



Dear Colleagues,

April 2024

This is the second installment of the GSA International Newsletter. In it, we share news of our activities and engagement with international colleagues, including Mary Hubbard’s lecture series in Asia and my meeting in Nairobi with African and other international colleagues. We also share highlights of the Spring meeting of the GSA International committee and deadlines for 2024 Connects, which will be here before we know it!

As always, please share your comments and ideas with me at [esztein@geosociety.org](mailto:esztein@geosociety.org). We are happy to see you when your travels bring you to our Washington, DC office or at scientific meetings in the U.S. or around the world.

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Thank you for reading!

Ester Sztein  
 Director of International Programs  
 Geological Society of America

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*Below: Building relationships at the reception of the Geoscience for Africa event organized by IUGS, Geological Society of Kenya, and Geological Society of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya – February 2024.*



**Mary S. Hubbard** (Professor of Geology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT) was selected as the outbound James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer for 2023-2024. Her first tour included several lectures in Bangladesh and Nepal (read about the early part of her Fall tour [here](#)). She wrote a follow-up blog post sharing her experiences from the second part of her first trip. We just posted it, and you can view it [here](#).

Professor Hubbard is already on her Spring 2024 lecture tour with talks planned for Japan, Indonesia, and India. Through this GSA program, which honors Prof. J. B. Thompson, Jr.'s legacy, Professor Hubbard is sharing her vast contributions to the geosciences with communities around the world, advancing the geosciences and connecting our global community.

We cannot wait to hear about her Spring Tour experiences!



*GSA Fellow Cathy Whitlock (left) and Mary Hubbard (right) following their lecture at the Prithvi Narayan Campus of Tribhuvan University in Pokhara.*



*Left: Sampling pseudotachylites with Lalu Paudel and students from the Central Campus of Tribhuvan University in Nepal.*

*Right: Durga Khatiwada with teaching faculty at the Prithvi Narayan Campus.*



*Below: Large boulder named Bin on the Prithvi Narayan Campus.*



On February 19-23, 2024, GSA Director of International Programs **Ester Szein** visited Nairobi, Kenya for the International Union of Geological Sciences' (IUGS) 79<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting and the Geoscience for Africa event. At the IUGS Executive Committee meeting, Ester gave a talk entitled "Transforming the Geological Society of America's Global Impact" to IUGS leadership and their invited guests from around the world. The last two days of the meeting were centered on the Geosciences for Africa event, which was organized by IUGS, the Geological Society of Africa, and the Geological Society of Kenya. This provided IUGS leadership, affiliated societies, and other international organizations' guests the opportunity to meet with leadership from 12 African countries to discuss avenues for growing the geosciences and the geosciences workforce across Africa. The general sentiment expressed during these days focused on a lack of opportunities to study and work in the geosciences, especially for students and early career scientists, and a sense of isolation but also of opportunity. During the final day of the meeting, meeting participants discussed actionable ways that IUGS and geoscience societies can help address these issues, including creating more opportunities for training and experience for African geoscientists.



*Participants from 12 African countries, IUGS leadership, IUGS affiliated societies, industry, and of international organizations at the Geoscience for Africa event listening to a presentation by Dr. Chrysanthus Muchori (Geological Society of Kenya), 23 February 2024.*



*GSA Director of International Programs Ester Szein presenting at the 79th IUGS Executive Committee meeting.*

During the meeting, Ester also connected with colleagues from a number of IUGS member countries and organizations about possibilities for future collaboration, including the Geological Society of Africa and the Geological Societies of various African countries, Women in Mining-Africa, academic and governmental institutions from various African countries, and international organizations, and professional societies and scientists from Europe and the Americas.

