Propose a GSA Connects 2022 Session

GSA Connects 2022 will take place in Denver, CO, October 9-12.

We hope that this meeting will include many Marine and Coastal Geoscience (MCG) focused sessions. For that to happen, we need you!

**Technical session proposals are due by February 1, 2022.**

Session proposals are short and do not take much time at this stage. If you have an idea for a session, we encourage you to submit one.

*We especially encourage early career scientists and students to become involved in proposing and chairing sessions.*

Submit your GSA 2022 session or short course proposals: [https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2022/program/proposals](https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2022/program/proposals)

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GSA Connects 2021 Activities

The MCG Division sponsored 34 sessions at GSA 2021. Session topics included paleoceanography, tectonic processes, paleontology, storm impacts, and more. The Division also sponsored sessions on diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion.

The session, “Advances and New Voices in Marine and Coastal Geoscience”, convened by MCG Division officers, highlighted a range of cutting-edge marine and coastal geoscience topics including coastal change, sea-level indicators, anthropogenic impacts, methane biogeochemistry and mid-ocean ridge processes. A big thank you to all of our contributors!

Due to limited in-person attendance, we hosted our annual division business meeting online, on October 27. At this meeting we planned activities for the coming year and introduced new officers.
Greetings from the Chair

Happy New Year to everyone. As we near our third year of the ongoing pandemic, I know we are all exhausted and looking forward (perhaps in disbelief?) to ‘the end’. Although, I feel I cannot add anything new to what has already been said, the last two years have certainly brought into stark relief the importance of community support and engagement within and without the science community. The third year of the pandemic coincides with the third year of our Marine and Coastal Geosciences Division and the MCG leadership has been striving from Day 1 to build a division offering support and engagement to the marine and coastal science community.

This year we are furthering that endeavor with a new newsletter format and content. The new content is built from ideas and discussions from within the leadership and from you! If you participated in last year’s GSA Division Membership Survey, the Preliminary Report helped us determine new content based on your responses. A lot of this is centered on giving you, our members, a voice featured in the new “Voices of MCG” Section (page 3). In this issue we feature a profile of our newest student representative, Ms. Patricia Standring, and a “Retired But Still Inspired” contribution from Emeritus Professor John Wehmiller. We welcome future contributions from all of our membership, including industry and educator members, and plan to showcase student abstracts. Depending upon the response to requests for contributions, we may turn each profile series into a blog format on our website. We hope you feel inspired to reach out to our contributors to build your network and to discuss science and possible collaborations. We will continue to feature information on upcoming GSA Meetings as well as other sources of interest for coastal and marine scientists. Please send us feedback on what you like and what else you would like to see to GSAMCGD@gmail.com.

Finally, but certainly not least, I would like to recognize leadership changes. I thank Prof. Rónadh Cox, now our first Past Chair; Dr. Vashan Wright, retiring from Second Vice Chair; and Mr. Devon Parfait, outgoing Student Representative, for their contributions over the past year. Rónadh especially, as the original force behind the founding of this division in 2019, deserves our recognition and thanks. I would also like to welcome Prof. Andrea Hawkes, First Vice Chair; Dr. Lauren Toth, Second Vice Chair; and Ms. Patricia Standring as Student Representative, to the leadership. Although they have been officers for less than three months, they have already contributed significantly to the development of the division – particularly our newsletter, but we have many more ideas! I also want to recognize the ongoing contribution and excellent work of Ms. Katie Luciano, Secretary/Treasurer, and Dr. Steve Philips, Communication Officer. Whomever follows them will have big shoes to fill!

Dr. Deirdre D. Ryan, Chair
Università di Pisa

“The third year of the pandemic coincides with the third year of our Marine and Coastal Geosciences Division and the MCG leadership has been striving from Day 1 to build a division offering support and engagement to the marine and coastal science community.”

Pleistocene marine terrace, Santa Cruz Province, Argentina
Voices of MCG

This section of our newsletter is dedicated to highlighting the most exciting part of the MCG: all of you! Our membership is made up of a diverse group of ocean and coast enthusiasts including students, teachers, researchers, and industry-leaders. With that in mind, each of our newsletters will feature a mix of member spotlights and interactive contests. By asking you to share your MCG stories in this newsletter, we hope to initiate new connections between our members and to foster a more interactive MCGD community.

Because more than half of our members are students who are eager to make new connections in the field, the “Student Platform” will feature student spotlights, abstracts from recently published student research, and various other student-related content.

We are also eager to highlight the research and perspectives from our non-student members. Additional features include:

- “Retired, But Still Inspired” (see page 5),
- “Inside Industry”,
- “On the Chalkboard”, and
- “From the Field to the Lab”.

