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Earth and Planetary Surface Processes

Dear EPSP Community Members,

We hope that 2023 is off to a good start for all of you.

We want to move into 2023 with some general announcements of some new engagement activities we are trying for the year and several other EPSP-related items.

Monthly EPSP Informational and Engagement Seminars

In 2023, we will hold monthly webinars for the community for another form of direct communication with Q/A following. These will be posted online along with a solicitation of feedback for those who couldn't make the live webinar. The first webinar will be Wednesday 22 February 9am-10am US Central time and will focus on activities in EPSP and AGU for new and continuing members. [Here is the link to register for the first meeting](#). The second webinar will be the same time Wednesday 22 March and will focus on specifics of the DEI activities in EPSP and Program Committee activities. Look for details for webinars 2 and 3 next month.

Select 2022 Fall Meeting content now online

Plenary Sessions from the 2022 Fall Meeting are now publicly available to watch online. Head on over to the [Fall Meeting website](#) to view some of the plenary talks you may have missed. The EPSP Award Ceremony and Sharp Lecture will be publicly available in March, we'll send a link in a future newsletter once it's posted.

2023 Fall Meeting

Mark your calendars, the Fall Meeting will return to San Francisco on 11-15 December this year, and will remain in a hybrid format with online options. Session proposals will open 15 February (and are due by 12 April), we'll send out more information as it becomes available.

Join the Student Committee

Our [Student Committee](#) organizes a number of great EPSP activities including the early career spotlight, a peer mentoring program, networking events at the Fall Meeting and more. Each year we put out a call for new student committee members. Any student who is at least in their first year of graduate study is eligible, and students can come from any university (there is no need to be based in the US). If you're interested in joining, [you can fill out an application here](#). Applications are due on 1 March.

Join other EPSP Committees

We are looking for new volunteers for many of our committees including two new committees: the DEI committee and a concierge (new member / communication) committee. These are open to folks at any career stage who are doing EPSP-related work. If you are interested, [please fill out an application here](#). We plan to keep this live indefinitely and will respond to applications on a rolling basis within a month of each application and sooner when we can. Feel free to submit an open-ended application of interest! If you want to contribute but not sure how "best" to do this for you, we can work with you to find a place for you to contribute in ways that reflect your current and evolving interests.

AGU Honors nominations now open, and we need your input!

Nominations for Union Medals, Fellows and EPSP Section Honors are open until 12 April 2023, with detailed information available at <https://www.agu.org/Honor-and-Recognize/Honors> (this year, there are also [three new AGU-wide Honors](#)). As you may know, scientific awardees often do not represent the diversity of members in a scientific field or society. Our EPSP Canvassing Committee is charged with encouraging and enabling our community to submit nominations for AGU EPSP awards. We hope that if more people participate in the nomination process, we will receive nominations for more diverse nominees, leading to more diverse awardees. (Here we take a broad view of diversity, including but not limited to gender, sexuality, race, employment location, graduate institute and scientific sub-specialty.)

To enable more nominations, [we have a form in which you can suggest names of nominees](#). The form requires minimal information (e.g. which award, name of person, when did they graduate, who might be a good nominator or supporter). The volunteers on the Canvassing committee will do our best to enable nominations of suggested nominees.

EPSP Connects

After a winter break, our [EPSP Connects virtual seminar series](#) is back. Please join us on Wednesday 15 February for a science talk from Stephen Tooth (Aberystwyth University) on The geomorphology of wetlands in drylands: whither science and management in an Anthropocene? [You can register for the talk here](#).

Our March EPSP Connects is still TBD, but we've just confirmed our 19 April talk will be from Corina Cerovski-Darriau and Clarke Knight (USGS) discussing their fire-related work.

Gilbert Club

[Gilbert Club](#) will be held online on 10 March, 2023 and Gilbert Club will return to an in-person event this December after the 2023 Fall Meeting. [More info can be found here.](#)

DEI and General Climate Survey - Thank you!

We received good information and feedback from ninety-eight community members from our EPSP Fall 2022 DEI/Climate Survey. A big thank you to all of those who took the time to respond to these forms. These provide volunteer EPSP members guidelines for directing our activities to better serve the greater community, and we plan to make this an annual call for feedback.

As promised, AGU processed these so the answers are anonymized and separated from identifying information. EPSP volunteers read through all comments and will include a summary of all responses on our website at a location you can find from a link on our home page (not available at the time when the newsletter was submitted to the press. Here is a brief summary of some of the information.

Demographics: Slightly more than 20% of the respondents identified as full professors; slightly fewer identified as postdoctoral researchers, assistant professors, and associate professors; approximately 11% identified as graduate students, 8% identified as researchers outside of academia. Approximately 30% of all respondents identified as members of traditionally marginalized groups.

Inclusive atmosphere?

~65% respondents answered that EPSP is doing a good/great job

~25% respondents checked neutral / no opinion

~10% respondents answered that EPSP was doing this somewhat poorly or poorly

Suggestions?

When respondents were asked to choose from specific activities they wanted to see from EPSP committees, over 10% wanted more social media presence; over 40% of the respondents wanted more career development and more than 50% wanted to see more mentorship/networking and over 50%, more science communication.

An open-ended question on inclusivity gave way to a wide range of responses, for which we are extremely grateful. We are still processing ways to address each one of these appropriately. Some of which we are currently implementing (soliciting volunteers using a form open to all; DEI committee); some of these are most appropriate for a committee of volunteers dedicated to DEI issues (we hope to have an initial committee finalized and beginning to evaluate these by early March), and some of which we are still processing. We will keep you all informed as we continue to implement suggestions.

AGU is a global community supporting more than half a million advocates and professionals in the Earth and space sciences.

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