On March 28, 2024 the GSA International Committee held its spring meeting. The meeting, led by GSAI Chair Berry Lyons (The Ohio State University), was attended by 13 committee members and three members of GSA's staff, including Executive Director Melanie Brandt. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Announcements related to the 2024 Connects meeting in Anaheim, CA next September:
  - The announcement of the first collaboration between GSA and the Geological Society of Nigeria, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding at 2023 Connects. GSA and GSN are currently co-organizing a late Spring webinar on the diversity of career pathways and international opportunities for students and early career scientists from Nigeria and the U.S. and from other African countries and beyond.
  - The bilingual “Geociencias in the Américas/Geosciences in the Americas” session. It is convened by Ángel García (James Madison University) and co-convened by Aaron Velasco (University of Texas El Paso), Elizabeth Long (GSA), and Ester Sztein (GSA). Its aim is to include geoscience research taking place all throughout the Americas, giving speakers the option of presenting their work in Spanish or in English. This is the first bilingual session ever organized at GSA!
  - “Life on an Active Convergent Margin- Lessons from the Himalaya and South Asia.” This is a Geological Society of India - GSA session, co-convened by Chuck Bailey (GSA President, William and Mary) and GM Bhat (University of Jammu, India).
  - GSA International endorsed a 2024 Pardee symposium entitled “Sustainable Groundwater in a Changing World”
  - GSA International also endorsed two technical sessions: T62. Shaping a Sustainable Future with Geology in the Twenty First Century: Geology and Society Division Turns 21; and T83. Groundwater Pollution with Arsenic and Other Geogenic Legacy Contaminants, Related Health Risks and Management: Advancing Learning through Geospatial Tools, Machine Learning, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence.
  - More information will be shared when the abstract submission window opens on the week of April 15, 2024. **Please consider submitting abstracts to these and other internationally focused technical sessions!**
- Updates from the 79th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting and Geoscience for Africa event (see above).

## 2024 International Awards

The deadline for nominations for GSA International awards for 2024 has now closed. We received 28 complete applications for the GSA International Travel Award and seven applications for the Christopher I. and Irene N. Chalokwu Travel Award.

Additionally, nine geoscientists were nominated for the Distinguished Career Award, and five candidates were nominated for the 2024-2025 James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lectureship.

The travel grant awardees will be selected and notified by the end of April. The Distinguished Career Award and the J. B. Thompson Lectureship winners will be announced later in May after the GSA Spring Council Meetings.

## Funding Available in 2024

### Funding Opportunities:

- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/>
- Fulbright Programs
  - [Fulbright Scholars Program](#), managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Fulbright Scholar Advisory Board (CIES)
    - Subprogram for administrators is [here](#)
  - [Fulbright Student Program](#), also administered by IIE
  - [Fulbright Specialist Program](#), a program for professionals seeking shorter projects
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
  - Science for Development Fellowships: New two-year fellowships <https://usaid-sdf.usmax.com/Default.asp>

• [International Student](#)

• [International Scholarships - Aga Khan Foundation](#)

• [World Bank Scholarships Program](#)

- [Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program](#)
  - Applications due 24 May 2024 at Noon Eastern Time
- [Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program](#)

## Internationally Relevant Legislation Being Tracked by GSA

GSA is aware of backlogs and delays throughout the process to obtain nonimmigrant visas when traveling internationally to attend professional society meetings. As such, we are closely monitoring recent legislation that would address these issues in the United States. This bill (The Visa Processing Improvement Act) seeks to address a backlog in nonimmigrant visas, which would include those for scientists traveling internationally to attend conferences. The bill, if passed into law, would expand the eligibility for in-person interview waivers and establish a pilot program for remote video conference interviews as an alternative to in-person interviews.

GSA sent a letter of support for this bill to Sen. Richard Durbin (IL), Sen. Lindsey Graham (SC), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (MN), Sen. Jerry Moran (KS), etc. You can find more information on the bill [here](#).



*Photo of the U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC*

## Continued Growth of GSA's Bilingual On-Demand Video Library

We are happy to announce that we're continuing to add presentations to our growing library of bilingual recordings from Connects 2023! This includes videos in English and with Spanish captions, spanning dozens of hours of geoscience content! This program, offered through GSA, will help make science more accessible on a global scale, and we look forward to its continued growth.

