

SAPROLITE

Newsletter of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America
Winter 2008-2009

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR -- **So how are you doing?**

Perhaps you have had this telephone call from a colleague, or it is yet to come. It starts out as a how are you doing conversation but soon gets down to business. Eventually, the question is popped or the statement is made. Would you like to be a Geological Society of America section officer, or perhaps it is a statement of, I would like to submit your name as a candidate for a GSA section office. Reeling from this out of the blue inquiry, you have to think fast. In the millisecond of careful consideration you run through the pros and cons, time commitments, feelings of inadequacy, and finally arrive at an emotion that is hard to suppress, flattery coming from an esteemed colleague. Your response is probably going to be yes. You hang up the phone and then reflect on the age old question of what have I signed up for? If you are like me, you have been involved with GSA for years giving talks, convening sessions, running field trips, but a Southeastern Section officer? What is the job description? Fortunately, most of the brass tacks are in the Southeast Section bylaws posted on our website <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/southe/index.htm>, which is hosted on our national Geological Society of America website, but what lies beyond the brass tacks? We will explore that in the following paragraphs.

So, how is the southeastern section set up? First, who are we? We consist of geologists from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, but we have new states joining us this year. These are the Mexican states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán. Let me extend a warm welcome to our new member states.

What is our section administrative structure? Our elected officers consist of a chair, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer. Elections occur each year, with only the secretary-treasurer eligible for successive terms. The management board consists of the officers, chair-elect, vice-chair elect, past chair, past vice-chair and a GSA Councilor appointed by the national office. GSA Council members residing within the Section boundaries are *ex officio* members. The appointed chairs of the section committees (currently education, geology and public policy, liaison, and student support) are voting *ex officio* members. The chair-elect becomes a voting member of the management board one year prior to taking the office of chair, whereas the vice-chair elect and secretary-treasurer elect become members of the management board one week prior to the regional meeting start date. Retiring officers continue as members of the management board until one week after the beginning of the next year's regional meeting.

What are the duties of the elected and appointed officers? Most of the duties are outlined in our bylaws, so let me mention some of the duties that are not listed. The chair administers the annual business meeting(s) at the regional meeting, communicates with the committee chairs, addresses issues or concerns of the Section, and explores new Section initiatives. The chair convenes a meeting of the

management board the afternoon before the regional meeting commences and, if necessary, a meeting of the SE Section membership during the regional meeting.

What are the jobs of the vice-chair? Our Section vice-chair is the chair of the regional Section meeting, and in agreeing to host a Section meeting submits their name as a vice-chair candidate. There is no doubt that this is a big job. However, some of the meeting duties are shared by the Section secretary-treasurer, and the national GSA office coordinates convention center and hotel logistics and contracts. The vice-chair is helped by having a meeting coordinator from the GSA national office and attends a meeting workshop in Boulder.

The secretary-treasurer position historically has been held for a number of years. It is helpful to have continuity, an understanding of sectional and national GSA history, and to carry forward budgetary experience. To put it bluntly, the principal job of the secretary-treasurer is to keep money in our account. The secretary-treasurer must monitor the financial status of the Section and provide financial statements to the Section management board and national office. A major concern of this officer is that our regional meetings make money so that there are sufficient funds to support such things as our Section's student research and travel grants.

As stated above, there are also a number of Section committees detailed in our bylaws. If you have an interest in being an officer and/or in being on one of our committees, please let the current officers or committee chairs know. You may be thinking that you want to test the waters before jumping in. You can do that by attending open administrative meetings at the sectional and national meetings. This will give you the opportunity to see how business is conducted and to meet officers and discuss your interests or concerns. During these times of shrinking university budgets, I need to mention that financial support is provided for officers to attend GSA meetings.

We have an excellent professional GSA staff in Boulder, yet we need to remember that our Society is primarily run by volunteers. The Sections are almost exclusively administered by volunteers. Without your contribution and expertise, GSA could not exist. I solicit your continued involvement in promoting our Society with students, attending regional conferences, presenting talks, convening sessions, leading field trips, conducting short courses, hosting meetings, and when the call comes asking you to serve – saying yes. I remain flattered that I was asked to be chair of the SEGSA but can now also say that I have enjoyed this experience very much.

On another issue, let me comment on the Houston GSA Annual Meeting. This was an exciting meeting, but what most impressed and pleased me was to see the large number of recruiters. Students were having multiple job interviews and were being treated very well. It is great to see such a demand for our students and to have so many interesting professional career options.

In closing, I want to thank Andy Bobyarchick and his colleagues for a wonderful 2008 spring meeting in Charlotte. I enjoyed the excellent science, and my wife and I enjoyed the hotel and its surroundings. As our spring 2009 meeting draws near and my time as chair draws to a close, I wish to thank our secretary-treasurer Donald Neal for keeping us financially secure and our vice-chair Eric Oches and Jeffrey Ryan for hosting us in Florida. See you in St. Petersburg.