Whether you’re just starting your career or you’re an old salt, we want to hear from you! If we have a lot of interest and contributions, we’d love to include these on our MCG Division website.

If you are interested in sharing your story in one of these features or are a student who has an abstract from recently published work or completed thesis, please email us at GSAMCGD@gmail.com. We hope you will all seas this opportunity before someone else beach you to it!

Division SWAG is here!!!

Do you want to promote marine and coastal geoscience on your coffee keep-cup, a warm sweater, or even a ‘dad hat’? How about a laptop sticker? Visit our online storefront to pick your merchandise. We have two different logo styles and merch is available in a variety of colors, styles, and sizes.

Your purchases contribute to the MCG Division coffers and will help us fund future scholarships and awards.

Deadline for submissions to our next newsletter is June 1, 2022

“Our membership is made up of a diverse group of ocean and coast enthusiasts including students, teachers, researchers, and industry-leaders. By asking you to share your MCG stories in this newsletter, we hope to initiate new connections between our members and to foster a more interactive MCG community.”
Student Spotlight – Patty Standring

What is your professional role?

I am a 2nd-year PhD student studying paleoceanography at the University of Texas at Austin.

What aspects of marine or coastal geoscience do you work on (or have you worked on in the past)?

My current PhD research involves analysis of deep-sea marine sediments from drilling cores and looking for microfossils called foraminifera. Foraminifera (sometimes called forams) are single-celled organisms that live throughout the ocean and are used as paleoclimate and paleoceanographic proxies.

Forams make their shells out of calcite from elements in the seawater they live in. After they die, their shells are incorporated into seafloor sediments and preserved creating these tiny little time capsules for ancient ocean conditions. By analyzing the isotopic composition of the shells, we can learn about long-term climate and ocean circulation changes, which helps us predict how the climate and oceans may change in the future as the climate continues to warm.

As a new student representative for the division, what would you like to see the division accomplish moving forward?

As one of the Student Representatives for the Marine and Coastal Geoscience Division, I would like to work towards building a strong network of interdisciplinary scientists working on coastal and marine topics who feel welcome and included within our division.

I hope that students will feel empowered to generate collaborative relationships across disciplines and help create a more inclusive and equitable geoscience community. I look forward to working with the Division Officers and another Student Representative to help build this community.

Read Patty’s full Scientist Stories interview on the MCG Division website

Students, want to be profiled in our next newsletter? Or have abstracts of your research highlighted? Let us know:

GSAMCGD@gmail.com
Retired but Still Inspired
Reflections on retirement following a 50-year career in Quaternary Geochronology

John F. Wehmiller
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My official retirement began in January 2013 but was preaced with a one-year sabbatical after completing my last teaching class in December 2011. Leading up to retirement, I spent a great deal of time planning for the distribution of research samples that we had collected during the previous 40 years. This effort also included a collaboration with several colleagues to establish an archive for Amino Acid Racemization (AAR) data at the NOAA Paleoclimatology site (see links below). Beginning in January 2013, I devoted large amounts of time to the organization of our research collection and the physical transportation or shipment of samples to several institutions around the country (Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History; Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, NY; Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL; The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Philadelphia; and the Delaware and North Carolina Geological Surveys), an effort that required about three years to complete. Several efforts to synthesize data and to explain our data management procedures also occurred during this time (Wehmiller et al., 2015; Wehmiller and Pellerito, 2015a, 2015b). A fortuitous and unexpected combination of events starting in 2014 led to a major project that has resulting in a very satisfying publication (Wehmiller et al., 2021).

I credit my colleague Kelvin Ramsey of the Delaware Geological Survey with the insight to realize that AAR data would be useful in understanding the links between the offshore and onshore Quaternary stratigraphy of the mid Atlantic coastal region, thereby inviting me to participate in this multi-year project. Only in retrospect do I realize that my participation in this project would have been difficult had I had all the “normal” responsibilities associated with a full-time faculty position. Ramsey was responsible for managing an offshore sand resource project funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), motivated by the need to assure these resources post-Hurricane Sandy.

The on-going offshore geophysical work of Laura Brothers (USGS, Woods Hole) and her colleagues was a major component of this project, allowing us to understand the geochronologic relation of offshore and onshore units, and even gain insights into the late Quaternary history of local barrier islands. The mid-Atlantic results also have a counterpart in a related BOEM project for the SE US (Wehmiller et al., 2019). These offshore studies will hopefully contribute insights not only related to sand resources but also for the understanding of late Quaternary sea-level history and offshore wind farm development, and the overall effort certainly indicates the utility of AAR in offshore stratigraphic research.

