Welcome to the long-awaited 13th issue of PLATES! Despite the publication hiatus, the Cordilleran Section board has been steadily working behind the scenes to keep the Section moving forward. With less than 2 years of lead-time, our most pressing task was to identify hosts for the 2016 meeting. Our plea was answered by a multi-institution host consortium: Jade Star Lackey will serve as Conference Chair, with Colin Robins and Robert Gaines, all from The Claremont Colleges, along with Brian Kraatz (Western University of Health Sciences), Joan Fryxell (Cal State San Bernardino) and Hilary Lackey (Mt. San Antonio College). We’re intrigued with this collaborative design, and think it might serve as a model for future meetings involving hosts at smaller, but neighboring, geoscience institutions.

With 2016 taken care of, we were able to line up future hosts, giving them ample time to work meeting organization into their long-range Departmental goals. Cal State Northridge claimed 2019, following up on their 2001 Universal City meeting, and making that Department one of our few repeat-hosts. Northern Arizona University (organized by the outgoing chair of the Management Board, Paul Umhoefer) and Arizona State University will host the 2018 Section Meeting in Flagstaff, AZ, a joint meeting with the Rocky Mountain Section. Which brings us to May 2017: pack your snorkels and hiking boots, and we’ll look forward to seeing you in Honolulu, Hawaii, hosted by the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Expect field trips to the neighboring islands—more details coming soon from Craig Glenn, the Honolulu 2017 Conference Chair. Contact information for other future meetings is posted on the GSA website. Aloha!

2016-2017 Board Nominations

We’re soliciting nominations for the next Vice-Chair (1-year term, followed by 1-year Chair & Past-Chair terms) and the next Secretary-Treasurer (4-year term starting 2017-18; renewable once). Please send nominations to Kathleen Surpless, Nominating Committee Chair (ksurpless@trinity.edu), by February 1, 2016.

PLATES 2015 (Issue no. 13)
Cordilleran Section Newsletter

2014-2015 Cordilleran Section Officers
Chair: Diane Clemens-Knott
Vice-Chair: Andy Barth
Secretary-Treasurer: Rod Metcalf
Past-Chair: Paul Umhoefer
Incoming Vice-Chair: Kathleen Surpless

Message from the Chair

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With 2016 taken care of, we were able to line up future hosts, giving them ample time to work meeting organization into their long-range Departmental goals. Cal State Northridge claimed Spring 2020, following up on their 2001 Universal City meeting, and making that Department one of our few repeat-hosts. Spring 2019 will take the Section to Portland, OR, courtesy of another repeat-host, Portland State University (1996). Northern Arizona University (organized by the outgoing chair of the Management Board, Paul Umhoefer) and Arizona State University will host the 2018 Section Meeting in Flagstaff, AZ, a joint meeting with the Rocky Mountain Section. Which brings us to May 2017: pack your snorkels and hiking boots, and we’ll look forward to seeing you in Honolulu, Hawaii, hosted by the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Expect field trips to the neighboring islands—more details coming soon from Craig Glenn, the Honolulu 2017 Conference Chair. Contact information for other future meetings is posted on the GSA website. Aloha!

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Don’t let the January 5, 2016 deadline for submitting abstracts for the April 4-6 Ontario meeting catch you off-guard. Field trip information will be posted soon. Hope to see you there!
Behind the Scenes

Most of the Board’s efforts go towards maintaining the cycle of section meetings: first searching for hosts, then focusing on our student members, by providing grants and awards (see right). This coming September the Section will support undergraduate Annika Deurlington of Claremont-McKenna College to represent us at the AGI-hosted Geosciences Congressional Visit. Annika will share details of her experience with students attending the 2016 Ontario meeting. And another student, to be nominated by the 2016 Ontario Organizing Committee, will serve as the 2015-16 Student Representative to the Cordilleran Management Board.

In addition, GSA Management periodically asks the Cord-Board to nominate Cordilleran members to Society-wide committees. This year Monica Gower was selected to replace former GPPC Chair Jeff Rubin on the Geology and Public Policy Committee; additionally, Scott Burns will serve as an at-large member. The Section continues to provide financial support to GSA’s On-to-the-Future initiative, which supports attendance of a diverse student cohort at their first annual meeting, and this fall we will help fund attendance of graduate student Nicole Knight at the Baltimore Annual Meeting where she will represent the Cordilleran Section on the GSA Student Advisory Council.

One last honor for the Board is the annual recognition of recently deceased Cordilleran members. It’s a bittersweet reminder that we all stand on the shoulders of giants.

Emphasizing student travel support to section meetings makes it difficult to provide much travel support to the Annual GSA meetings. The Cord-Board matches travel funds donated by section members on their fall registration forms—a pool which typically provides registration fee waivers for many student members requesting travel assistance. This year, a generous donation from an anonymous Cordilleran section member will triple the travel assistance for Cordilleran student members to Annual GSA meetings during the next four years! Given the clear value of meeting participation, as well as the unmet need, please consider supporting student travel to both the Cordilleran and Annual GSA meetings.

Hope to see YOU in ONTARIO, California in APRIL 2016!

2015 Student Presenter Awardees

**Undergraduate Poster**

**Kyle Milke** (U Alaska Fairbanks) TRANSPORT MECHANISMS OF METAL-BEARING HISTORIC MINE TAILINGS IN A SEMI-ARID ENVIRONMENT

**Undergraduate Oral Presentation**

**Riley Witte** (U Alaska Fairbanks) EVALUATING POTENTIAL FOR RECOVERY OF TE AS A BYPRODUCT OF AU EXTRACTION AT THE GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINE (WHITEHALL, MT)

**Graduate Oral Presentations**

**Nicole Knight** (U Alaska Fairbanks) AN ASSESSMENT OF TELLURIUM IN SEMI-ARID MINE TAILINGS AT DELAMAR, NEVADA: IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMAN AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

**Benjamin Johnson** (West Virginia University) EARLY PALEOZOIC ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTH SLOPE SUBTERRANE: EVIDENCE FROM AN ACCRETIONARY COMPLEX EXPOSED IN THE NORTHEASTERN BROOKS RANGE, ALASKA

**Graduate Poster**

**Gabriela Ferreira** (Portland State University) ARSENIC MOBILIZATION FROM SILICIC VOLCANIC ROCKS IN THE SOUTHERN WILAMETTE VALLEY

**Student Support Report**

Thanks to the support of our members & the GSA Foundation, we have continued to support student travel to the Cordilleran Section meetings. Travel to section meetings is a particular challenge, given the vast portion of North America housed in the Cordilleran Section. Over each of the last 5 years the Section has allocated $13 to $18K for travel of student author-presenters. Each year, between 18 and 33 student members received travel grants of $350 to $1000.

**Emphasis**

Given the clear value of meeting participation, as well as the unmet need, please consider supporting student travel to both the Cordilleran and Annual GSA meetings.

**Hope to see YOU in ONTARIO, California in APRIL 2016!**
**Undergraduate Oral Presentation**

**Ben Johnson** (West Virginia University) NE Brooks Range with folded limestone in the Kayak shale just below the Lisburne Group

**Graduate Poster**

**Riley Witte** (U Alaska Fairbanks) fieldwork in Kamchatka

**Graduate Oral Presentation co-awardees**

**Nicole Knight** (U Alaska Fairbanks in Delamar, Nevada collecting wind measurements to assess metal(loid) transport