

Education Special Interest Group

AGU EDUCATION

October 2018

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Dear ESIG Members:

The leaves are changing here in Washington, D. C., and with a new season comes a fresh batch of interns. My name is Mary Connors, and I graduated in May from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania with a B.S. in geology. This past summer I was a [Geoscientist-in-the-Park](#) at the [John Day Fossil Beds National Monument](#) in Oregon (you can learn more about my experience in my recent [On the Job post](#)). As this fall's Talent Pool intern, I'm excited to share with you the latest resources, news, and events on education in the Earth and space sciences. I'm also pleased to share with you exciting news about the new Education section at AGU and what that will mean for the Education Special Interest Group (ESIG).

ESIG is composed of more than 18,000 professionals across diverse fields within the Earth and space sciences and has been an active community within AGU for more than 20 years. The creation of AGU's brand-new [Education section](#) would not have been possible without your continued participation. This new section within AGU will further advance research in the resurging field of geoscience education, aiding in the development of a more diverse Earth and space science talent pool, improving global scientific literacy, and increasing access to scholarship and collaboration among Earth science educators.

The inaugural leaders of the Education section were announced last week. [Mark Moldwin](#) will be the president, [Tanya Furman](#) will be the president-elect, and [Vincent Tong](#) will be the secretary. The newly selected section leadership will introduce themselves in forthcoming issues of the ESIG newsletter.

The emergence of this new section means the ESIG newsletter will be phased out in January, and the knowledge and resources that have been shared within the ESIG community in the past will now be posted through the Education section community on [AGU Connect](#) and will only be open to AGU members affiliated with the Education section. This new space to share with the rest of your education peers will likely be available in mid-November, but we will keep you updated in future ESIG issues.

We truly value the role that everyone in the ESIG group has played at AGU, and we hope that you will remain an active part of the community as we transition to an official AGU section. If you are not a current member of AGU, we encourage you to [join the AGU community](#). For current AGU members, please consider adding the Education section to your affiliations when you [renew your 2019 membership](#).

Last, if there is any new information that you believe to be relevant to the Education community, please [let us know](#). We will be happy to include your announcement in the next newsletter.

Happy Fall!

Mary Connors, Talent Pool Intern, AGU

News

1. Registration for Fall Meeting 2018 Is Now Open

Fall Meeting 2018 will take place 10–14 December in Washington, D. C. [Register by 7 November for early bird rates](#). Fall Meeting is rapidly approaching, and there is a plethora of sessions and workshops specifically created for educators! To learn more about these Education events, please visit our Fall Meeting Education [web page](#).



2. Mentoring365 Relaunches on a New Platform

Engage with geoscientists from all over the world as a mentor or mentee. [Mentoring365](#) is a year-round online program that connects early and advanced career geoscientists to share professional knowledge, expertise, skills, insights, and experiences. A year after its original release, Mentoring365 is relaunching on a new platform that will streamline the user interface with a mobile app, in-platform messaging, an algorithm that provides mentor recommendations to mentees based on their interests and goals, and much more.

3. Sign Up for a Congressional Visit at Fall Meeting 2018

Want to learn more about science policy? Congressional visits provide an opportunity for AGU members to meet with federal legislators to learn more about public affairs, advocate for their research, and meet like-minded people interested in science policy. To sign up or learn more about this opportunity, visit AGU's Science Policy [page](#).

4. The Status of Geoscience Programs 2016–2017

Two recent Geoscience Currents reports from the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) show promising trends in geoscience degree [enrollments](#) and [granted degrees](#). According to research from AGI, enrollments in geoscience have remained steady since 2012, although graduate enrollments have decreased by 8% over the past few years. At the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, granted degrees have all increased over the past year, likely due to the overall growth in degrees granted at the undergraduate level.

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Higher Education

1. AGU/AGI Heads and Chairs Webinar: Implementing New Curriculum Revisions in Your Department

Looking to make changes in your program's curriculum? Join us Friday, 19 October, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. EST when we will discuss strategies for reforming curricula within geoscience departments. [Learn more and register for the webinar](#).



2. NSF/UNOLS/AGU Early Career Scientist Training Series 3: Life and Safety at Sea

Interested in hearing what it's like to work and live on a scientific research vessel? Join us Friday, 26 October, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. EST for the third in a series of four webinars associated with the

National Science Foundation–funded Early Career Scientist cruise on R/V *Atlantis*. [Learn more and register for the webinar.](#)

3. Volunteer to Judge in the Outstanding Student Presentation Awards (OSPA) at Fall Meeting 2018

The OSPA program recognizes stellar skills in student presentations at the Fall Meeting. Volunteer judges assess the content and quality of a presentation, providing valuable feedback to students. To learn more about OSPA or to [volunteer as a judge](#), visit the [OSPA page](#).

4. Call for Proposals—Education Opportunities in NASA STEM (EONS)

EONS is part of an initiative to support collaborations between students and faculty at minority-serving institutions and researchers at NASA. NASA supports this initiative by providing funding and logistical assistance to minority-serving institutions. For funding consideration, notices of intent are requested by 25 October, and proposals are due 17 December. For more information about this opportunity, visit the [NASA EONS page](#).

5. Building a Dynamic Research Lab

Are you a newly hired faculty member creating your first research lab? The first 3 years are vital for a successful career. A [recent article](#) in *Science Magazine* shares some key tips for securing funding, connecting with other researchers, and growing a successful research program.

