



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA®

GSA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

GSA INTERNATIONAL'S HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONNECTS 2024

GSA International (GSAI) played a pivotal role at Connects 2024 in Anaheim, CA, promoting global collaboration and celebrating geoscience achievements. Among the events GSAI hosted was the GSAI Committee Business Meeting Breakfast and the GSA International Reception. Over 100 participants attended this celebration of the International and Chalokwu Travel Grant awardees, the Farouk El-Baz Student Research Grant for Desert Studies awardees, the International Distinguished Career Awardee Bilal Haq, and the 2024–2025 James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer Alan Fryar.



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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GSA INTERNATIONAL

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



- ✓ GSA International (GSAI) hosted key events
- ✓ New MOUs Signed
- ✓ GSA International (GSAI) hosted key events
- ✓ Increased International Participation

This exciting event helped create a strong sense of community among attendees. In addition, GSA signed new MOUs with the Unión Geofísica Mexicana and the Sociedad Geológica Mexicana (see below for more details). This year, 1,553 international abstract authors contributed to Connects, representing 20.4% of all authors—a 2.4% increase over the previous year.

GSAI also made history at Connects 2024 by supporting four technical sessions, including the Society's first-ever session in Spanish—a remarkable milestone in GSA's 136-year history. The international table at the Connects Exhibit Hall buzzed with attendees exploring international opportunities and learning about GSAI's initiatives.

These accomplishments reflect GSAI's dedication to fostering partnerships, expanding global outreach, and strengthening GSA's position as a hub for international geoscientists. As GSAI looks ahead to **Connects 2025 in San Antonio, Texas, from 19–22 October**, we are eager to welcome you at the October 20, 2025 international reception and to build on this year's success.

INSPIRING TESTIMONIAL: ONEMA ADOJOH

Onema Adojoh's Journey from GSAI Travel Grant Awardee to Tenure-Track Professor - In His Own Words

“

Through the GSAI, I got a travel grant to attend the GSA meetings in Baltimore (2015) and Denver (2016).



*Onema Adojoh Ph.D DSc.
Assistant Professor
Department of Natural Sciences - Geology
Northwest Missouri State University*

It was there where I met Dr. Francisca Ikuenobe (Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla) and Dr. Carlos Jaramillo (Smithsonian Research Institute in Panama), who both told me that they saw me give good presentations at different conferences and asked what I intend to do after my PhD graduation.

My response was that I need a postdoctoral research fellowship. To be honest, about the penultimate month to my PhD defense, Dr. Ikuenobe called to tell me that she selected me to be her new postdoctoral research fellow. Following the acceptance of the offer letter, I moved to the U.S. for the fellowship.

GSA Connects, being such a large event, takes me away from my academic routine every year since 2015 and has provided me with valuable learning and networking opportunities that offered me chances to hear from experienced professionals and rewardingly helped me to be hired from the University of Liverpool (UK) to undertake a postdoctoral fellowship at Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla.

Following the fellowship, I did get other adjunct and visiting professor positions in different US universities, but all be it, am currently a tenure track assistant professor at Northwest Missouri State University.

Based on my own successful experience, I urge early career / developing professionals and students to build on these guiding principles to actualize personal networking, learn, communicate/present well, make new friends, and foster professional links at conferences as you never can tell: your future job offer(s) may be right there close to you as you attend scientific conferences!"

**Be the Next Onema Adojoh -
Apply for a Travel Grant Today!**

Onema Adojoh's journey from GSAI travel grant recipient to tenure-track professor is a testament to **the power of networking and opportunities at GSA** events. You could **be the next to experience this transformative journey!**

GSAI's travel grants provide essential support for early-career professionals and students to present at GSA meetings, connect with mentors, and advance their careers. Don't miss out on this chance to **take your career to the next level!**

***For more
information and
to apply, visit GSA
Travel Grants.***



FORGING STRONGER TIES: NEW MOUS SIGNED

The Geological Society of America (GSA) formalized partnerships with key geoscience organizations across the Americas during 2024.

At Connects 2024, GSA President Christopher (Chuck) Bailey and Executive Director and CEO Melanie Brandt signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Unión Geofísica Mexicana (UGM) represented by its president, José Luis Macías Vázquez, and with the Sociedad Geológica Mexicana (SGM), represented by its president Rigoberto Ruiz Barragán.

