



Geoscience Education Division May/June 2023 Newsletter

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Instructing students on how to identify and map rocks in the field near Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada. Photo by Camille Galloway.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear GSA Geoscience Education Division members,

With the return of summer comes the start of fieldwork and field school education. This past June I spent two weeks teaching indigenous students in northern Saskatchewan, Canada the fundamentals of core logging, prospecting, and field mapping. This is the capstone project for students involved in the Mineral Exploration Techniques (MET) Program offered at a small regional college in La Ronge, Saskatchewan. Historically, La Ronge has been the epicenter of mineral exploration in the province, but this has changed with the evolution of provincial policy and innovative technology. To address this, the MET program was created to offer students valuable skill sets in modern geoscience exploration so they can access meaningful employment with mining and exploration projects near their home communities. This program provides northern students the opportunity to be major contributors and innovators in Canada's mineral industry without having to face the socioeconomic hurdle of leaving their small remote communities.

GSA Connects 2023, will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania October 15-18 (with an abstract deadline of July 25, 2023). We will be hosting an educators reception on Monday October 16, 2023 at Oliver Twist. This venue is close to the conference and will be held as a private event in the upstairs lounge. There will also be a GED table in the exhibition hall, as well as the awards luncheon. We hope this will be a great opportunity for our members to connect with each other and with the GED management board. More details on this will be forthcoming.

Thank you again for all of your continued support and membership. If there is any way that we can serve you better or if you have suggestions for the GED, such as content suggestions, please let us know (you can find our contact information on the GED website). The GED board and I are looking forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh this October!

Your 2023 GED Chair,

Meagan Gilbert
Saskatchewan Geological Survey
University of Saskatchewan

DIVISION AWARDS

The Biggs Earth Science Teaching Award will be awarded to Dr. Glenn Dolphin of the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. To quote his nominator, “Dr. Dolphin developed a unique and innovative approach to teaching introductory geology. [He] engages students by humanizing the science. Since the vast majority of student taking this class come from Faculty of Arts and School of Business, the use of historical narratives puts science in terms students are already familiar with, helping them realize that scientists are not just regular people, but that regular people can become scientists. As Glenn describes in his teaching philosophy, the dialogical learning process empowers students to be co-constructors of knowledge rather than the traditional transactional approach enacted in most classrooms.” Congratulations Glenn on this outstanding achievement!

The ***Iris Moreno Totten Geoscience Education Research Award*** will once again be chaired as a separate session at the annual meeting under Iris Moreno Totten Research in Geoscience Education session. All students and early career presenters in the session will be eligible for the award. Having a dedicated session for the Totten award has significantly improved the efficiency of judging and awarding eligible talks. If you or your students are conducting geoscience education research, consider submitting an abstract to the session. And if you are interested in serving on the award committee as a judge during the session, please reach out to the GED board. The winner of the 2022 Totten award was Stephanie Sabatini with their presentation titled “Using an aggregate skill test to assess spatial thinking in undergraduate geology courses.”

MANAGEMENT BOARD NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year when the GED management board is seeking to fill our upcoming vacancies, and this is a great opportunity for members to get involved in the work that we do! If you would like to apply to be included on the upcoming election ballot, please submit your [form of interest](#) for one of the following positions:

1. **SECOND VICE CHAIR** *will serve for one year, then rotate into the First Vice Chair position for one year, and then rotate into the Chair position for one year. The Chair will serve as Past Chair for a final year. **This is a four-year commitment!** The second vice chair serves as the chair of the Awards Committee, leads planning for the Educators Reception at the GSA annual meeting, and Facilitates the awarding of student travel grants. The Second Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair whenever the Chair and First Vice Chair are not available.*
2. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** *shall serve on the Iris Moreno Totten Education Research Award Committee under the direction of the Totten Committee Chair. Student reps shall represent GED on the GSA Student Advisory Council (SAC) and, to the best of their knowledge and abilities, represent the interests and concerns of GED student members to the management board.*

Nominations will remain open through the end of July, and voting will occur in August. If you have any questions about serving on the GED, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the current [board members](#).

