

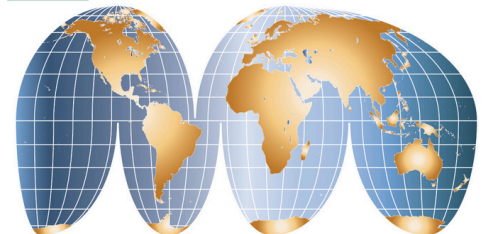


# GSA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

## DEAR COLLEAGUES

This is the third installment of the GSA International Newsletter. In it, we share news of our activities and engagement at scientific meetings in Europe and the U.S., including the first time that GSA International exhibits at a GSA Section Meeting.

Prof. Mary Hubbard shared with us her experiences in the last part of her J. B. Thompson lecture tour in Asia. We are happy to announce the 2024-2025 J. B. Thompson Distinguished Lecturer and the GSA International Distinguished Career Awardee. For their names and short bios, please turn to [their pages](#).



GSA INTERNATIONAL

**CLICK OR SCAN  
HERE TO SIGN UP  
FOR GSA'S  
INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSLETTER:**



GSA Connects 2024 in Anaheim, California is just around the corner! Please see below for more information about Connects, including the first oral session in Spanish in GSA's history.

GSA and the Geological Society of Nigeria (GSN) jointly organized a July 1 webinar entitled "International Opportunities and Career Pathways for Geoscientists," which was very informative and well received.

As always, please find the habitual funding and opportunities section at the end of this newsletter.

A special feature of this issue is an exclusive interview with Prof. Christopher I. Chalokwu (Saint Xavier University), where he tells about his story and his vision for African and global geosciences.

And, last but not least, Ms. Anishma Acharya has joined our team in Washington, DC! She hails from Nepal and is a graduate of Tribhuvan University. She is a great contributor and is eager to work with the GSA community. Welcome, Anishma!

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, D.C. office or at scientific meetings in the U.S. or around the world.

Thank you for reading!

### **Ester Sztein**

Director of International Programs  
Geological Society of America



**PLEASE  
SHARE YOUR  
COMMENTS  
AND IDEAS  
WITH ME AT:**

**[ESZTEIN@GEOSOCIETY.ORG](mailto:ESZTEIN@GEOSOCIETY.ORG)**



# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

## GSA at EGU

GSA attended the European Geosciences Union meeting from 14–19 April 2024 in Vienna, Austria. GSA President Chuck Bailey presented his research and represented GSA. April Leo, Kaleigh Fremgen, and Ester Sztein managed the booth and welcomed participants, held conversations with many, and built relationships with scientists from near and far. Chuck and Ester met with leadership from EGU, the Geological Society of London, and the American Geophysical Union, among others.

The mineral raffle proved to be an attractive way to engage with EGU attendees. We are especially happy to see GSA members coming to visit and learning about what is new at GSA.



## GSA International Booth at U.S. Partnership Expo

NATIONAL  
ACADEMIES *Sciences  
Engineering  
Medicine*

Ester Sztein, Josh Martin, and Anishma Acharya represented GSA at the International Conference of Young Scientists' U.S. Partnership Expo hosted by the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) on 9 May 2024 in Washington, D.C.



This prestigious event gathered scientists, researchers, policymakers, and representatives from various sectors across the globe.

Our team engaged with a diverse array of attendees, which resulted in enhancing GSA's visibility by showcasing our initiatives and expertise to a broad audience from around the world. Discussions included GSA's impactful initiatives in international and policy topics, travel grants, potential collaborations, and upcoming programs including Connects 2024.



## **GSA International in Spokane**

GSA International exhibited at the Rocky Mountain/Cordilleran Joint Section meeting from 15–17 May in Spokane, Washington, USA.

Attendees were interested in discussing international aspects of geology and in learning what GSA is doing in the international space. It was a great experience—and we hope to see you at a GSA Section Meeting in 2025!



## International Opportunities and Career Pathways for Geoscientists Webinar

GSA and the Geological Society of Nigeria (GSN) hosted a joint webinar on “International Opportunities and Career Pathways for Geoscientists” on 1 July. The event featured insightful discussions on career advancement strategies and emerging industry trends in geoscience. Watch the recording at GSA's webinar library.

[CLICK OR SCAN  
HERE TO WATCH  
THE WEBINAR!](#)



## James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer Update

Professor Mary Hubbard shares her enlightening experiences about geological marvels, dynamic field trips, captivating photos and inspiring stories throughout her travels to Japan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and India. Through this tour, she advanced geosciences and fostered global connections.



