

## Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Section Newsletter: March 2018

Dear Colleagues:

EPSP is officially 10 years old! In addition, we became a section rather than a focus group when AGU Council officers voted in 2017 to designate all groups as “sections.” As shown in the table below, we have grown quite a bit in recent years, exceeding more than 2,000 primary members by 2016. Our members are relatively young, with a median age of 36. About 27% of EPSP members are younger than 29, and 33% are between 30 and 39. Those in their 40s, 50s, and 60s (or older) represent 17%, 12%, and 11%, respectively, of EPSP members.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Primary Section</b>	1,640	1,752	1,965	2,116	2,115
<b>Secondary Section</b>	6,422	7,109	7,585	7,787	7,780
<b>Total Section</b>	8,062	8,861	9,550	9,903	9,895

AGU also has an anniversary. Established in 1919, AGU has been planning centennial activities to begin at end of this year. Washington, D. C., will host the 2018 meeting that will kick off AGU’s centennial celebration, but the meeting returns to San Francisco to celebrate in the expanded and improved Moscone Center on 9–13 December 2019.

In this newsletter, we highlight ways to celebrate EPSP’s tenth and AGU’s upcoming 100th anniversaries, solicit nominations for EPSP awards, and request input to plan for Fall Meeting sessions. We also announce a new opportunity to share your favorite field photos and enter them into a contest for an EPSP centennial celebration calendar. Of special importance in this newsletter is our call to support EPSP student activities with a mere \$5 contribution.

### **Nominate Outstanding Colleagues for EPSP Awards by 15 April**

We have two major awards for EPSP. The [G.K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes](#) is given annually in recognition of sustained and outstanding contributions to Earth and planetary surface processes, the promotion of an environment of unselfish cooperation in research, and the inclusion of young scientists into the field, typically to scientists at least midcareer in stature. The [Luna B. Leopold Young Scientist Award](#) is given annually to an early-career scientist (not more than 5 years post-degree) in recognition of a significant and outstanding contribution that advances the field of Earth and planetary surface processes. This award is named in honor of Luna B. Leopold, who engaged and nurtured young scientists throughout his distinguished career in hydrology and fluvial geomorphology.

Please consider those who have made notable contributions to the field of Earth and planetary surface processes, and nominate outstanding colleagues for these honors. Both require a nomination letter and two or three letters of support. Contact Dorothy for more information.

**Share Ideas Now: Planning for 2018 Fall Meeting Sessions—Submissions Due 18 April**

The 2018 Fall Meeting, 9–14 December, coincides with the kickoff of AGU’s Centennial in 2019, and we hope to have an especially strong showing of sessions and events to highlight major scientific achievements in the study of Earth and planetary surface processes. Of note is that G. K. Gilbert, whose scientific contributions were fundamental to modern process-oriented investigations, passed away in 1918, the year before AGU was founded. A number of EPSP members are interested in sponsoring one or two sessions with themes related to the seminal works of Gilbert. If you wish to be involved in planning for these sessions, please contact Dorothy and Bill. Gilbert’s scholarship extended beyond that of surface process studies, so it’s possible that these sessions might be Union-wide rather than limited to EPSP.


Now is a good time to reach out to the officers and the EPSP Program Committee with all ideas for the Fall Meeting. The deadline to [submit proposals for sessions](#) is Wednesday, 18 April, and the abstract submission period is 13 June to 1 August 2018. The number of abstracts submitted to sessions determines the number of oral sessions that EPSP is able to sponsor. Last year, EPSP sponsored 45 oral sessions, nine more than the year before, and more than 900 abstracts were presented! The EPSP Program Committee does final planning at a meeting held in Washington, D. C., in August of each year. By sharing ideas with the committee and the officers in advance of the 18 April session proposal deadline, we can better coordinate sessions so as to avoid redundancy and maximize opportunities for partnering on related topics.

To reach out to the EPSP Program Committee, please start with an email copied to [Dorothy Merritts](#) and [Greg Hancock](#).

**Help EPSP Students with \$5**

EPSP uses about 20% of its funds to cover student-related activities such as travel awards and networking functions. About 1,100 of our primary members are not students. If each of us contributes \$5 to EPSP, we’ll have enough funds to cover all of these student activities. Please help out by visiting the [AGU donations site](#) and contributing \$5 (or more, if possible) to this worthy cause.

**SECTIONS (FORMERLY FOCUS GROUPS)**



Contributions to Section funds support activities including special projects, student scholarships, student travel grants, member programming and awards.

Earth and Planetary Surfa ▾

\$50  
 \$100  
 \$500  
 \$1000  
 \$ Other

Be sure to pick the EPSP section.

### AGU Will Enhance Your EPSP Support

AGU will enhance your contribution to EPSP by contributing funds in proportion to member donations. If more than 5% of our members give \$50 or more to our section during 2018, AGU will provide an additional \$1,000 for our programs. If 10% of members donate to EPSP, then AGU will contribute \$3,000, and so forth. Please consider participating—our student programs, EPSP reception, and other events depend on gifts from you!

### Gilbert Postcards: Enter a Photo from the Field to Have a Chance to Be in Our EPSP Calendar

Inspired by AGU’s Postcards from the Field, we’ve launched “Gilbert Postcards,” an opportunity for you to share your (G. K. Gilbert–inspired) field photos. The idea is simple: Submit a field photo to our [Tumblr](#) and pair it with a G. K. Gilbert quote. In the fall, we’ll compile the submissions and have public voting to choose 12 winners that we’ll use to make an EPSP calendar (for sale at the 2018 Fall Meeting in Washington). Proceeds from the calendar sale will support EPSP activities like student travel grants, our Young Geomorphologist Night at AGU, and our EPSP reception. Winners will get a free copy of the calendar, and the top four student winners will get free Gilbert Club tickets! [Submit a photo now!](#)

### EPSP Announcements

Congratulations to the EPSP winners of the Outstanding Student Paper Award:

- [Allison Pfeiffer](#), University of California, Santa Cruz
- [Dacheng Xiao](#), Pennsylvania State University
- [Max Daniller-Varghese](#), University of Texas at Austin
- [Philip Minderhoud](#), Utrecht University
- [Stefanie Tofelde](#), University of Potsdam
- [Tamara Pico](#), Harvard University

Kudos to all of you on this great honor! And thank you to the judges of the student presentations, including Jill Marshall and Roman DiBiase.

### **Gilbert Club Thanks**

A hearty thank-you to Nicole Gasparini for all the work she did in hosting a well-attended Gilbert Club at Tulane University. It was our first Gilbert Club away from Berkeley! Jane Willenbring, Greg Tucker, and Astrid Blom gave stimulating lectures, and a great swarm of pop-ups were delivered. And thanks to Justin Lawrence (NSF) and John Buffington (*JGR: Solid Earth*) for their reports. The Gilbert Club will be hosted by Mong-Han Huang and Karen Prestegaard at the University of Maryland after the 2018 Fall Meeting!

Best regards,

[Bill Dietrich](#), President, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Section, AGU

[Dorothy Merritts](#), President-elect, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Section, AGU

[Greg Hancock](#), Secretary, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Section, AGU

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