In addition, GSA extended its network by signing MOUs in December 2024 with the Asociación Geológica Argentina (AGA), represented by its president Pablo José Pazos and vice president Cecilia del Papa, the Geological Society of Chile (SGCh), represented by its president Cristóbal Ramírez de Arellano Melo and vice president Pamela Jara, and the International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGEO), represented by its president Kevin Page and executive secretary Ewa Glowniak. GSA will celebrate these new partnerships at Connects 2025.



Signing of the MOU with ProGEO (l-r) Priscilla Grew (U of Nebraska), Christopher (Chuck) Bailey (GSA, William and Mary), William (Drew) Andrews (Kentucky Geological Survey), Ester Sztain (GSA) at the Cosmos Club, under the watchful eye of John Wesley Powell.



L-r Chuck Bailey (GSA, William and Mary), José Luis Macías Vázquez (UGM), Melanie Brandt (GSA).

- ✓ Advancing Geoscience
- ✓ Supporting Geoscientists Globally
- ✓ Fostering Cross-Cultural Exchange
- ✓ Key MOUs Signed

These MOUs aim to strengthen the collaboration between the societies and further their shared goals of advancing geoscience and supporting geoscientists globally. These partnerships reflect a commitment to fostering scientific collaboration, professional growth, and cross-cultural exchange in the geosciences.



DR. ALAN E. FRYAR'S INSIGHTS

Dr. Alan E. Fryar's Insights at GSA Connects 2024 and Upcoming Global Lecture Tour

Dr. Alan E. Fryar, GSA's James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer for 2024–2025, delivered a compelling session at GSA Connects 2024 titled "Checking the Pulse and Taking the Temperature: How Do Springs Respond to Environmental Stresses?" Held on Tuesday, 24 September, the session drew a diverse audience of scientists, environmentalists, and policymakers eager to explore the dynamics of spring systems under environmental pressures.



Alan Fryar (University of Kentucky) getting his award

Dr. Fryar’s impactful work doesn’t stop at Connects 2024. Over the next year, he will take his expertise to a global stage through a series of lectures in India, Türkiye, and Kyrgyzstan, fostering international collaboration and education in geosciences. We look forward to hearing about the valuable experiences he will gather throughout his journey and the impact he will create.

Nominations are now open for the 2025 James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer! We welcome both incoming and outgoing nominations, including self-nominations. Apply here: [**James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer Nomination.**](#)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

- **Mary S. Hubbard**, GSA’s James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer 2023-2024 toured 6 countries, delivering lectures to 560 students and 210 faculty members, enhancing GSA’s global outreach and engagement.
- **Ester Sztein**, Director of International Programs at GSA, visited Nairobi, Kenya, from February 19-23, 2024, for the International Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS) 79th Executive Committee Meeting and the Geoscience for Africa event. She presented a talk on transforming GSA’s global impact to IUGS leadership and attendees from around the world.
- From April 14-19, 2024, GSA participated in the **European Geosciences Union (EGU)** meeting in Vienna, Austria, where President Chuck Bailey presented his research. GSA’s booth was managed by April Leo, Kaleigh Fremgen, and Ester Sztein.
- **GSA’s staffers Ester Sztein, Josh Martin, and Anishma Acharya** managed a booth at the International Conference of Young Scientists' U.S. Partnership Expo in Washington, D.C., on May 9, 2024, connecting with U.S. and international scientists, researchers, and policymakers.
- GSA International exhibited at the **Rocky Mountain/Cordilleran Joint Section Meeting in Spokane, Washington**, from May 15-17, 2024, engaging attendees in discussions on international aspects of geology and GSA’s global initiatives.
- On July 1, 2024, **GSA co-hosted a webinar with the Geological Society of Nigeria on “International Opportunities and Career Pathways for Geoscientists.”** The event offered valuable insights into career advancement and industry trends to the 142 attendees of this webinar. The recording is available in GSA’s webinar library.
- GSA announced **Dr. Alan E. Fryar as the GSA’s James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer 2024-2025**, following the conclusion of Mary S. Hubbard’s term.