GSA CONNECTS 2023 (i.e. The Annual Meeting)

The GSA Connects 2023 abstract submission is currently open and the submission deadline is rapidly approaching! Connects 2023 will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from the 15th-18th of October, and **the abstract deadline is July 25th**. Registration and housing opens in June. A list of Topical Sessions endorsed by the GED and those in the Geoscience Education Discipline can be found below, online at the GSA Connects [program website](#), and in the [latest issue of GSA Today](#).

Important information for students! The [GSA On To the Future program](#) provides travel funding for students from diverse communities, and **the deadline is June 3rd**! The student volunteer program will open in late July, so keep your eyes peeled for that. And finally, the GED also awards travel funding to our student members and the deadline is August 31, 2023. You can [apply here](#).

The Following topical sessions are under Geoscience Education:

- T2. Emerging Voices in Energy Geology Research: Contributions from Students and Early Career Professionals (Posters).

- T18. Teaching Environmental Justice “In and Beyond” the Classroom.
- T24. Field-Based Geoscience Education: Advances in Research, Program Evaluation, Pedagogy, and Curriculum.
- T25. Metacognition in the Trenches.
- T26. Bringing Ocean Expeditions and Science at Sea to the Classroom and Community (Posters).
- T27. Making Sense of Methodologies and Theoretical Frameworks in Geoscience Education Research.
- T28. 7th–12th Grade and Higher Education/Industry: Partnerships and Programs that Build Opportunities, Equity, or Inclusivity to Inspire Future Geoscientists.
- T29. Expanding the Tent: Understanding Spatial Reasoning to Increase Equity in Geoscience Education Across Disciplines.
- T30. Highlighting Successful Mentoring Strategies in the Geosciences.
- T31. 2YC and 4YCU Geoscience Student Research Exhibition (Posters).
- T32. Engaging the Public in Science: Promoting a Deeper Understanding of Our World and Beyond.
- T33. Outside the Classroom, Beyond Fieldwork: Innovative Approaches to Informal Geoscience Education in Non-Traditional Settings.
- T34. Early Involvement in Geoscience Research Among K9–16 Students Can Ensure Sustained Growth of the Discipline (Posters).
- T35. Exploring the Borders and Boundaries of Mixed Reality in the Geosciences.
- **T36. Iris Moreno Totten Research in Geoscience Education Session.**
- T37. G-IRL: Collaborations and Conversations on Practicing Geoscience and In-Real-Life Applications for Dismantling Scientific Siloes.
- T38. Inclusive Geoscience Teaching for Today’s Students.
- T54. Great Books in Geology Revisited.
- T60. New Technology, Directions, and Opportunities in Geoarchaeology.
- T69. Disabled and Neurodivergent Perception, Community, and Identity in the Geosciences.
- T75. Honoring the Legacy of Teaching, Mentoring, and Research by Patricia Kelley: Predation, Conservation, Evolution, Education, and Diversity in the Geosciences.
- T98. Geomorphology and Interdisciplinary Science: In Memory of Edward A. Keller.
- T116. Best Practices and Exciting Discoveries in Identifying, Mapping, and Analyzing Planetary Landforms and Terrestrial Analogues.
- T122. Planetary Exploration and Education: How We Learn about Our Solar System and Beyond.
- T135. The Past, Present, and Future of the Digital Data Revolution and Its Effect on the Geosciences.
- T143. A Hydrogeologic Career Well Lived: A Session on the Research Topics of Ken Bradbury.

GSA SECTIONAL MEETINGS

While everyone is probably focused on the annual meeting, we want to remind you about the Sectional Meetings, and encourage you to consider submitting topical session proposals for these meetings. Click the section name to access each meeting's webpage. We will do our best to endorse and promote any geoscience education related sessions that occur at these meetings.

SECTION	MEETING LOCATION AND DATES	TOPICAL SESSION PROPOSAL DEADLINE
Cordilleran	Spokane, Washington - 15-17 May, 2024 - Joint with Rocky Mountain	1 August 2023
North-Central	Springfield, Missouri - 21-23 April, 2024 - Joint with South-Central	1 August 2023
Northeastern	Manchester, N. Hampshire 17-19 March, 2024	14 June 2023
Rocky Mountain	Spokane, Washington - 15-17 May, 2024 - Joint with Cordilleran	1 August 2023
South-Central	Springfield, Missouri - 21-23 April, 2024 - Joint with North-Central	14 June 2023
Southeastern	Ashville, North Carolina – 15-16 April, 2024	3 July 2023