

# Welcome to the Fall AGU 2020 Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Section Meeting

## Starting with a Roll Call



Fall meeting Business Meeting: Thursday, Dec 10, 6-7 PM EST (3-4 PM PST)  
 Sharp Lecture: Thursday, Dec 10, 7-8 PM EST (4-5 PM PST)

### Business Meeting Agenda

3:00 PM	3:10 PM	10 minutes	EPSP 2020	Status report of EPSP activities, 2020	Dorothy Merritts
3:10 PM	3:20 PM	10 minutes	New Marguerite T. Williams Award and Award Citation	Announcement of Marguerite T. Williams Award and awardee citation, Dr. Nicole Gasparini	Nicole Gasparini
3:20 PM	3:30 PM	10 minutes	Acceptance of Marguerite T. Williams Award	Response: Marguerite T. Williams Award, Dr. Jane Willenbring	Jane Willenbring
3:30 PM	3:35 PM	5 minutes	Citation: G.K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes	Citation: G. K. Gilbert Award, Dr. Josh Roering	Josh Roering
3:35 PM	3:45 PM	10 minutes	Acceptance of G. K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes	Response: G. K. Gilbert Award, Dr. Suzanne Anderson	Suzanne Anderson
3:45 PM	3:50 PM	5 minutes	Citation: Luna B. Leopold Early Career Award	Citation: Luna B. Leopold Award, Gordon Grant (President-Elect, EPSP)	Gordon Grant
3:50 PM	4:00 PM	10 minutes	Acceptance of Luna B. Leopold Early Career Award	Response: Luna B. Leopold Early Career Award, Jaap Nienhuis	Jaap Nienhuis

The Earth and Planetary Surface Processes (EPSP) Section began, officially, late in 2008, following AGU approval of a proposal from the community.

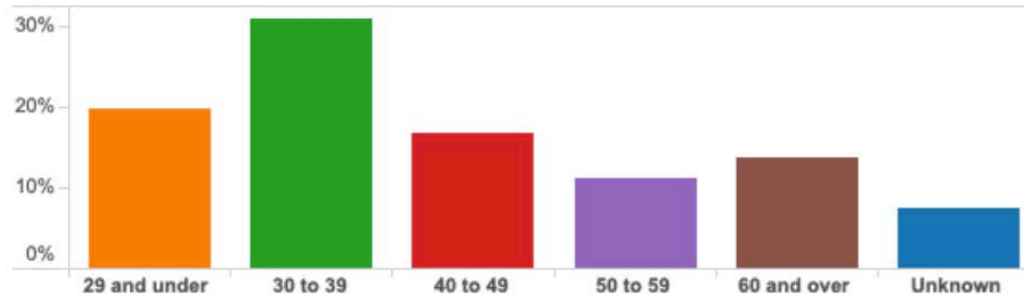
We are the 10<sup>th</sup> largest of 25 AGU Sections. As of the 2020 Fall meeting, we have

- 2029 AGU members with EPSP as their primary affiliation (748 students)
- and 7379 secondary members

#### Earth and Planetary Surface Processes

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Primary Section	1,965	1,953	2,055	2,221	2,070	2,029
Total Section	9,550	9,764	10,028	10,620	10,977	9,411
Percent Section Primary	3.3%	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%	3.3%	3.4%
Percent Section	15.9%	16.5%	16.9%	17.5%	17.5%	16.0%

#### Age Distribution

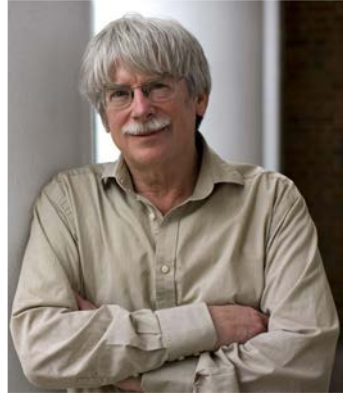




# Presidents and a newly elected President-Elect—Cheery Transitions of Power



Mike Ellis



Alan Howard



Bill Dietrich



Jim Pizzuto



Dorothy Merritts



Gordon Grant (soon!)



