow an investment strategy of diversification among investment classes within strategic allocation targets. This means the portfolio is designed for lower risk and that overall, the portfolio has not suffered as much as comparable non-managed investments through the end of FY09.



GSA and GSA Foundation Jointly Managed Investment Portfolio (30 June 2009)



INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO *(continued)*

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

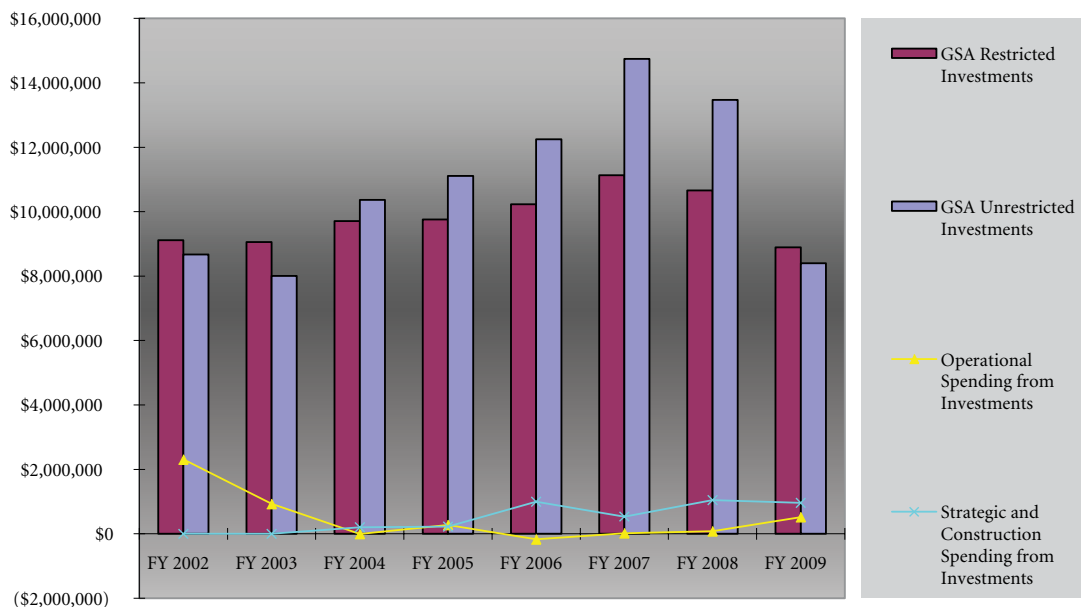
The Investment Committee Chair's report and summary of the portfolio can be accessed at:

<http://www.geosociety.org/aboutGSA/TheSociety/SocietyDocuments/FiscalReports/InvestmentCommitteeChairReport>

GSA's restricted investment balance is primarily comprised of funds from R.A.F. Penrose (donated in the 1930's) and from Joseph T. Pardee (donated in the 1990's).

Unrestricted funds are vital to the future of GSA because they can be used where Council deems there is greatest need. Recently these funds have fostered strategic projects such as GeoScienceWorld, membership growth initiatives, GSA section programs, research grants, new publications, and the National Leadership Initiative. Unrestricted funds have also paid for some of the construction work done on GSA's headquarters building and disaster recovery plan implementation.

As indicated in the chart below, GSA investments have fluctuated with the overall market and in the last year, have decreased significantly with the global economic situation. The investment balances also fluctuate from investment earnings, less amounts paid from the Pardee fund for Research Grants and amounts designated for strategic spending.



The yellow line indicates amounts paid to cover the gap between revenues and operating expenses which has generally decreased over time. The blue line shows the increase in strategic spending.

Council approved using Pardee funds for the Student Research Grant Program beginning in FY04 and then approved spending unrestricted funds for strategic programs beginning in FY06. This spending has a number of checks and balances to ensure viability of the portfolio over the long term to ensure the continuing mission of GSA.

GSA gratefully acknowledges that invaluable contributions of Dr. Jonathan G. Price, Treasurer, and Dr. Peter Lipman, GSA Investment Committee Chair, for service to the Society and preparation of the financial data included in this report.



OPERATIONS

(All funds are noted in U.S. dollars.)