6. Can a Simple Email “Nudge” Students Toward Success?

For large university classes, personally assisting students can be nearly impossible, but small gestures of encouragement can make a huge difference. After an unusually large number of students failed their first exam, a professor at the University of Arizona sent a [personalized email of encouragement](#) to students who had failed. Small nudges like this, referred to as behavioral interventions, can help students before they ask for help themselves.

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K–12

1. Earth Science Week Is 14–20 October

Earth Science Week celebrates the value of Earth science in society and is an opportunity for K–12 educators to engage with the public and their students about today’s topics in Earth science. The theme of this year’s Earth Science Week is “Earth as Inspiration,” which will emphasize the important role of artistic expression in understanding geoscience. Collaborating with other institutions, AGI has compiled information on [events in your area](#), [contests](#), and [educational tool kits](#). Each day of Earth Science Week has a designated focus, which are described in detail below.



- **Wednesday, 17 October, is National Fossil Day:** Tomorrow, scientists, educators, and students come together to highlight the contributions of paleontologists and understand the value of preserving fossils for future generations. Organizations across the country will be holding events. For a list of events happening in your area, click [here](#).
- **Thursday, 18 October, is Geoscience for Everyone Day:** As part of Earth Science Week, join us in encouraging women, minorities, and people with a range of abilities to participate in Earth science. Looking for ways that you can help engage your community in geosciences? [Check out these resources](#).
- **Friday, 19 October, is Geologic Map Day:** The U.S. Geological Survey, Association of American State Geologists, National Park Service, Geological Society of America, Esri, and AGI have partnered to promote awareness of geologic mapping and its importance to society. To celebrate in your classroom, check out the variety of [activities](#).

2. Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) Workshop at Fall Meeting 2018

Are you an educator interested in learning about the latest Earth science research? The Fall Meeting 2018 [GIFT Workshop](#) will be held Monday, 10 December, and Tuesday, 11 December, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At this 2-day workshop, K–12 educators will hear about current geoscience research from scientists, explore new classroom resources for their students, and visit exhibits and technical sessions. Educators can register for the workshop when registering for Fall Meeting 2018. Credentials will need to be provided confirming your K–12 educator status.

3. Education GeoSource—An Expanded Resource for Earth Science Educators

Just in time for Earth Science Week, AGU has relaunched its comprehensive database of Earth science resources. [Education GeoSource](#) includes such resources as Earth science curricula, teacher professional development, education standards, virtual field trips, videos and animations, and assessment materials cultivated from dozens of participating organizations such as the National Park Service, NASA, and the Public Broadcasting Service. This collection of more than 3,500 resources is free and provides a simple way to search for educational resources.

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Students

1. Fall Meeting 2018 Student Volunteer Applications Are Open

The Student Volunteer Program is a great way for students to get a behind-the-scenes look at how AGU manages such a large meeting, while earning free student registration. In exchange for free registration, volunteers are required to commit to a minimum of 8 service hours. The deadline to apply is 31 October, and volunteer assignments will be announced in late November. Visit our student volunteer [web page](#) for information.



2. NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Deadlines Approaching

The National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship provides support for graduate studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Fellows receive a 3-year annual stipend of \$34,000, a \$12,000 cost of education allowance, opportunities for research and international development, and the freedom to conduct their research at a U.S. institution of their choice. [View the deadlines by discipline.](#)

3. Share Your Ideas in a Pop-Up Talk at Fall Meeting 2018

Want a platform to share your ideas with a large audience? [Pop-Up Talks](#) are exciting sessions at Fall Meeting 2018 entirely organized by students and early-career scientists. Each talk is about 5 minutes, and participants can share anything from how their research affects society, to their vision of the future of geophysics, to their experience as a student of a continent, country, race, gender, etc. The deadline to submit an abstract for a Pop-Up Talk is 21 October.

4. Student and Early Career Scientist Conference at Fall Meeting 2018

AGU's fifth annual [Student and Early Career Scientist Conference](#) will be held Sunday, 9 December. The theme for this year is "Building Bridges for Change: Science Communication from Peers to Policy Makers." You can register for this ticketed event when you register for Fall Meeting.

5. UNAVCO Geoscience Career Spotlight Videos

Not sure of what to do with a geoscience degree? UNAVCO's Geoscience Career Spotlight and Geoscience Student Spotlight [video series](#) features professionals and undergraduate students from

diverse backgrounds. These videos show the range of career options available to graduates in the geosciences, profiling professionals in such fields as engineering, teaching, and science writing.

6. Will Anyone Attend Your Conference Presentation?

According to the aptly named Carol Poster, probably not. This satirical [piece](#) from *Inside Higher Ed* provides a simple means of calculating your audience yield.

7. Finding a Ph.D. or Postdoc Program

Congratulations! You have your diploma and your degree! But what's next? A recent *Science Magazine* [article](#) explains that to find a Ph.D. or postdoc program that fits, students must understand their own learning style and preferences.

8. The Final Year of Grad School: Planning Ahead for Your Dissertation

Years of classes, research, and writing all lead up to a few hours. How can you best prepare? Reflecting on the year leading up to her Ph.D. defense, postdoctoral researcher Megan Poorman writes in this *Inside Higher Ed* [article](#) about the strategies she used and what she wishes she had done to prepare.

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