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MORE!](#)

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

## Announcing Prof. Alan Fryar as the 2024-2025 James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer

As we bid farewell to Mary Hubbard, our esteemed 2023-2024 James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer, we are excited to announce the appointment of Professor Alan Fryar as the James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer for 2024-2025.

Alan Fryar brings a wealth of expertise and experience to this prestigious role. He received his BS in Geology and History from Duke University in 1984, his MS in Geology from Texas A&M University in 1986, and his PhD in Geology from the University of Alberta (Canada) in 1992.



Following his doctoral studies, he was a Research Associate in the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin from 1992 to 1995. Currently, he is a Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Kentucky, where he has been a dedicated faculty member since 1995.

Professor Fryar's teaching portfolio includes classes in hydrology, hydrogeology, and environmental geology. Over his distinguished career, he has mentored eight PhD and 18 MS students. His research interests encompass groundwater/stream interactions, mass transport in karst watersheds, chemical evolution during groundwater recharge and flow, natural attenuation of contaminants, and water resources in developing countries. He has authored or co-authored 73 journal papers and 18 book or proceedings chapters.



Professor Fryar is a GSA Fellow and has also served as Chair of GSA's Hydrogeology Division (2013-14). His international contributions are notable, having been a Fulbright Specialist in Environmental Science to Pakistan (2009-10) and India (2017), a Fulbright Research Scholar in Geology to Morocco (2014), and a Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellow to India (2023).

We eagerly anticipate the insights and interactions Professor Fryar will bring to his tour once his schedule is confirmed. Stay tuned for updates on his upcoming lectures and engagements.

**Applications for the 2025-2026 Thomas, Jr. Distinguished International Lectureship are now open. Self-nominations for U.S. and international lecturers are welcome.**

✓ **BS in Geology & History - Duke University**

✓ **MS in Geology - Texas A&M University**

✓ **PhD in Geology - University of Alberta**

✓ **Research Associate - Bureau of Economic Geology**

✓ **Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences - University of Kentucky**

✓ **Authored or co-authored 73 journal papers**



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## **Honoring Bilal U Haq: Distinguished Career Award Recipient**

Bilal U Haq's name has become synonymous with the study of eustatic sea-level variations, a body of highly influential work that covers the entire Phanerozoic, published in the last three and half decades with several of his colleagues. His contributions also include seminal research in paleoceanography, paleoclimatology, paleobiogeography, Seismic and sequence stratigraphy and some of the earliest papers on the utility and perils of natural gas hydrates.

The core of his pedagogic effort, however, has been on the transference of knowledge to both academia and industry through advanced courses and technological advice to the international community

His legacy includes saving a prolific Miocene fossil site from destruction which is now a National Geopark in the Chinese province of Shandong, and the creation of another Geopark of giant sculptures based on Foraminifera in Zhongshan City, across the bay from Hong Kong, together with the Chinese marine biologist Zheng Shouyi. This Geopark attracts over 1,000 visitors daily.

Prof. Haq has served the international community also through his active role in organizations with geoscience linkages such as IUGS, UNESCO, and IOC, and by providing advice to Geological Surveys, oceanographic facilities in developing countries and national and international resource companies. The Sorbonne conferred upon him a doctor honoris causa degree and he was awarded the French Geological Society's Prestwich Prize, the Shepard Medal for excellence in marine geosciences and the NSF's Antarctic Medal.

He was inducted into the European Academy of Sciences and Letters. Bilal U Haq is also a poet who has published four volumes of verse. His poetic license (dubbed "geopoetry" by his friends) has a theme that promotes 'collaboration with Nature'.

**Saved Miocene fossil site from destruction**



**Created National Geopark in Zhongshan City**



**Sorbonne conferred a doctor honoris causa degree**



**Prestwich Prize, Shepard Medal, & NSF's Antarctic Medal Winner**



**Inducted into the European Academy of Sciences and Letters**



**Four-Volume published poet**







## AN INTERVIEW

# WITH PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER I. CHALOKWU

Professor Chalokwu is Professor Emeritus of Geochemistry and Physical Science at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois, USA, and president/CEO of Medical Assay Laboratory, Inc. He has received numerous recognitions for his work, including his induction as Fellow of GSA and of several other professional societies.

His support of the next generation of geoscientists as an academic and as an administrator is well known. One special example is the Christopher I. and Irene N. Chalokwu Travel Award for undergraduate or graduate student travel for students in Africa, working on any aspect of African geology, to attend and present their research at GSA's annual meeting, GSA Connects.