Kimberly Hill (Just elected!)

# AGU Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Section SuperGroup

Dorothy	Merritts	Awards, Newsletter, Early career/student events
Gordon	Grant	Awards, Newsletter
Noah	Snyder	Newsletter, Communications, Fall meeting program
William	Dietrich	Awards, Fundraising
Andrew	Wilcox	Awards
Taylor	Schildgen	Awards
Paola	Passalacqua	Awards, Student Travel Awards
Kelin	Whipple	Fellows, Former Chair
Ellen	Wohl	Fellows, Chair
Robert	Anderson	Fellows
Douglas	Jerolmack	Fellows
Patricia	Wiberg	Fellows
Jim	Pizzuto	Canvassing, Chair
Sergio	Fagherazzi	Canvassing
Elowyn	Yager	Canvassing
Nicole	Gasparini	Canvassing
Niels	Hovius	Canvassing
Laura	Moore	Canvassing
Kimberly	Hill	Fall meeting program, Past Chair
Marisa	Palucis	Fall meeting program, Chair
Andrew	Ashton	Fall meeting program
Sarah	Baumgardner	Fall meeting program
Kyle	Straub	Fall meeting program
Claire	Masteller	Fall meeting program
Mackenzie	Day	Fall meeting program
Isamar	Cortes	Fall meeting program (Student Representative)
Karl	Lang	Fall meeting program
Noah	Snyder	Fall meeting program

Roman	DiBiase	OSPA, Chair
Allison	Pfeiffer	OSPA
Karl	Lang	OSPA, Chair-Elect
Eitan	Shelef	OSPA
Alex	Beer	OSPA
Rebecca	Caldwell	OSPA
Paola	Passalacqua	Student travel awards
Isaac	Larsen	Student travel awards
Ben	Crosby	Student travel awards, Chair
José	Constantine	Student travel awards
Evan	Dethier	Student travel awards
Claire	Masteller	Website/Social Media
Kieran	Dunne	Website/Social Media
Kate	Leary	Website/Social Media
Joanmarie	Del Vecchio	Website/Social Media
Joel	Scheingross	Website/Social Media, Student Activities Liason
Jimmy	Guilinger	Website/Social Media
Risa	Madoff	Website/Social Media
Eric	Barefoot	Student activities
Austin	Chadwick	Student activities
	Hassenruck-Gudipati	Student activities, Young Researcher Spotlight
Joel	Scheingross	Student activities, Liason
Isamar	Cortes	Student activities
Scott	Feehan	Student activities
Udita	Mukherjee	Student activities
Mohammad	Sadrian	Student activities
Roshan	Shukla	Student activities
Garima	Sodha	Student activities

# Annual Meeting Sessions and Abstracts, 2018-2020

	2018	2019	2020
Oral sessions	42	35	32
Poster sessions	30	29	26
eLightning Short talk sessions	--	11	10
Abstracts	959	946	774

The program committee successfully planned a virtual AGU (virtually) in September.

Met throughout the year to make sure we got a healthy number and diversity of sessions and abstracts.

Encouraged conveners to focus on inviting diverse speakers (especially with the virtual platform and the burden of travel removed).

Added a student rep to the committee, Isamar Cortes.

Overall, # of abstract submissions to AGU fall meeting 2020 is lower than in the past (27%), but not as much for EPSP (18%)

# The EPSP Website

connect.agu.org/epsps/home



Contact AGU.org Search Sign In

Home About Virtual Engagement Meetings Awards Resources Early Career Spotlight

## Earth and Planetary Surface Processes

At this critical moment in history, and on behalf of the EPSP community, we support a renewed commitment to racial justice and condemn police brutality against members of the Black community and others. We stand with Black Lives Matter and others against racial cruelty, bigotry, and violence, and are committed to being part of the change that is so desperately needed. [Read the full statement here.](#)

Earth and Planetary Surface Processes is a multidisciplinary field encompassing the full range of processes that generate and erode landscapes, create stratigraphy, and that couple the internal dynamics of the surface to climatic and tectonic forcings.