As part of the BOEM project, we also developed an online database (ArcGIS Online) of AAR data in order to facilitate discussion within the working group of colleagues involved in the BOEM project. This database is a living document that will evolve as new data and interpretations are added.

My activities since retirement have reminded me about how little I anticipated the issues of data and sample preservation during my early career. In part this was due to the normal “busyness” of the academic world, but in today’s research [digital] world there is more focus on this question. Nevertheless, and especially for those careers that involve multiple institutions, there is a continuing need to assure that research data and all associated metadata and samples be archived for future use.

Links to the NOAA Paleoclimate Data Site:
https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/paleoclimatology
Search for paleodata and then enter Racemization.
Quick link to AAR data files:
https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/paleo/aar/
Browse other datasets at this link:
https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/paleo-search/reports/all?dataTypeId=19&search=true%3F
Dear reader,

Please consider submitting a photo and short description for our new newsletter section ‘Salty Takes’. We encourage you to submit stunning photo(s) of your field/lab/office/data adventures. Photos and descriptions (200 characters max) can be submitted to GSAMCGD@gmail.com

The deadline for submission for our next newsletter is June 1, 2022. For a longer story please see our new section called ‘Salty Tales’ and reports.

Salty Takes

Dear readers,

Ever try to regale friends or family with funny stories about mishaps or adventures in your field, lab, or office—only to have them not understand anything you are saying? That time is over! Please consider sending your anecdotes to our ”Salty Tales”. Not only will you get the reactions you have always wanted, but readers will appreciate your insights into how things don’t always go according to plan (ha! they sometimes rarely do in science). 😃 Will you be brave enough to share? We welcome your ~300-word submission at GSAMCGD@gmail.com. Deadline for our next newsletter is June 1st 2022. All tale-tellers welcome!
Upcoming GSA Section Meetings

**South-Central Section**

**14–15 March 2022**

McAllen, Texas, USA
Embassy Suites by Hilton
McAllen Convention Center


**Joint Cordilleran-Rocky Mountain Section**

**15–17 March 2022**

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
UNLV Student Union


**Northeastern Section**

**20–22 March 2022**

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA
Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square


**Joint North-Central-Southeastern Section**

**7–8 April 2022**

Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
Duke Energy Convention Center

Other upcoming conferences

- **EGU General Assembly 2022 Hybrid Meeting** ([EGU22 - Home](#))
  Vienna, Austria and Online 23-27 May 2022
  Registration opens mid-January

- **15th International Coral Reef Symposium** ([Welcome to ICRS 2022 - 15th International Coral Reef Symposium - Bremen - Germany | ICRS 2021](#))
  Bremen, Germany 3-8 July
  Abstract Submission Deadline 23 February

- **14th International Conference on Paleoceanography** ([Save the dates! - The 14th International Conference on Paleoceanography (uib.no)](#))
  Bergen, Norway 29 August-2 September
  Abstract Submission Deadline 3 April

- **10th International Conference on Geomorphology** ([ICG2022 - Home](#))
  Coimbra, Portugal 12-16 September
  Abstract Submission Deadline 14 March

Contribute to the MCG Division Treasure Chest

As a new Division, we have yet to establish awards and scholarships. We are close to reaching a critical mass of finances to implement such support structures. Over this next year the MCGD aims to establish equitable and just support for students and early career scientists. Your Division membership dues help us towards that goal. We also very much welcome additional gifts to the MCGD through the GSA Foundation.

Give to the Division via the GSA Foundation
About the Division

The Marine and Coastal Geoscience Division aims to raise the profile of marine and coastal research at GSA. We want to bring together scientists in all areas of geoscience related to the oceans as part of an inclusive and diverse community. Marine and Coastal Geoscience encompasses all geoscience relating to the oceans. This includes, but is not limited to, the geology and tectonics of the ocean basins, the geology, geomorphology and environmental processes/hazards of the coasts, waves, tides and currents in the oceans, ocean-land and ocean-atmosphere interactions, geobiology of the oceans, and the ocean’s role in the climate system, both modern and ancient.

The purpose of the MCG Division is to bring together scientists interested in the marine and coastal realms, to facilitate presentation and discussion of questions, ideas, and opportunities in marine and coastal geoscience; to promote research and publication of results in those fields, to advise and assist the officers and committees of the Society in matters pertaining to marine and coastal geoscience; and to act as an organized group in promoting these objectives within the framework of the Geological Society of America.

We had over 1200 members in 2021! Don’t forget to renew for 2022!