Dear EPSP Community Members,

We hope that 2024 is off to a good start for all of you!

At the newsletter desk this year, we’re trying something different to help share different voices in ongoing EPSP activities and engagement opportunities with AGU activities as well. We plan a quarterly rotation of the focus among regular newsletters, newsletters from a highlighted EPSP committee and newsletters from the EPSP president and president-elect that provide information on EPSP/AGU headquarters opportunities.

This month, our newsletter comes from the EPSP Student Committee highlighting their activities and instructions for how to apply to be a member of this committee - they are currently recruiting new members.

Before we turn the newsletter over to them, we would like to send special thanks to the members of the volunteer student committee in 2023 for their time, energy and other contributions to our EPSP community:

Shanti Penprase, Vanessa Gabel, Chelsy Salas, Brian Penserini, Michelle Harris, Madeline Kelley, Jose Silvestre, Danny White, Dru-Ann Harris, Garrett Marietta, Emma Rogers and Niraj Bal Tamang.

We would also like to send a special thank you to Eric Barefoot and Joel Scheingross for their support as student committee liaisons over recent years.

So…. thank you all!

Now we turn the rest of the newsletter to the student committee. Read on to find out more!
Greetings from the EPSP Student Committee!

In this newsletter, we highlight recent activities of the EPSP Student Committee and recognize past and current students for the time and efforts they have contributed to the EPSP community. In future newsletters, we will outline how the student committee will make a difference in 2024. Finally, we are looking for new graduate students interested in joining this committee (see details below!).

At AGU23, our student committee organized an informal social hour and other in-person meetings. The social hour was a conference highlight for students and early career scientists. It was great to reconnect with and meet new acquaintances and we look forward to AGU24 in Washington D.C. where we hope to host a similar event. Also at AGU23, participants from the EPSP Student Peer Mentoring Program gathered to wrap up a successful 2nd iteration of this initiative. We are very grateful to the student mentors who volunteered to advise new students just embarking on their graduate school experience. They discussed topics often described as the ‘hidden curriculum’ of graduate school including attending conferences, the scientific publication process, and pursuing financial support through scholarships. For students interested in participating as a mentor or mentee in 2024/2025, we will be advertising opportunities to participate in late Summer, 2024.

In 2023, the student committee continued to coordinate the Early Career Spotlight. Nominated individuals had the opportunity to showcase their work on the EPSP section website and through our social platforms including X (Twitter) and Bluesky (soon!). Please nominate students, postdocs and other early career scientists to share the exciting science they are working on. We rely on the general EPSP community to help us highlight a variety of early career members and their research and we are always looking for new ideas. Anyone can make a nomination (self-nominations are accepted!).

Join us! We are looking for graduate students who want to get involved in the EPSP community. In 2024, we plan to continue our existing efforts and expand into more projects related to community building and DEI initiatives. We welcome and encourage applicants to think of new ways we can better serve our EPSP community. If you are interested in joining, please fill out an application form at this link. Applications are open until 1 March and will be evaluated following this rubric. Feel free to reach out to any of the current student committee members if you have questions. You can also review our bylaws to learn about the goals and responsibilities of the student committee.

Sincerely,

The AGU EPSP Student Committee