Professor Chalokwu answered several questions that we had about his trajectory, his perspectives on geoscience and geoscientists, and the importance of developing and sharing African geoscience research. We are happy to share his answers with you.

**What  
brought  
you from  
Nigeria to  
the U.S.?**

“

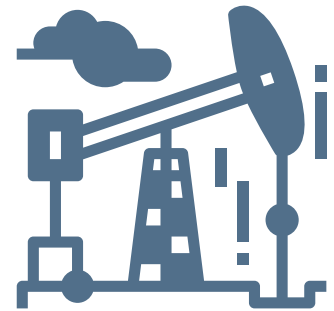
*I came to the U.S. 51 years ago as an international student on an F1 visa. I did all my schooling here in the U.S. from bachelor's degree to postdoctoral studies.”*

## What was your journey to discovering geoscience as a career?



*I was born in Jos, Nigeria, a city informally known as Tin City because of major mining activities for tin and columbite. I remember visiting the mines in Jos as a young lad in elementary school, which sparked my interest in science.*

*I also came of age when major oil fields were discovered in Nigeria by Shell-BP. I was primarily interested in mining or petroleum geology in my formative years as a student of geoscience. I do not know what happened along the way and I ended up in igneous petrology and geochemistry."*



## What are the inflection points in your career?



*After obtaining a Ph.D. in geology and geochemistry from Miami University I landed a tenure-track position at Auburn University in 1984. I quickly rose through the ranks to full professorship and obtained a Fulbright Senior Fellowship to teach at the University of Ghana and conduct research at Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone. These activities exposed me to the intricacies of African geology and the challenges faced by students and early career professionals working in Africa.*

- ✓ Ph.D. in Geology & Geochemistry
- ✓ Fulbright Senior Fellowship
- ✓ Vice Chancellor at the University of Tennessee
- ✓ Provost at Saint Xavier University
- ✓ External Examiner for universities in Africa

*A major shift in my career trajectory occurred when I became a college dean and it occurred to me that I have a better chance of influencing a broader and considerable number of students through the curriculum than the limited number of geology students whose research work I may supervise."*

*Becoming a vice chancellor at the University of Tennessee, a provost at Saint Xavier University, and an external examiner for universities in Africa gave me a broader picture of the higher education landscape in the U.S. and internationally. As an academic administrator, I became intrigued with the issues of student engagement and in the process developed an abiding interest in student success through the academic curriculum."*

## What advice do you have for Nigerian students interested in a career in science?



“

*My advice for any student interested in a career in science is to approach science from an interdisciplinary perspective. I encourage students to develop a strong background in foundation courses in math, physics, chemistry, biology, earth science, and computer science.*

*My advice is for Nigerian students who wish to study abroad to seek majors that have applied components instead of majoring in programs that are merely duplicative of programs elsewhere in Nigeria."*

## Why did you decide to contribute toward awards for African students to come to GSA Connects?



*My goal is to provide an avenue for disseminating high-quality research by students in Africa and in the process bring African geology into focus for U.S. professionals.*

*GSA is the premier geoscience society in the world and is uniquely ideal for fostering international scientific exchange and developing lasting linkages. My experience working in Africa is that few opportunities exist for students to travel abroad for meetings. The Chalokwu Travel Award for students in Africa is intended to remedy this situation and hopefully encourage others with similar interests to contribute to this and other student travel funds."*

## How can GSA support the further development of a vibrant geoscience community in Nigeria?



*GSA can support a vibrant geoscience community in Nigeria by developing linkages with geoscience organizations in Nigeria. These geoscience organizations and GSA can jointly sponsor theme sessions at GSA Connects. It will be nice to develop reciprocity whereby U.S. geoscience students also attend conferences hosted by geoscience societies in Africa."*



# INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

## Road to GSA Connects 2024

*22–25 September 2024*

*Anaheim, California, USA*



- **Register Now:** Take advantage of standard registration rates and secure your spot at the forefront of geological science.
  - Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) will enjoy a 50% discount on their registration fees.



- **Roommates and Rides Community:** Share your requests for roommates or rides and make new connections while saving money.



**GSA Associated Societies:** Promote GSA Connects 2024 to your members and receive a 20% discount on registration fees. To qualify, societies must provide GSA with proof of their promotional efforts via email and social media tags or mentions.