[Learn More](#)

### Career Listings

#### Stony Brook University: Postdoctoral Associat...

Stony Brook University: The Postdoctoral Research Associate will conduct...

[Read More](#)

#### Texas A&M: Academic Professional Track (Non-Y...

Texas A&M: Position Description The Department of Marine and Coastal Environmental...

[Read More](#)

#### State University of New York College of Envir...

State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry...

[Read More](#)

#### Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey: ...

Competitive: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey: The Earth System...

[Read More](#)

### Publications

#### Physical Controls on Carbonate Intracasts: M...

Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface, Volume 125, Issue 11, November...

[Read More](#)

#### Icequake Source Mechanisms for Studying Glaci...

Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface, Volume 125, Issue 11, November...

[Read More](#)

#### Collision of Shaped Boulders With Sand Substr...

Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface, Volume 125, Issue 11, November...

[Read More](#)

#### Rapid Reconfiguration of the Greenland Ice Sh...

Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface, Volume 125, Issue 11, November...

[Read More](#)

### Latest Tweets

Tweets by @AGU\_EPSP

AGU EPSP Newsletter

Dr. Wendy Bohlen

@GSA\_GSA

"Fair inclusion to take root in the geosciences, institutions must actively listen and take substantive steps to protect BIPOC scholars from harm in the field." [eos.org/geoscientists...](#)



Five Steps to Protect BIPOC Scholars in the Pa... institutions must actively listen and take substantive steps to protect BIPOC scholars from harm in the field." [eos.org/geoscientists...](#)

AGU EPSP Newsletter

Joel Scheingross

@JoelScheingross

Open PhD position on a waterfall formation

<https://connect.agu.org/epsps/home>

Working group: Joel Scheingross, Claire Masteller, Joanmarie Del Vecchio, Kate Leary, Kieran Dunne, Jimmy Guilinger, and Risa Madoff



# Commitment to Racial Justice

24 June 2020

<https://connect.agu.org/epsp/home>

Dear Colleagues,

At this critical moment in history, and on behalf of the EPSP community, we support a renewed commitment to racial justice and condemn police brutality against members of the Black community and others. We stand with Black Lives Matter and others against racist cruelty, bigotry, and violence, and are committed to being part of the change that is so desperately needed.

The statements made by AGU and other organizations are a start, but only a start. AGU has signed **A Call to Action for an Anti-Racist Science Community from Geoscientists of Color: Listen, Act, Lead** and we encourage you to read this document carefully. The historical, cultural, economic, and political currents that have brought us to this moment are not easily reversed, and will require ongoing engagement from all of us. More broadly, building a community that welcomes all is not just about doing the right thing at the right time. It's about recognizing that the best science requires the broadest range of perspectives and participants. We NEED the full complement of human insight and experience to solve our challenging problems.

And in that spirit, we recommit ourselves to combating systemic racism, strongly encouraging all members of the EPSP community to do the same. As elected officers and various committee members of EPSP reach out, listen, learn, and take action in new ways, we will communicate these developments through the section's newsletters, website, and social media platforms. During the coming weeks and months, we will develop and publicize specific action items to remain accountable to our community and track our progress related to these efforts. Our first task is to form a vibrant new committee that will focus solely on diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism. Please watch for our call for volunteers to apply for this important effort. In the meantime, or at any time, feel welcome to send suggestions to the officers listed below.

Dorothy Merritts, EPSP President

Gordon Grant, President Elect

Noah Snyder, Secretary

*EPSP is forming a new working group that will focus solely on diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism. Please watch for our call for volunteers to apply for this important effort. At any time, feel welcome to send suggestions for members.*