For more information and to view our library of recordings from Connects 2023, please visit this link: [https://vimeo.com/geologicalsociety/vod\\_pages](https://vimeo.com/geologicalsociety/vod_pages)

### **European Geophysical Union General Assembly 2024 14-19 April 2024**

[EGU 2024](#) will be held in Vienna, Austria. GSA will be located at booth X205, and throughout the week we will be sharing information on our upcoming events and programs. Keep an eye out on social media and stop by the booth to participate in a mineral raffle and talk to our staff! You will also be able to renew your membership on site. GSA President Chuck Bailey and Ester Sztein will be at the booth at various times during the meeting. Chuck Bailey will be at the booth on Monday 15 from 10 am-noon and from 2-4 pm, and Ester Sztein will be at the booth on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 from 2-4 pm. We will be happy to talk with you about any questions and suggestions you may have! Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for updates on their office hours.

### **2024 Joint Cordilleran and Rocky Mountain Section Meeting 15-17 May 2024**

[GSA's Joint Cordilleran and Rocky Mountain Section Meeting](#) will take place in Spokane, Washington. Hotel registration deadline is 24 April 2024. Ester Sztein will be present during the meeting and will host GSA International office hours, so be sure to stop by and learn about all of GSA's activities and opportunities in the international realm and share your suggestions!

### **International Geological Congress 2024 25-31 August 2024**

[The 37th International Geological Congress](#) will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea in 2024. Early Bird Registration will close on 26 April 2024.

### **American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2024 9-13 December 2024**

AGU 2024 will be held in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [AGU's Meetings Page](#).

### 22-25 September 2024

[GSA Connects 2024](#) will be held in Anaheim, California, and will bring together the geological community to share ideas, best practices, and state of the art knowledge. Share your scientific findings with colleagues, network with leaders in the field, and keep your skills relevant in a rapidly changing world. The official themes for 2024 are “Water in Our Changing World” and “Life Along an Active Margin.”

#### Important Dates:

- **Mid-April 2024**
  - Abstract Submission Opens
- **May 2024**
  - Registration Opens
- **18 June**
  - Abstracts deadline
- **31 July**
  - Early registration deadline
- **8 August**
  - Cancellation deadline
- **28 August**
  - Housing Reservation Deadline
- **4 September**
  - Standard registration deadline
- **5 September**
  - Late registration begins (price increase)

### Join the GSA International Community!

Do you have information or questions about geoscience relevant to the international community? Do you know of opportunities that might be of interest to geoscientists around the world? Join the [GSA International Members Community Page](#)! This is a space for sharing and discussing the many facets of geology on the international stage, and we would love to hear from you!

For more information on the GSA International Committee, and to see a current roster of the committee, please visit the [Committees page](#) on GSA’s website.

*This newsletter was written by Josh Martin, GSA Science Policy Fellow, with contributions from Ester Sztejn, GSA Director of International Programs.*



## Leadership

Chair, GSAI: W. Berry Lyons, *The Ohio State University*

Secretary, GSAI: Monica Jasper, *New Zealand Department of Conservation (New Zealand)*

Chair, IIG: Federico Solano, *USGS*

Past Chair, GSAI: Nazrul Khandaker, *York College/CUNY*

## Membership

Abhijit Mukherjee, *IIT Kharagpur (India)*

Ibrahim Cemen, *University of Alabama*

Isheka S. Orr, *Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis*

Maeve A. Boland, *iCRAG (Ireland)*

Mark Gabriel Little, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and GSA Immediate Past President*

Mihai N. Ducea, *University of Arizona*

Natalia Bykova, *University of Missouri*

Onema Christopher Adojoh, *Northwest Missouri State University*

Prosun Bhattacharya, *KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)*

Sharon M. Locke, *Southern Illinois University*

Yu Zhongbo, *Hohai University (China)*

## GSA Staff

Melanie Brandt, *GSA Executive Director and CEO*

Ester Sztejn, *GSA Director of International Programs*

Darlene Williams, *GSA Governance and Awards Manager*