Roy Van Arsdale
Chair, Southeastern Section

Financial Status of the Section

At the end of the fiscal year, 30 June 2008, the Section had \$116,551 in its accounts. We transferred \$10,000 to our GSA Foundation account. The total interest realized during the fiscal year was \$7035. This interest, together with a reported surplus of \$19,407 from the Section meeting in Charlotte, NC, and Section members' dues, is used to fund the Section's student Grant Program and Student Travel Program as well as general operations of the Section.

Student Research Grants

The Section has two research grant programs, one for undergraduates and another for graduate students. In the fall of 2008, three undergraduate grants totaling \$2052 and ranging from \$456 to \$800 were awarded. Grant competition in the spring of 2008 resulted in the expenditure of \$5460 to support the research of 7 graduate students.

Student Travel Grants

The Student Travel Grant program continues to be very popular. In the spring of 2009, the Section will expend \$4500 in support of students presenting papers at the St. Petersburg, FL, meeting. In the fall of 2009, the Section will expend \$4500 to support the travel of students presenting papers at the GSA Annual Meeting in Portland, OR. The Section appreciates the matching funds provided by the GSA Foundation. Total student expenditures for 2009 will be \$9000.

57th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 57th annual meeting of the Section was held in Charlotte, NC, on April 10 and 11, 2008. Andy Bobyarchick of the University of North Carolina, Charlotte was the General Chair. Seven symposia and 11 theme sessions, 6 field trips and 1 workshop were planned, with 313 papers delivered during the meeting.

58th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 58th annual meeting of the Section will be held in St. Petersburg, FL, on March 12 and 13, 2009. Jeff Ryan and Rick Oches have planned an exciting meeting, and everyone is invited to attend. Information about the meeting is available online at <http://www.geosociety.org/sectDiv/southe/09mtg/index.htm>.

**Election of Officers, 2009-2010
Southeastern Section, GSA**

The slate of officers for the Southeastern Section election is presented below with biographical data. Please vote by checking the box before each candidate's name. To vote for a person not listed on the ballot, write his/her name on the blank write-in line for the appropriate office and check the corresponding write-in box.

Your ballot must be returned to GSA at the address below no later than March 15, 2009:

Geological Society of America, Attn: SE Section Ballot
P.O. Box 9140
Boulder, CO 80301-9140

If you prefer, you may fax your ballot by March 15, 2009, to (303) 357-1074, Attn: SE Section ballot, or you may vote online by March 15, 2009, at <<https://rock.geosociety.org/ballot/vote.asp?Name=SE>>.

BALLOT

Chair

Richard Diecchio Write-in: _____

Chair Elect

Charles Trupe Write-in: _____

Vice Chair

Christopher Bailey Write-in: _____

Secretary-Treasurer

Donald W. Neal Write-in: _____

RICHARD DIECCHIO, STRATIGRAPHY. Educ: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, BS 1970; Duke University, MS 1974; Univ of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Ph.D. 1980. Prof Exp: Stone & Webster Engineering Corp, 1974-76. Asst to Prof to Assoc Dean, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, 1980-present. Member: GSA, AGU, NAGT, GSW. Research: Appalachian stratigraphy, Eocene history of Virginia. Mailing Address: College of Science, Mail Stop 6A3, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030; e-mail: rdiecchi@gmu.edu

CHARLES H. TRUPE, STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY. Educ: George Mason University, BS 1985; Univ of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, MS and Ph.D. 1989, 1997. Prof Exp: Asst to Assoc Prof, GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIV, 1998-present. Member: GSA. Research: Structural geology and tectonics. Mailing Address: Department of Geology and Geography, Room 1110, Herty Building, 68 Georgia Avenue, Bldg. 201, Box 8149, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460; e-mail: chtrupe@georgiasouthern.edu

CHRISTOPHER M. BAILEY, STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY. Educ: College of William and Mary, BS 1989; Johns Hopkins Univ, MA and Ph.D. 1991, 1994. Prof Exp: Asst to Prof, College of William & Mary, 1996-present. Member: GSA. Research: Structural geology, tectonics, landscape history. Mailing Address: The College of William and Mary, Department of Geology, Dr. Chuck Bailey, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795; e-mail: cmbail@wm.edu

DONALD W. NEAL, STRATIGRAPHY. Educ: College of William and Mary, BS 1973; Eastern Kentucky Univ, MS 1975; West Virginia Univ, Ph.D. 1979. Prof Exp: Logging geologist, Exploration Logging of USA, Inc, 1975-76; Research Assoc, West Virginia Geol & Econ Survey, 1977-79; Asst to Assoc Prof, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, 1979-present. Member: GSA, SEPM, IAS, SGE, NAGT. Research: Appalachian Basin stratigraphy, petrology, petroleum geology. Mailing Address: Dept of Geological Sciences, East Carolina Univ, Greenville, NC 27858-4353; e-mail: neald@ecu.edu

Please fill in the following required information before returning your ballot. It is used only to confirm voter eligibility.

Name (Print) _____ Signature _____

*GSA Member # _____

* If you do not know your GSA member number, please contact the GSA Service Center by e-mail at gsaservice@geosociety.org or by phone at (303) 357-1000 (option 3) or toll-free in the U.S. at 1-888-443-4472.