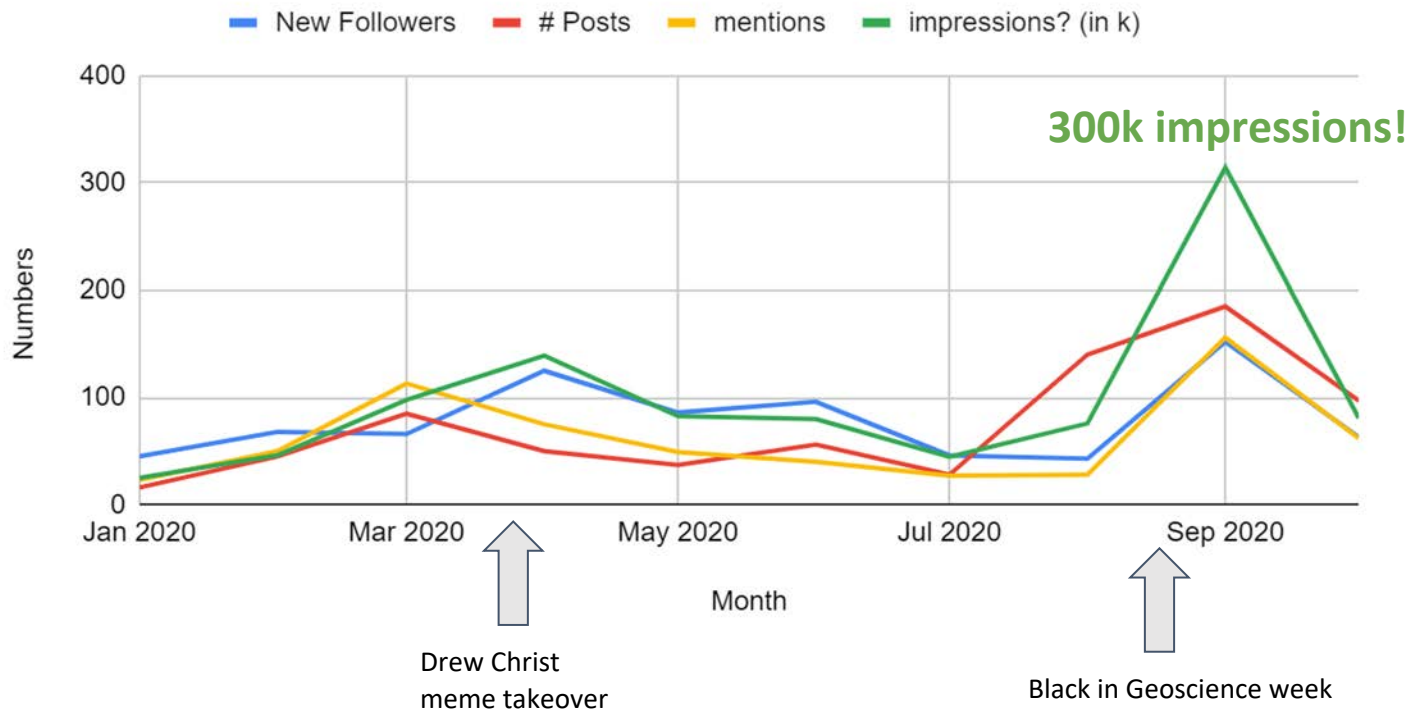
## EPSP Social Media— Fun, high engagement, diverse voices

- Scheduled weeklong takeovers from early career spotlight (nominated by student committee)
  - This year 11 Spotlight takeovers
- Additional conference/topical takeovers
  - Since last AGU, limited by COVID, but one for LPSC, one Environmental Justice, #BlackinGeoscience Week
- Day-to-day tweeting mostly RTs of cool papers, hot takes, DEI stuff
  - OA Paper of the Day
  - #Diversify your Citations
- Advertising EPSP-related events (EPSP Connects)



# EPSP Twitter engagement statistics

## EPSP Stats



Thanks to Noah Snyder  
EPSP Secretary



Producing  
about 6  
newsletters  
a year.

Greetings EPSP folks,

For many of us a semester unlike any other is just starting. The global pandemic has forced us all to teach, do research, and live in new ways. The struggle for [racial justice](#) is vital, and the political situation in the United States is entering a volatile phase as the November election looms. Amongst this turbulence, nevertheless, wonderful opportunities to engage with our research community shine through, as seen in the announcements that follow. Also on the horizon in December, is the mostly virtual [AGU Fall Meeting](#). Many of us are working together to ensure that the annual conference is as enriching as possible in its new remote format. We'll tell you much more about this in our next newsletter.