**Session in Spanish:** This is the first time in GSA's 136-year history that we will hold a session mostly in Spanish! We look forward to seeing you at Technical Oral Session T178: Presentaciones de Geociencias en Español: Una Nueva Experiencia en una Reunión de la Sociedad Geológica Americana (GSA), and Spanish Presentations about Geosciences in the Americas: A New GSA Experience (Posters). Session T178 will take place on Monday, 23 September. Esperamos verlos allí!

# GSA GRANTS & AWARDS

## Center for Professional Excellence

**STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS FOR GSA CONNECTS:** GSA Student Members presenting at Connects 2024 can apply for travel grants through GSA's Divisions. Deadlines are as follows:

- **APPLICATION DEADLINE: Divisions: 1 August - 1 September**

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HERE TO APPLY!](#)



**EUGENE AND CAROLYN SHOEMAKER**  
**IMPACT CRATERING AWARD:**

Graduate and undergraduate students researching impact craters in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, astronomy, or biology can apply for a \$3,000 grant.

- **APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 16, 2024**



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**GSA International**  
**Distinguished**  
**Career Award**

The GSA International Distinguished Career Award honors a GSA member who has significantly advanced international geological sciences through scientific investigations and service. Nominations are accepted year-round, with a deadline of 1 March 2025 for consideration.

- **APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 16, 2024**



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# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS & SCHOLARS

- **Japan Society for the Promotion of Science**: Offers funding for international researchers to conduct research in Japan.
- **Fulbright Programs**:
  - Scholars Program: Managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Fulbright Scholar Advisory Board (CIES).
    - Subprogram for administrators [here](#).
  - Student Program: Also administered by IIE.
  - Specialist Program: A program for professionals seeking shorter projects.
- **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**:
  - Science for Development Fellowships: New two-year fellowships.
- **International Student**: Resource for international students interested in studying abroad.
- **International Scholarships - Aga Khan Foundation**: Supports students from developing countries with outstanding academic achievement.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)**: Supports U.S. graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines.
- **DAAD Scholarships**: For international students to study and research in Germany.
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Funds**: Supports researcher mobility and career development in Europe and beyond.



- **Rhodes Scholarships**: For students from various countries to study at the University of Oxford.
- **Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowships**: Supports women from developing economies in advanced STEM studies.
- **Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Research Grants**: For global researchers conducting projects in Switzerland.
- **International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) Grants**: Supports international scientific collaboration in geodesy and geophysics.
- **National Geographic Society Grants**: Funds exploration, research, conservation, education, storytelling, and technology projects globally.

# POLICY UPDATES

## 75th North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit

On July 10th and 11th, leaders of the countries making up the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are meeting in Washington, D.C. for the 75th annual NATO Summit. NATO was originally established on 4 April 1949 when 12 countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty and has since grown to 32 member countries.



Recent years have seen NATO adopt a new Climate Change and Security Action Plan (2021), highlight climate change as a defining challenge of our time in the NATO Strategic Concept (2022), and establish the NATO Centre of Excellence for Climate Change and Security in Montreal, Canada during last year's NATO Summit. [For more information on NATO's work in science, visit the link here.](#)

## **Wilson Center Lithium Triangle Panel**

On 2 May 2024 in Washington, D.C., The Wilson Center's Latin America Program held a panel discussion on critical mineral interests in the "Lithium Triangle". This discussion was driven by a new report on the region's lithium industry, its role in regional economic development, and its importance to the global energy transition. Participants in the panel included Ricardo Becker Toro (Former Chief Advisor, Mining Ministry, Chile), Diego Von Vacano (Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University, born in Bolivia), and Julián González Jáuregui (Coordinator, China Studies Department, FLACSO Argentina).

The discussion covered many of the topics in the report, including China's increasing presence in Argentina's lithium industry and its distinctive investment strategies; Chile's potential for expanding its lithium production; and the factors that have prevented Bolivia from developing its lithium resources. [The Wilson Center's report can be accessed here.](#)

## Legislation

GSA is continuing to monitor progress on the following bills introduced to Congress that are relevant to international geoscience, including The Visa Processing Improvement Act, which seeks to address a backlog in nonimmigrant visa processing, and The American Science First Act, which would affect the availability of NSF grants for entities that might work to advance technologies used by the Chinese military. Both bills remain in committee with no additional hearings scheduled and are unlikely to proceed further during this election year in the United States.

# THANK YOU

### Take Our Geoscience Professional Development Survey!

Make your voice heard and help shape the future of geoscience professional development by **completing this survey**. Your input is crucial for enhancing support and growth opportunities in the field.



### INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER AUTHORS

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