



# SAPROLITE

NEWSLETTER of the SOUTHEASTERN SECTION  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Spring 2022

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## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings!

You, the members and friends of the Southeastern Section, bring camaraderie and joy with a deep understanding of the geological processes at work throughout the world and solar system. We all greatly appreciate the extent to which you have supported the Section during the pandemic, in the years before, and in the years to come, and we are looking forward to seeing you at meetings soon. Your energy and enthusiasm, coupled with great knowledge and understanding of the Southeast and beyond, provides many opportunities for our upcoming young scientists, our members, and our society.

As I was pulling together this message to you, I found myself reading through all the wisdom and advice from previous Sapolite “Messages from the Chair”. If you have the opportunity, please go [reread them](#) when you have a chance. There you will find a wonderful history over the years, and insights which are still critical today. You will read in this message iterations, extensions, and take-aways that reflect many of the ideas of years past, and I am sure years to come.

The Southeastern Section is in overall great shape! Blair has pulled together the numbers, and as our Secretary/Treasurers do, he has kept us in order and on track. You can find these details later in Sapolite, and I encourage you to have a look. Encourage students to apply for the research and travel awards – they are a great opportunity to get them involved and have them as members of the Society and Section. While our membership numbers have dipped slightly during the pandemic, we continue to work with our young scientists to get them involved and remind them of the importance of geology as it pertains to all facets of society. From earthquakes, landslides, flooding, and erosion, to landscape architecture, structural design, and engineering, geology and the geosciences sit at the forefront to good decisions. Continued training and development are critical to maintaining our geo-force. We get there through a combination of field-based, laboratory-based, and technologically advanced methods.

Financially, we are doing very well, in part from your generous donations, and from dues, sponsorships, and our meetings. Many thanks to our colleagues at Auburn University for virtually hosting the Southeastern Section meeting last year—the meeting proved successful in many ways,

but I know we all look forward to seeing each other in Cincinnati in person this April. Our Section finds itself in a strong financial position largely because of the simplified online venue at Auburn, cautious and conscientious planning at that meeting, and the continued participation and support of our dedicated members through the pandemic. Details may be found in the Financial Status of the Section below.

As we move forward in the next month and year, COVID restrictions are being reduced and our ability to interact more closely in the classroom, conference room, laboratory, and field increases daily. Please continue to be vigilant while taking advantage of the budding Spring and work together to strengthen our commitment to the science. Personally, I am looking forward to more frequent trips to the Coastal Plain and Continental Shelf over the next few months, and I know many of you will be headed to your prospective provinces and laboratories with colleagues. When you have the opportunity, work with your colleagues and provide the opportunities for students to engage, whether through field trips or visiting a laboratory or classroom. I encourage you to invite your new colleagues, undergraduate and graduate students, educators, and members of the public to join the Society and our Section. Membership and participation are what keeps us and the discipline going.

Think about donating your time, your expertise, and your funds to the Section and Society as a whole. Take a student along. Get involved. You are what makes Southeast Section the best section in GSA – let's keep it that way!

With warm regards from the Southeast Section Officers, we wish you a great year to come and look forward to seeing in Cincinnati!

Best,  
M. Scott Harris  
Chair, Southeastern Section  
[HarrisS@cofc.edu](mailto:HarrisS@cofc.edu)

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## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2021

<b>Management Board</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Chair:	Scott Harris	College of Charleston
Past Chair:	Colin Sumrall	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Vice Chair:	Rebecca Freeman	University of Kentucky
Past Vice-Chair:	Bill Hames	Auburn University
Chair-Elect:	Katie Luciano	South Carolina Geological Survey
Secretary-Treasurer:	Blair Tormey	Western Carolina University
GPPC Rep:	Ken Taylor	North Carolina Geological Survey
Education Rep:	Lynsey LeMay	Thomas Nelson Community College
Student Rep:	Miguel Valencia	Florida International University
Councilor:	Madeline Schreiber	Virginia Tech
GSA President-Elect	Mark Little	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

## Membership

At the end of December 2021, Southeastern Section membership stood at 2,396 total members, including 759 Professionals, 481 Seniors, 2 Honorary Fellows, 312 Early Careers, 742 Students, 56 K-12 Teachers, and 44 Affiliates.