Best and be well,  
Dorothy Merritts, President  
Gordon Grant, President elect  
Noah Snyder, Secretary

---

We have several [EPSP Connects](#) events coming up and a virtual town hall. These are science talks and EPSP-related panel discussions that are held on Zoom and are free to attend:

**Special Virtual Town Hall: A Community Discussion of Typical Wildfire Effects on Earth Surface Processes**

Monday, 14 September  
3:00 PM San Francisco / 6:00 PM New York / 12:00 AM Berlin (15 Sept.) / 6:00 AM Beijing (15 Sept.) / 8:00 AM Melbourne (15 Sept.)  
[Register here!](#)

**Complex system response to external forcing in bedrock river networks – a talk by Dr. Helen Beeson (ETH-Zürich)**

Wednesday, 16 September  
8:00 AM San Francisco / 11:00 AM New York / 17:00 PM Berlin / 23:00 PM Beijing  
[Register here!](#)



# Student activities

Recruited 6 new members successfully last year, including Isamar Cortes, Scott Feehan, Udit Mukherjee, Mohammad Sadrian, Roshan Shukla, and Garima Sodha who joined Eric Barefoot & Hima Hassenruck-Gudipati.

- **EPSP Connects:** Udit and Scott in collaboration with the social media team started EPSP Connects that included 3-panel discussions (moderated by the student committee members) and 2 science talks. Average attendance was ~70 people and Panels on Wildfire and Environmental Justice had >100 participants.  
Read more at: <https://connect.agu.org/epsp/discussion/epsp-connects>
- **AGU EPSP Student Committee Bylaws:** Garima and Hima are developing bylaws.
- **Early Career Spotlight:** Mohammad Sadrian is the new lead for our spotlight series. Please find this year's spotlights here: <https://connect.agu.org/epsp/spotlight>
- **EPSP Fall Meeting program committee representative:** Isamar joined to represent the student committee.
- **EPSP Early Career Speed Networking @ Fall Meeting:** Eric Barefoot organized the popular speed networking event again for this year's Fall Meeting.
- **Instagram:** Roshan is restarting the EPSP Instagram AGU\_EPSP. Tag us in a picture that you want us to feature.

Join the year-round seminars and panels on EPSP content and professional development!

# Outstanding Student Presentation Awards, Student Travel Awards

5 OSPA awards for \$500 each last year:

Thomas Ashley: Plane-Bed Instability at the Granular Scale

James Bramante: Toward a Bedrock Abrasion Rate Law for Oscillatory Flow

Madison Douglas: Quantifying Organic Carbon Mobilization and Storage due to Bank Erosion in Permafrost-Dominated River Floodplains

Sarah Williams: Demonstration and Analysis of Rarefied Particle Motions on Hillslopes

Xiafei Zhao: Aeolian Dune Height Controls on Internal Architecture of Cross Sets: White Sands Dune Field, New Mexico

The OSPA group developed evaluation criteria for judging hundreds of presentations and shares feedback with students.

5 Student travel awards for \$500 to \$1000 each this year.

Provides funds to assist students with a combination of costs associated with attending the virtual meeting and educational expenses.

Thank you: Roman DiBiase, OSPA, Chair, Allison Pfeiffer, Eitan Shelef, Alex Beer, Rebecca Caldwell, Karl Lang, Ben Crosby, Isaac Larsen, Paola Passalacqua, Evan Dethier, José Constantine

Canvassing—New in 2020, chaired by Jim Pizzuto

Joined by Sergio Fagherazzi, Elowyn Yager,  
Nicole Gasparini, Niels Hovius, and Laura Moore

Will be scanning our community broadly to identify  
individuals for consideration for awards, committee work, etc.

If interested in getting involved or nominating persons who  
would be excellent additions to this group, please talk to Jim Pizzuto.