- Geological Society of London and GSA co-sponsored two hybrid conferences: **Digital Geoscience 2024: Intelligent Solutions in Geoscience** (29 October 2024) and **Geofutures: Planetary Geoscience Conference** (November 14-15).
- GSA honored **Dr. Bilal U. Haq** with the prestigious **International Distinguished Career Award**, celebrating his outstanding contributions to the field of geoscience.
- GSA was well represented at the **International Geological Congress (IGC)** with a prominent booth and a strong presence in the official U.S. delegation. GSA supported 24 U.S. graduate students and early-career scientists with travel awards, enabling them to present their research at this important international event.
- For the first time in GSA's 136-year history, **a technical session at Connects was conducted in Spanish**. This groundbreaking session, titled "T178. Presentaciones de Geociencias en Español I: Una Nueva Experiencia en una Reunión de GSA," marks a significant step toward inclusivity in the geosciences.
- **GSA signed new MOUs** with the Unión Geofísica Mexicana (UGM) and the Sociedad Geológica Mexicana (SGM), the Asociación Geológica Argentina (AGA), the Geological Society of Chile (SGCh), and the International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGEO) towards strengthening global geoscience collaborations.
- GSA was present at the November 2024 **Unión Geofísica Mexicana Annual Meeting in Puerto Vallarta**, where President Bailey gave a talk on geoh heritage and Ester Sztein worked to strengthen the relationship with UGM, SGM, and other Mexican institutions.
- **Ester Sztein** traveled in November 2024 to San Luis, Argentina, to participate in the Argentine Geological Congress.
- **Anishma Acharya and Ester Sztein** represented GSAI at the American Geophysical Union meeting in December 2024 in Washington, DC.
- **GSAI bid farewell** to committee members Abhijit Mukherjee, Ibrahim Cemen, Ishika S. Orr and Maeve A. Boland, and welcomed new members Michael C. Wizevich, Gino Bianchi Mosquera, Fai Chanchai, and Florentin Maurrass.

These highlights showcase GSA's ongoing commitment to expanding its international footprint, supporting emerging geoscientists, and fostering global collaboration in the geoscience community.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On 17 December 2024, the **Biden Administration announced a rule that will streamline approvals for the H-1B visa program**. This program, created by Congress in 1990, allows U.S. employers to temporarily hire foreign workers in specialty occupations. The new rule is designed to give more flexibility to both employers and workers by updating the criteria for specialty occupations and for nonprofit and government research organizations that are exempt from the annual cap on H-1B visas. The rule also offers additional flexibility for F-1 visa students who want to transition to H-1B status, helping them avoid disruptions in their legal status and work authorization.

This action from the executive branch comes alongside a new bill ([H.R. 10375](#), introduced in Congress on 11 December and sent to the House Judiciary Committee) aimed at strengthening the American mining workforce through international collaborations. The bill would allow foreign engineers specializing in critical minerals to work full-time in the U.S.; encourage educational partnerships, research collaborations, joint degree programs, and training initiatives between U.S. and foreign institutions; and provide funding for scholarships, fellowships, and grants to support professional development in critical minerals sectors globally.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS DEADLINES



GSA Honorary Fellow Award

- Nomination Deadline: 15 February
- Submit Your Nomination: [Nominate here](#)



International Distinguished Career Award

- Nomination Deadline: 15 February
- Submit Your Nomination: [Nominate here](#)



Farouk El-Baz Student Research Grant for Desert Studies

- Nomination Deadline: 18 February
- Submit Your Nomination: [Nominate here](#)



GSA International 2025 Travel Grant

- Nomination Deadline: 10 March
- Submit Your Nomination: [Nominate here](#)



Christopher I. and Irene N. Chalokwu 2025 Travel Grant for Students in Africa

- Nomination Deadline: 10 March
- Submit Your Nomination: [Nominate here](#)



James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lectureship 2025-2026

- Nominations are **open for both incoming and outgoing lecturers**. One nominee should **reside outside North America** and be able to **lecture at North American institutions**, while the other should **reside in North America** and be able to **lecture internationally**. We welcome self-nominations.
- Nomination Deadline: 15 February
- Submit Your Nomination: [Nominate here](#)

EMPOWERED BY THE GSA TRAVEL GRANT



My First GSA Connects 2024 Experience By Matías Barrionuevo, 2024 International Travel Grant Awardee from Argentina

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I had the opportunity to attend GSA Connects 2024, thanks to the GSA International Travel Grant. Without this support, it would not have been possible for me to participate due to the current economic situation in my country. I can't express how grateful I am for this grant. It was my first time attending GSA Connects. I was both excited and nervous because I knew the importance of this meeting, which gathers geoscientists from all over the world."