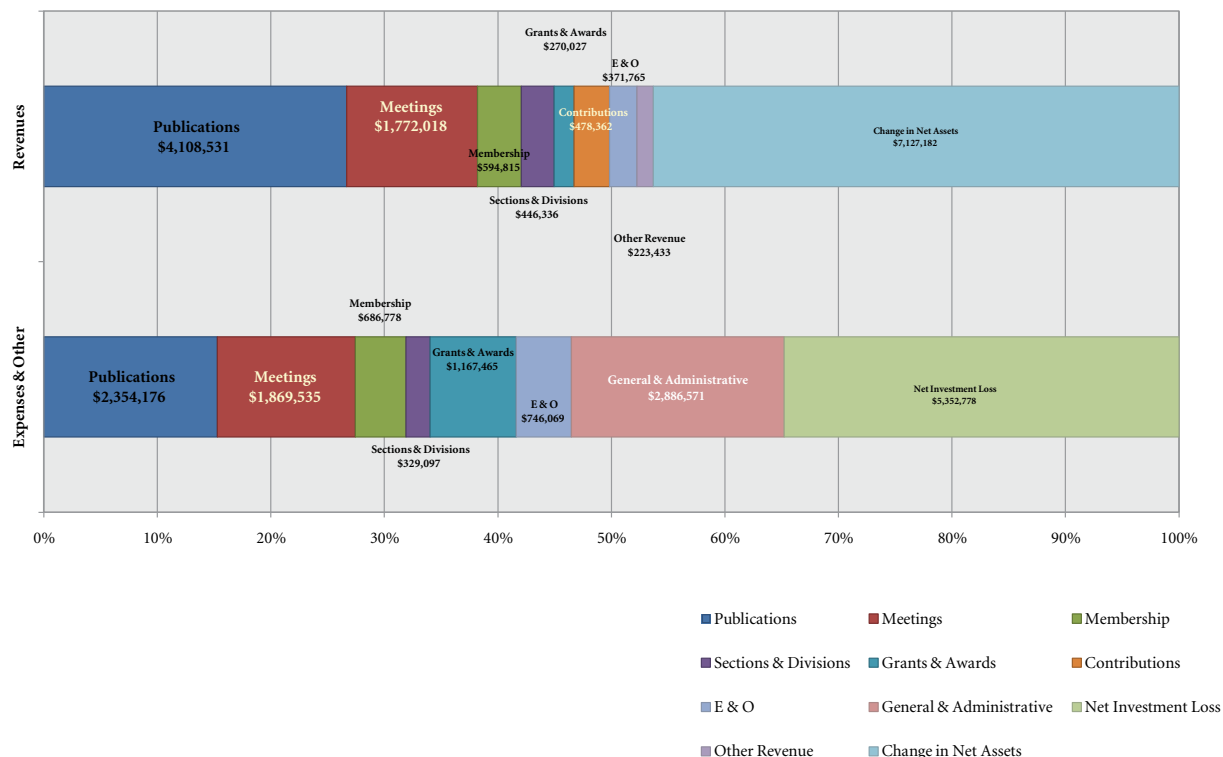
GSA remains a fiscally healthy and viable organization. Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) was challenging but GSA ended the year ahead of the cash budget for the seventh year in a row. This result reflects the continued commitment of all staff and volunteers. JDS Professional Group, the audit firm for GSA, completed the audit for FY09 and issued an unqualified opinion for the organization.

Compared to Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), the change in net assets before investment earnings decreased \$750,017 (73.2%). The principal components of this change are increased net publications margin \$343,412 (24.3%), decreased meetings net margin \$724,358 (115.6%), and an increase in general and administrative expenses of \$436,582 (17.9%).

In addition to ongoing maintenance and improvement of GSA operations, Council authorized expenditures from investments for strategic spending. Projects include the operation of the National Leadership Initiative, launching a new publication named *Lithosphere*, and spending from Pardee and Lipman funds for research grants.

For both FY09 and FY08, the organization had net investment losses of \$5,352,778 and \$561,343, respectively. This principally has resulted from general worldwide economic and market conditions. During FY09 the net unrealized loss on investments is \$5,683,891 while in FY08, the net unrealized investment loss was \$2,999,340.

GSA Audit Report Summary (year ended 30 June 2009)



Links to Full Financial Disclosure

A full copy of the combined audit report can be accessed at <http://www.geosociety.org/aboutGSA/TheSociety/SocietyDocuments/FiscalReports/AuditorsReport>

The Treasurer's report can be accessed at <http://www.geosociety.org/aboutGSA/TheSociety/SocietyDocuments/FiscalReports/Treasurer'sReport>

STEWARDSHIP OF GSA HEADQUARTERS

The GSA campus, maintained by the Society in Boulder Colorado, is a valuable member asset. From serving members, to administering programs, to housing records and intellectual property, and hosting volunteer leaders and guests, GSA headquarters is central to the life of the Society.

Corporate Facilities

Ongoing research is identifying ways that the Society can be more environmentally friendly. Policies for recycling, energy usage, transportation, and land use are being evaluated, revised, and implemented. To this end, GSA recently conducted an energy audit to identify areas in which energy consumption could be reduced. By adopting several energy savings measures, GSA has reduced electric consumption by 19% and natural gas by 17%.

GSA continues to look for ways to reduce its carbon footprint, and with appropriate funding looks forward to implementing solar energy in the near future.



GSA headquarters building in Boulder, Colorado.



GSA headquarters garden coop in Boulder, Colorado.



GSA ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES

GSA has a long tradition of working with a wide range of partners in pursuit of mutual goals. As the Society looks to the future, it will continue to build strong, meaningful partnerships with other societies and organizations across the country and around the world. In doing so, GSA better serves members and the broader geoscience community.



American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists
American Association of Petroleum Geologists
American Institute of Professional Geologists
American Quaternary Association
American Rock Mechanics Association
American Society of Limnology & Oceanography
American Water Resources Association
Asociación Geológica Argentina
Association for Women Geoscientists
Association of American State Geologists
Association of Earth Science Editors
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Association of Geoscientists for International Development
The Clay Minerals Society
Council on Undergraduate Research, Geosciences Division
Cushman Foundation
Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society
Geochemical Society
Geological Association of Canada
Geological Society of Australia
Geological Society of London
Geological Society of New Zealand
Geological Society of South Africa
Geologische Vereinigung
Geoscience Information Society
Groundwater Resources Association of California
History of Earth Sciences Society
International Association of Emergency Managers
International Association of GeoChemistry
International Association of Hydrogeologists
International Medical Geology Association
Karst Waters Institute
Mineralogical Association of Canada
Mineralogical Society
Mineralogical Society of America
National Association for Black Geologists and Geophysicists
National Association of Geoscience Teachers
National Association of State Boards of Geology
National Cave & Karst Research Institute
National Earth Science Teachers Association
National Ground Water Association
Paleontological Research Institution
Paleontological Society
Seismological Society of America
Sigma Gamma Epsilon
Sociedad Geológica Mexicana, A.C.
Società Geologica Italiana
Society for Environmental Geochemistry & Health
Society for Sedimentary Geology
Society of Economic Geologists
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Soil Science Society of America