# EPSP Awards and Fellows

Awards Group: Chaired by Andrew Wilcox

Fellows Group: Chaired by Ellen Wohl

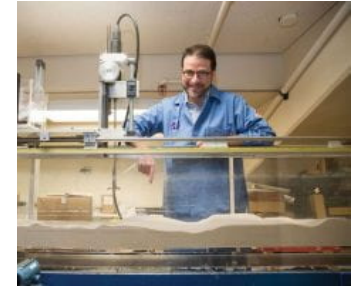
(thank you all members!)

## New AGU Fellows:

Dave Rubin



Aaron Packman



Gregory Okin



Gary Willgoose





Fall meeting Business Meeting: Thursday, Dec 10, 6-7 PM EST (3-4 PM PST)  
 Sharp Lecture: Thursday, Dec 10, 7-8 PM EST (4-5 PM PST)

### Business Meeting Agenda

3:00 PM	3:10 PM	10 minutes	EPSP 2020	Status report of EPSP activities, 2020	Dorothy Merritts
3:10 PM	3:20 PM	10 minutes	New Marguerite T. Williams Award and Award Citation	Announcement of Marguerite T. Williams Award and awardee citation, Dr. Nicole Gasparini	Nicole Gasparini
3:20 PM	3:30 PM	10 minutes	Acceptance of Marguerite T. Williams Award	Response: Marguerite T. Williams Award, Dr. Jane Willenbring	Jane Willenbring
3:30 PM	3:35 PM	5 minutes	Citation: G.K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes	Citation: G. K. Gilbert Award, Dr. Josh Roering	Josh Roering
3:35 PM	3:45 PM	10 minutes	Acceptance of G. K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes	Response: G. K. Gilbert Award, Dr. Suzanne Anderson	Suzanne Anderson
3:45 PM	3:50 PM	5 minutes	Citation: Luna B. Leopold Early Career Award	Citation: Luna B. Leopold Award, Gordon Grant (President-Elect, EPSP)	Gordon Grant
3:50 PM	4:00 PM	10 minutes	Acceptance of Luna B. Leopold Early Career Award	Response: Luna B. Leopold Early Career Award, Jaap Nienhuis	Jaap Nienhuis

# A New Award: The Marguerite T. Williams Award



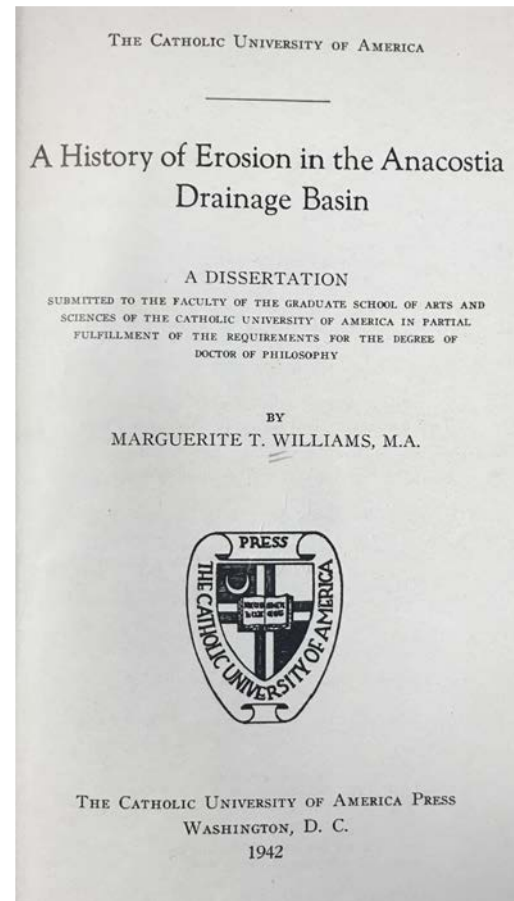
New EPSP award proposed and guided by early and mid-career EPSP scientists Nicole Gasparini, Elowyn Yager, Brian Yanites, Jane Willenbring, Robert Mahon, Claire Masteller, and Andrew Wilcox. Thank you for leading this effort!

The Williams Award recognizes significant contributions to research and community-building by a mid-career scientist in the field of earth and planetary surface processes.

