



# SAPROLITE

NEWSLETTER of the SOUTHEAST SECTION

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Winter 2014-2015

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

If you have been an active member in the Southeast Section for some time, you might have noticed that a small, but important tradition had faded into obscurity. The latest issue of Sapolite, our section newsletter, was last published in the winter of 2010. At the urging of members, and our Management Board, we are making an attempt to revive Sapolite as an electronic mechanism to keep our membership informed about section news, finances and upcoming meetings. At the same time, we welcome your feedback. Please let me or the rest of the section officers know what you think of Sapolite, and how it might be improved. As always, you can also find section news and information on our website <http://www.geosociety.org/sections/se/>.

We are a large and diverse section that includes the U.S. states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In Mexico, our section includes the states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán. Having such a widespread geography presents many challenges for the section, and thus, there are many ways that you can help.

**Be an involved member.** The Southeast Section runs on volunteers: from its officers, to section meeting chairs, to student volunteers. No matter where you are in your career: student, professional, or retiree, there is a role for you in the section. Many officers and chairs have been serving the section for years, and we would welcome new faces and new ideas. I guarantee you won't be turned away!

**Volunteer at meetings.** Think back to your most recent Southeast Section meeting. How was it? Was there something that you would do differently if you were in charge? Every year we have a need for chairs, whether it is to coordinate the meeting itself, field trips, technical program, exhibits, or volunteers. **We are currently seeking input for possible meeting locations in 2017.** Having planned the Asheville meeting in 2012, I can say with authority that there is a tremendous sense of accomplishment that comes from meeting planning. All you need to do is ask a section officer or the meeting chair how you can help!

**Chair a theme session.** Have you ever looked at the technical program for a section meeting and wished there was a theme session for you? There is no easier way to find a place for your abstract than to make a place for it in the program by chairing a theme session.

**Encourage student involvement.** Overall attendance at Southeast Section meetings has been steadily climbing over the past decade, while the actual number of professional attendees has remained roughly the same. The difference? Vanloads of students! In terms of proportion of attendees, students accounted for roughly 45% of the attendees at Charlotte in 2008, but has risen steadily with each meeting to 52% of attendees at the Blacksburg in 2014. Bringing that van full of students can make the next section meeting a success!

**Support GSA programs.** When you pay your annual membership fee, consider donating a little extra to the Southeast Section, GSA Divisions, and GSA Foundation. Funds are always needed to support awards, research, scholarships, student travel grants, and more. For more information on how you can make a financial difference in GSA, visit <http://www.gsafweb.org/>.

**If you see these folks, thank them for their service.** Don Neal, our Secretary/Treasurer has spent many years singlehandedly keeping this section on solid financial footing, while Chairs have come and gone. Elizabeth McClellan (Chair Elect) and Richard Laws (Past Chair) have worked closely with me to ensure a smooth transition in leadership this year. Bob Tracy (Past Vice-Chair) co-chaired the 2014 section meeting with Ken Eriksson, and along with Steve Whitmeyer (Technical Program), Chuck Bailey and Lorrie Coiner (Field Trips), and the rest of the organizing committee, planned an extremely successful meeting in Blacksburg.

**Come to Chattanooga!** Join the Southeast Section for a fantastic meeting at the Chattanooga Hotel, March 19-20, 2015. The local committee, Jonathan Mies (General Chair); Amy Brock-Hon and Mark Steltenpohl (Technical Program); Ann Holmes, Michael Gibson, and Chuck Trupe (Field Trips); Kevin Hon (Exhibits); and Claire Landis (Student Volunteers) have put together a great meeting with a slate of sessions and field trips that will place this meeting among the biggest and most memorable in section history. Register now at the meeting website: <http://www.geosociety.org/sections/se/2015mtg/index.htm>

On behalf of the Southeast Section Officers, I hope you have a happy and productive 2015. See you in Chattanooga!

Sincerely,

Blair Tormey

Chair, Southeast Section

[btormey@wcu.edu](mailto:btormey@wcu.edu)

## **SOUTHEASTERN SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

### **Section Officers, 2013-2014**

Chair:	Blair R. Tormey	Western Carolina University
Past Chair:	Richard Laws	University of North Carolina, Wilmington
Vice Chair:	Jonathan Mies	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Past Vice-Chair:	Robert Tracy	Virginia Tech
Chair-Elect:	Elizabeth McClellan	Radford University
Secretary-Treasurer:	Donald Neal	East Carolina University

### **GSA Councilors:**

Janet S. Herman, Robert J. Tracy, Harry (Hap) McSween

### **Financial Status of the Section**

At the end of the fiscal year, 30 June 2014, the section had \$122,024 in its accounts. The total interest realized during the fiscal year was \$1155. This interest, together with a reported surplus of \$36,110 from the section meeting in Blacksburg, interest from the SE Foundation account, and section members' dues, was used to fund the Section's student Grant Program and Student Travel Program as well as general operations of the section. The SE Section endowment account with the GSAF contained \$136,697 in both restricted and unrestricted funds at the end of the calendar year.

### **Future Section Meetings**

2015 – Chattanooga, TN	Jonathan Mies, Local Chair
2016 – Columbia, SC	Venkat Lakshmi, Local Chair, <a href="mailto:vlakshmi@geol.sc.edu">vlakshmi@geol.sc.edu</a>
2017 –	
2018 – Joint with NE	TBA

### **Student Research Grants**

The Section has two research grant programs, one for undergraduates and another for graduate students. The undergraduate research grant program awarded \$2399 for four undergraduate research grants in the spring of 2014. Checks are issued in July for undergraduate grants. In the spring of 2014, 7 grants totaling \$6500 were awarded to 7 graduate students. Total expenditure for research grants in 2013-2014 was \$8899. The allocation for 2014-2015 will remain at \$9000.