During the conference, I enjoyed the talks and posters, and I also appreciated the opportunity to present my own work and engage in the discussion that followed. Last but not least, it allowed me to connect with people working in Andean tectonics."

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Opportunities from Other Organizations for Researchers and for Undergraduate, Graduate and Postgraduate Scholars

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science: Application is open for Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan 2025.

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowships: For researchers of all career stages to conduct research in Germany. Funding includes travel, stipends, and research costs.

EPA STAR Fellowships: For graduate students focusing on environmental science and policy, supporting education costs and research.

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.

Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship Program: The Aga Khan Foundation provides international scholarships aimed at supporting students from developing countries who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and potential. These scholarships cover a wide range of disciplines and are designed to enable talented individuals to pursue higher education opportunities globally.

International Student: A comprehensive online resource providing information, resources, and guidance for international students interested in studying abroad.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP): The NSF GRFP supports outstanding graduate students in NSF supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. For U.S. graduate students only.

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Scholarships: Available to international students for study and research in Germany.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Funds: Open to researchers of any nationality, these funds support mobility and career development in Europe and beyond.

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Research Grants: Available to researchers worldwide for projects conducted in Switzerland.

National Geographic Society Grants: These funds are to support exploration, research, conservation, education, storytelling, and technology projects worldwide.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH

2024 EAGER Award / Maurice “Ric” Terman Research Grant

GSA International is delighted to announce the 2024 recipient of the East Asian Geoscience and Environmental Research (EAGER) Award, also known as the Maurice “Ric” Terman Research Grant: **Mr. Muhammad Fattahulazizan**, a PhD candidate at Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB). His work is titled “**Strategic Roadmap for Integrating Digital Twin Technology in Urban Planning using Big Data and GIS: A Case Study of Brunei Darussalam.**”

The award is supported by the **Terman Fund** at the GSA Foundation and administered in partnership with the **Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP)**. This prestigious \$5,000 award, open to students in **East and Southeast Asia**, promotes geoscience and environmental research within CCOP member countries. Please see <https://ccop.asia/ourwork-EAGER>

SELECT UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS IN 2025

AAAS Annual Meeting <https://meetings.aaas.org/>

- 13-15 February, | Boston, Massachusetts.

Nepal Geological Congress www.ngs.org.np

- 10-11 March | Kathmandu, Nepal

European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2025 <https://www.egu25.eu/>

- 27 April –2 May | Vienna, Austria

XI Earth Sciences Convention, and Exhibition of Products, New Technologies and Services:

<https://www.cubacienciasdelatierra.com/>

- 7-11 April | Havana, Cuba

GAC-MAC Joint Annual Meeting: Geological Association of Canada (GAC) with the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC). <https://gac.ca/events/gac-mac-annual-meeting/>

- 11-14 May | Ottawa, Canada

30th Colloquium of African Geology (CAG 30) "Unveiling Africa's Geological Resources: Forging a Path for Sustainable Development." Geological Society of Africa

<https://cag30nbi.org/>

- 23-27 September | Nairobi, Kenya

Caribbean Geoscience Conference <https://www.caribgeosconf.org/home>

- 7-13 June | Kingston, Jamaica

European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE) Annual 86th Conference and Exhibition <https://eageannual.org/>

- 2-5 June | Toulouse, France

International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) Scientific Assembly <https://www.iavceivolcano.org/>

- 29 June–4 July | Geneva, Switzerland

Geological Society of America 2025 Connects

<https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2025/home>

- 19-22 October | San Antonio, Texas

American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting 2025

- 15-19 December | AGU, New Orleans, Louisiana

GSA SHINES AT THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION (AGU) ANNUAL MEETING

GSA, including GSAI, had an incredible presence at the recent **AGU Fall Meeting held on 9-13 December at Washington DC**, creating a dynamic space for geoscientists from across the globe to connect, engage, and learn about the Society's diverse offerings.

Our booth was abuzz with activity throughout the event, with members and visitors stopping by to renew and enroll memberships, explore our initiatives, and discover the breadth of opportunities GSA offers. GSA showcased over 60 titles from Mountain Press's Geology Series, a recent and exciting acquisition by GSA. Visitors were also thrilled to learn about GSA's professional development resources, offering U.S. and international travel and research grants, networking, and career support.