Dr. Williams (1895-1991) was the first black woman to receive her PhD in Geology in the United States (in 1942) and pioneered to broaden participation in STEM.

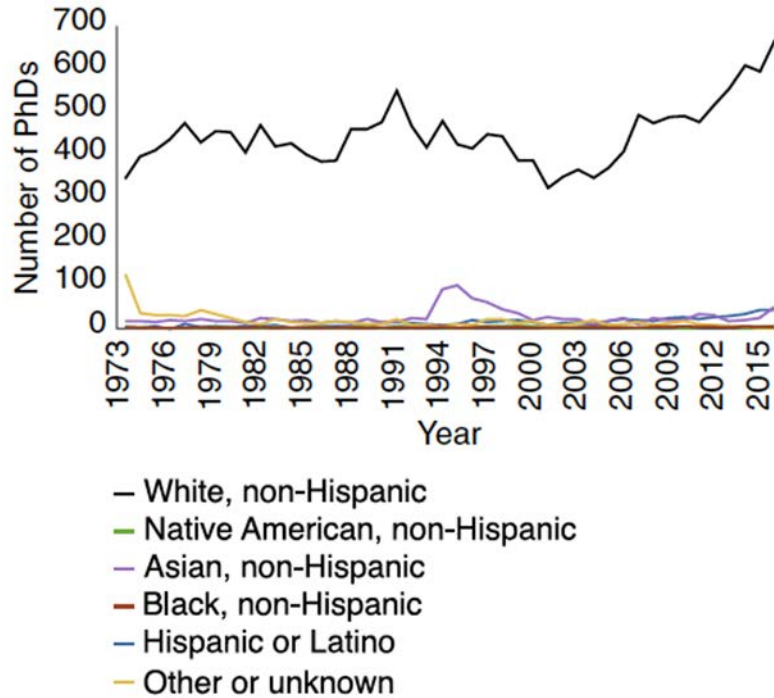
Dr. Williams devoted her career to teaching, and facing and overcoming immeasurable barriers in her education and career that underscore the enormity of her accomplishments.

# The Marguerite T. Williams Award



# What progress have we made as a broad community?

**b** By race and ethnicity (subfields combined)



**Answer is NONE.**

Figure from Bernard and Cooperdock, 2018, "No progress on diversity in 40 years", *Nature Geoscience*.

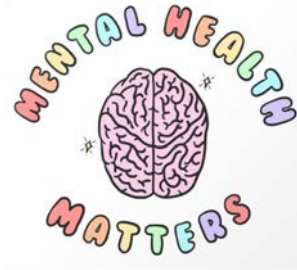
"The geosciences are among the least diverse science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in the United States, with almost 90% of doctoral degrees awarded to White people."

Dutt, 2020, "Race and racism in the geosciences", *Nature Geoscience*.



# What can *you* do to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in geoscience?

- This is a moral issue.
- Everyone with power can use that power to make our community more diverse, equitable, and inclusive.
- This is not a problem for minoritized people to solve, although minoritized people must be part of the solution.



# 2020 Marguerite T. Williams Award



Jane Willenbring  
Stanford University

In recognition of significant contributions to research and community-building by a mid-career scientist in the field of Earth and planetary surface processes.

Nicole Gasparini citation

## 2020 G.K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes



Suzanne Anderson  
University of Colorado

In recognition of sustained and outstanding contributions to earth and planetary surface processes ... and [for promoting] an environment of unselfish cooperation in research and the inclusion of young scientists into the field.

Josh Roering citation

## 2020 G.K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes

In recognition of sustained and outstanding contributions to earth and planetary surface processes ... and [for promoting] an environment of unselfish cooperation in research and the inclusion of young scientists into the field.



Suzanne Anderson  
University of Colorado







My mom, Lois Prestrud



# 2020 Luna B. Leopold Early Career Award



Jaap Nienhuis  
Utrecht University

Given annually to one early career scientist (<10 years post-degree) in recognition of a significant and outstanding contribution that advances the field of earth and planetary surface processes.

Gordon Grant citation  
2020 Sharp Lecture