### **Student Travel Grants**

The Student Travel Grant program continues to be very popular. In the fall of 2013, the Section expended \$10,500 to support the travel of 105 students presenting papers at the annual meeting in Denver. In the spring of 2014 the section awarded \$5600 in travel grants (\$160 each) for 35 students to attend the Blacksburg, VA, meeting. The Section appreciates the matching funds provided by the GSA Foundation (\$4500) and donations of the membership. Additional revenue in support of travel grants was provided by the SE Endowment Fund.

### **63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the section was held 10-11 April 2014 at the Skelton Conference Center and Inn at Virginia Tech. Kenneth A. Eriksson and Robert J. Tracy of Virginia Tech were the General Co-Chairs. There were 28 theme sessions and 4 symposia with 401 papers presented. Eleven field trips were offered.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald Neal  
Secretary-Treasurer, Southeast Section

### **NEWS FROM AROUND THE SECTION**

#### **Important Dates in 2015:**

1 February, 2015: Session Submission Deadline, GSA Annual Meeting  
2 February, 2015: Graduate Student Research Grant Deadline  
17 February, 2015: Chattanooga Early Registration Deadline  
19-20 March, 2015: Southeast Section Meeting, Chattanooga TN  
1 April, 2015: Undergraduate Student Research Grant Deadline  
11 August 2015: Abstract Submission Deadline, GSA Annual Meeting  
28 September 2015: Early Registration Deadline, GSA Annual Meeting  
1-4 November, 2015: GSA Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD

#### **GSA Environmental & Engineering Geology Division**

We would like to invite you to participate in the upcoming GSA Annual Meeting November 1-4, 2015 in Baltimore (<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2015/>). We will likely have topical sessions at this meeting focused on environmental and engineering geology. We are very interested in both the research and industry/applied approach to Environmental and Engineering Geology. With that in mind, we are looking forward to having both students and professionals give presentations and poster sessions!

Jessica Witt

Member-At-Large

GSA Environmental & Engineering Geology Division

<http://rock.geosociety.org/egd/index.html>

**Do you have news to share with the Southeastern Section?** Email the Section Chair, (Blair Tormey, [btormey@wcu.edu](mailto:btormey@wcu.edu)) or Section Secretary-Treasurer (Don Neal, [neald@ecu.edu](mailto:neald@ecu.edu)) and we'll be sure to include it in the next issue of Saproliite!

TO MEMBERS OF GSA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION  
**Ballot for 2015 - 2016 Officers Southeastern Section**

Please vote by completing the section at the bottom and mailing it to GSA postmarked no later than 7April. Biographical information on the candidates is on the following pages.

You may vote online **by 7 March** at:

Access the online e-ballot by using either your GSA member number or your e-mail address that is in your GSA member records. For membership assistance, please contact GSA at: [gsaservice@geosociety.org](mailto:gsaservice@geosociety.org) or call (888) 443-4472. You may also submit your completed ballot by Fax: (303) 357-1074.

**Section Chair** (one-year term):

- Elizabeth McClellan  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair Elect** (one-year term):

- Robert J. Tracy  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice Chair** (one-year term):

- Venkat Lakshmi  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary-Treasurer** (one-year term):

- Donald W. Neal  
 Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Ballot To:** Section Office, Geological Society of America  
PO Box 9140, Boulder, CO, 80301-9140

Mailed ballots should be postmarked no later than 15 April.  
You must complete the following section to validate your ballot:

**Your Name** (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Signature** (required) \_\_\_\_\_

**Your GSA Member Number** \* (required) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Your 7 digit GSA member number is on the top right corner on the external mailing label. If you need assistance with your member number, call: (888) 443-4472

## **Biographies of Candidates for 2015 - 2016 Section Officers**

### **Section Chair (one year term)**

**ELIZABETH MCCLELLAN:** Petrology. Educ: Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham, B.S., 1985; Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville, M.S., 1988, PhD. 1993; Prof. Exp: Asst. to Assoc Prof, Western Kentucky Univ., 1993-1999; Assoc. Prof., Univ. of Kansas, 1999-2006; Asst. Prof., Univ. of Tennessee, Martin, 2006-2009; Assoc. Prof., RADFORD UNIVERSITY, 2009-present; Member: GSA, AGU, MSA.

### **Chair Elect (one year term)**

**ROBERT J. TRACY:** Petrology. Educ: Amherst College, B.S., 1967; Brown University, M.S. 1970; and Univ. of Massachusetts, Ph.D., 1975; Prof. Exp: Research Fellow, Harvard Univ. 1975-78; Asst to Assoc Prof., Yale Univ. 1978-1986; Prof, VIRGINIA TECH, 1986-present; Member: GSA.

### **Vice Chair (one year term)**

**VENKAT LAKSHMI:** Geophysics. Educ: Roorkee University, B.E., 1987; Univ. of Iowa, M.S., 1989; Princeton University, M.A., 1992, Ph.D., 1996; Prof. Exp.: Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, 1996-1999; UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Asst. Prof. to Prof., 1999-present; Member: GSA, AGU, AMS, ASCE, IEEE.

### **Secretary-Treasurer (one year term)**

**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, SGE.