EXPLORING GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

A Collaborative Webinar by The Geological Society of America (GSA) and the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf)



On 12 December, GSA and GSAf recently co-organized an engaging webinar, **Energy Transition I: Geothermal Energy**, featuring:

Dr. David T. Wang (Technology Manager, U.S. Department of Energy), who discussed the science and potential of geothermal energy, with a focus on its market potential and current R&D priorities at the Department of Energy.

Dr. Isaack Kanda (Chief Geochemist, Geothermal Development Corporation, Kenya), who presented a case study from Kenya, emphasizing insights from the African perspective and strategies to overcome barriers to implementation.

The webinar, which attracted over 200 registrants from 32 countries and attended by 78 participants, emphasized the global importance of geothermal energy in driving sustainable energy transitions. Participants submitted thoughtful and relevant questions, sparking dynamic discussions on topics ranging from site selection and low-temperature geothermal sources to challenges like well clogging and utilizing unconventional energy sources.

Dr. Wang and Dr. Kanda’s explanations showcased the immense potential of geothermal energy to meet global energy needs, with particular relevance to both advanced and emerging economies. Thanks go to Dr. Onema Adojoh (Northwest Missouri State University; GSA) and Dr. Daniel Kwayisi (University of Ghana; GSAf), for organizing this event together with GSA staff!

For those who missed this vibrant session, a recording will soon be available in the **GSA Webinar Library**. The event’s success highlights the value of cross-continental collaboration and knowledge-sharing in advancing geoscience. Stay tuned for more collaborative events from GSA to champion the role of geoscience in addressing critical global challenges!

ROAD TO GSA CONNECTS 2025

Call for Proposals

GSA invites its Associated Societies to submit proposals for **GSA Connects 2025, taking place in San Antonio, Texas, from 19–22 October 2025.**

This is your opportunity to highlight cutting-edge research and foster scientific collaboration across continents. GSA Connects 2025 is more than just a meeting—it's where the geoscience community comes together to innovate, inspire, and shape the future of the field.

**OFFICIAL
THEMES
FOR 2025:**

- “Energy and Resource Innovations in the 21st Century”
- “Geology without Borders”
- "From Earth to the Cosmos: Geoscience Beyond Our Planet"

**WE ARE ACCEPTING
PROPOSALS FOR:**

**Field
Trips**



**Technical
Sessions**



**Short
Courses**



**Don't miss a chance to showcase your
society's expertise and contribute to this
globally recognized event.**

*For submission
details or questions,
please contact us at:*



*Deadline for
Submission:
31 January 2025!*

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS

To support our international participants, GSA offers an early abstract submission deadline of **15 May**, providing sufficient time to receive decisions and plan travel. Abstract submissions open on **1 May**, with the final deadline on **5 August**.

REGISTRATION FOR CONNECTS 2025!

GSA is offering **steep registration discounts for participants from Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)**, with an additional exclusive discount for **Associated Society (AS) members**. Stay tuned for more details and get ready to join us at Connects 2025!

ARGENTINE GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The XXII Argentine Geological Congress was held on 17-22 November, 2024 in San Luis, Argentina. Participants included hundreds of scientists from many Argentinian institutions and numerous students and early career researchers together with many international participants. The first keynote speaker was Prof. Suzanne Kay, past president of GSA, who spoke of her decades of scientific work in Argentina. Ester Sztein participated in the meeting and worked towards the agreements with both the Asociación Geológica Argentina and the Sociedad Geológica de Chile, which were signed in December 2024.



UNIÓN GEOFÍSICA MEXICANA ANNUAL MEETING (RAUGM)

This meeting took place on 27 October - 1 November in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. This yearly event convenes Mexican and international geoscientists from all career stages. President Chuck Bailey gave a presentation on geoheritage, and Ester Sztein held several meetings with Mexican colleagues to define next steps and activities between the UGM and GSA, and between SGM and GSA.

GSA had the pleasure of co-sponsoring the Kermés de las Ciencias de la Tierra y del Espacio (Earth and Space Sciences Fair) on 29 October in central Puerto Vallarta as part of the RAUGM. A total of 530 enthusiastic participants from eight K-12 local schools attended this day-long event to broaden their perspectives and deepen their interest in earth and space sciences.



THANK YOU

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSLETTER AUTHORS

Ester Sztein and Anishma Acharya