## Financial Status of the Section

At the end of the fiscal year, 30 June 2021, the SE Section Endowment had a balance of \$310,707, and the SE Section Operating Account had a balance of \$111,740, up from \$86,349 at the beginning of FY21. This significant increase was due in large part to the \$41,203 in reported revenue from the virtual section meeting hosted by Auburn University. The total interest realized was \$740 during FY21, and income from members' dues was \$2,661. This combined income is used to fund the Section's Student Research Grants, Student Travel Grants, and general operations of the section.

## Future Section Meetings

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Local Chair(s)</u>
Cincinnati, OH	April 6-8, 2022	Rebecca Freeman (SE); Craig Dietsch (NC)
Reston, VA	March 16-18, 2023	Arthur Merschat (SE) Patrick Burkhardt (NE)
Harrisonburg, VA	2024 (tentative)	Steve Leslie and Steve Whitmeyer

## Student Research Grants

The Section has two research grant programs, one for undergraduates and another for graduate students. The graduate grant competition in February 2021 resulted in the expenditure of \$10,600 from remaining FY21 funds to support the research of 8 graduate students from a pool of 9 applicants. In the late spring of 2021, the section awarded 4 undergraduate research grants, from a pool of 4 applicants, resulting in an expenditure of \$3,418 from the \$15,000 allocated for FY22.

## Student Travel Grants

In the fall of 2020, the annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec was fully virtual. As a result, no student travel grants were awarded. In the spring of 2021, the section meeting in Auburn, AL was also fully virtual. Once again, no student travel grants were awarded. The section resumed its support of student travel grants with the in-person Annual Meeting in Portland, OR in the fall of 2021.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 70<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the section was held virtually in April 2021, and was hosted by Auburn University. Bill Hames, at Auburn University, was the Meeting Chair. There were 2 symposia, 12 theme sessions, and 2 short courses, all virtual. 10 virtual field trips ran successfully, and a field trip guidebook was produced. As the first-ever virtual meeting for the section, the event was well planned, financially successful, and well attended (345 meeting participants, and a record 510 field trip participants). The Section deeply appreciates the support from sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees in what was a challenging and uncertain year. The financial success of the 2021 Auburn meeting helped offset losses from the cancelled 2020 Reston meeting, as well as continue funding, uninterrupted, our student research grant programs.

## 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the section will be held in April 2022 in Cincinnati, OH, as a joint meeting with the North-Central Section. Rebecca Freeman, at the University of Kentucky, will be the Southeastern Chair. Over 500 abstracts, 6 short courses, 45 technical sessions, and 12 field trips will highlight the region's geology, reflect modern quantitative approaches, and cover the range of twenty-first-century geoscience, from the critical zone to the deep crust. The meeting should be successful both scientifically and financially.

Respectfully submitted,  
Blair Tormey  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION ENDOWMENT DONATIONS

The following people are donors who made a gift to the Southeastern Section Endowment in fiscal year 2021. At the end of the fiscal year, 30 June 2021, the Endowment had a balance of \$310,707. We thank each of you for your generous support!

C. Scott Allen  
Katharine L. Avary  
Andy R. Bobyarchick  
Elizabeth M. Bollen  
Scott Brande  
James Deemy  
Tim Diedesch  
Rebecca L. Dodge

John M. Faustini  
Ian A. Gammarino  
Charles A. Grymes  
M. Scott Harris  
Donald F. Heinrichs  
James A. Heller  
Laura Izzo  
Elizabeth A. McClellan

William A. Pirkle  
Michael L. Raftery  
Tyler G. Smith  
Catherine L. Talkington  
Robert K. Vance  
Sally E. Walker  
John Wall  
Richard M. Wooten

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SECTION

### Important Dates in 2022:

March 25, 2022: David Lowell Field Camp Scholarships deadline

March 31, 2022: NAGT Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award nomination deadline

April 7-8, 2022: Joint Southeastern-North Central Section Meeting, Cincinnati, OH

April 1, 2022: Undergraduate Student Research Grant deadline

October 9-12, 2022: GSA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

### NAGT News

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual [Earth Educators' Rendezvous](#), July 11-15, 2022, is now open for registration and submission of Oral/Poster abstracts, Teaching Demos, and Share-a-thon Presentations. Register by Tuesday, May 3 for the best rates.

Visit NAGT's [On the Cutting Edge](#) website for professional development resources, and events.

Nominations for NAGT's [Outstanding Earth Science Teacher \(OEST\) Awards](#) are due March 31, 2022. The awards are given for "exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the Earth Sciences at the pre-college level." Any teacher or other K-12 educator who covers a significant amount of earth science content with their students is eligible. Ten national finalists are selected, one from each NAGT regional section. Some sections also recognize state winners. Individuals may apply themselves or nominate a colleague for the award.

### Student Scholarships and Support

Students from the Hydrogeology Division of GSA have compiled the following hyperlinked list of scholarships available for geoscience students. Thank you to our Southeast Section Student Representative, Miguel Valencia, for sharing this information!

<b>Awarding Institution &amp; Scholarship Name</b>	<b>Degree Level</b>	<b>Special requirements</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<a href="#">Geological Society of America</a>	varies	varies	varies
<a href="#">Association for Women Geoscientists</a> [10 separate scholarships]	Varies	varies	varies
<a href="#">American Institute of Professional Geologists Undergraduate Scholarship</a>	undergraduate	Sophomore level and up at 2- or 4-year university	February 14th
<a href="#">Society of Exploration Geophysicists</a>	varies	varies	March
<a href="#">Karst Waters Institute Wilson Scholarship</a>	Masters	Accepted or enrolled in Masters program	February 14th
<a href="#">Groundwater Foundation Farvolden Scholarship</a>	undergraduate & graduate	Present to NGWA Groundwater Summit	TBD
<a href="#">National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering</a>	varies	varies	varies
<a href="#">American Geosciences Institute</a>	varies	varies	Early-mid February
<a href="#">Association of Engineering Geologists</a>	varies	varies	February 1st
<a href="#">Tobacco Root Geological Society</a>	varies	varies	February 15th

## Congressional Visits Day Report

Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (Geo-CVD) was not held in 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Each year, the Southeastern Section provides funding for a graduate student to participate in the Geo-CVD program. If you would like information on how to participate, please visit the [Geo-CVD webpage](#). GSA remains hopeful that Geo-CVD will return to an in-person format in September 2022.

## Do you have news to share with the Southeastern Section?

Email the Section Secretary-Treasurer (Blair Tormey, [btormey@wcu.edu](mailto:btormey@wcu.edu)) to include it in the next issue of Saproliite!

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## IN MEMORIUM

The following are members of the Southeastern Section that we lost between March 2020 and March 2021. If you know of any members that we have lost this year, please notify GSA Membership. Also, if you wish to share any remembrances in the next issue of Saproliite (2023), please contact the Section Secretary-Treasurer, Blair Tormey ([btormey@wcu.edu](mailto:btormey@wcu.edu)).

James T. Bales, Jr.	Buies Creek, NC	03 November 2019
Ken Hasson	Asheville, NC	Notified: 03 February 2021
Stephen A. Kish	Tallahassee, FL	Notified: 27 May 2020
Meyer Rubin	Vienna, VA	02 May 2020
Frederick A. Schilling, Jr.	Union, KY	Notified: 05 May 2020
Harry E. Thomas	Nome, AK	Notified: 13 October 2020
Charles W. Welby	Lexington, NC	22 September 2020
Eberhard W. Werner	Morgantown, WV	19 September 2019

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