



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA®

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY
& TECTONICS DIVISION



Structural Geology and Tectonics Division Newsletter

Fall 2025

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► *A Message from the Chair*

Welcome to the SGT newsletter! I hope this message finds you well. On behalf of the division management board, thank you for your support and contributions to the SGT community at GSA and beyond. This is the first newsletter that we have produced in a few years, and we are excited to be able to share announcements and updates with you in this format.

First, thank you to everyone who voted last summer to confirm some changes to the division bylaws, which we proposed to formalize the role of Communications Coordinator on the board. Previously, this role had been filled by volunteers as Newsletter Editors, most recently Alyssa Abbey (California State University Long Beach). We are grateful to Alyssa for continuing with the board in the new Communications Coordinator role and helping produce this newsletter, among many other contributions this year.

Last year also saw the first student representatives appointed to the board. Anna Ledeczi (University of Washington) and Chloe Weeks (University of California, San Diego) have been working hard with us for the past year to broaden student participation and their perspectives on the division management have been extremely valuable. Thanks to their efforts, SGT will be co-hosting a student social event at the Connects Meeting on Sunday October 19th, 6-8 pm at the River's Edge Café & Patio Bar, 200 S Alamo St. We will advertise this broadly nearer the time, but please pass on this information to any students you know who may be attending the meeting.

Thanks to your membership and generosity, the SGT division can continue to support graduate student research via research grants and funding to support attendance at the Connects meeting and associated field trips and workshops (see the last page of this newsletter). The management board has committed to increasing the expenditure on student research grants and other initiatives over the next few years and I am looking forward to sharing news with you at the Connects meeting about two new fundraising initiatives in the division that will support and elevate structural geology research and community engagement.

Finally, I'd like to thank Eric Cowgill (University of California Davis) for keeping the division running during the pandemic years, and a big thank you to Colin Amos (Western Washington University) who served as the Division Chair last year for his work in bringing many of the division's activities back online. I'd also like to give a big shout out to the people who volunteered their time to serve on the evaluation committees for the division's Outstanding Publication and Career Contribution awards. The division relies on volunteer input to keep all the activities and awards running every year. If you have time to contribute to help as a board member or on an award evaluation committee, please contact any division officer to let us know. Additionally, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the SGT division, please reach out to us. We're here to serve you, our community.

For those attending the GSA 2025 Connects meeting in San Antonio, we look forward to seeing you there, and please join us for the SGT Division Business Meeting and Awards Reception, 5:45 - 8:30 pm on Tuesday, 21 October in the Convention Center, Room 221A.

Jamie Kirkpatrick
University of Nevada, Reno (jkirkpatrick2@unr.edu)



Division Mission

Structural geology and tectonics are the investigation of the geometry, kinematics, and dynamics of deformation in natural materials at all scales. These investigations are frequently field-based and draw on remote observations, experimental work, and computer simulations. They are commonly interdisciplinary, involving other geoscientists, scientists and society members. The investigations increase the basic understanding of geological processes, hazards, and resources, thus contributing to the well being of society.

The purpose of the division is to bring together scientists interested in structural geology and tectonics to facilitate the presentation and discussion of their problems and ideas, to stimulate communication with other earth scientists, to promote research and the publication of results on structural geology and tectonic studies, and to advise and assist the officers and committees of the Society in matters pertaining to structural geology and tectonics.



Founded in
April 13, 1981

2024-2025 SGTD Board

Chair:

Jamie Kirkpatrick (University of Nevada, Reno)

First Vice Chair:

Andrew Zuza (University of Nevada, Reno)

Second Vice Chair:

Elena Miranda (California State University, Northridge)

Communications Officer:

Alyssa Abbey (California State University, Long Beach)

Student Representatives:

Chloe Weeks (University of California, San Diego)
Anna Ledeczi (University of Washington)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Sarah Titus (Carleton College)

Past Chair:

Colin Amos (Western Washington University)



Join Us!

Join our close-knit team and help guide sessions, awards, and events.

You can get involved with the Structural Geology and Tectonics Division in many ways! Each year we are looking to fill open positions on the board or within committees to help evaluate our important annual awards.

Open board positions for election in 2026:

- Second Vice-Chair, which rotates annually to First Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair
- Vice Treasurer

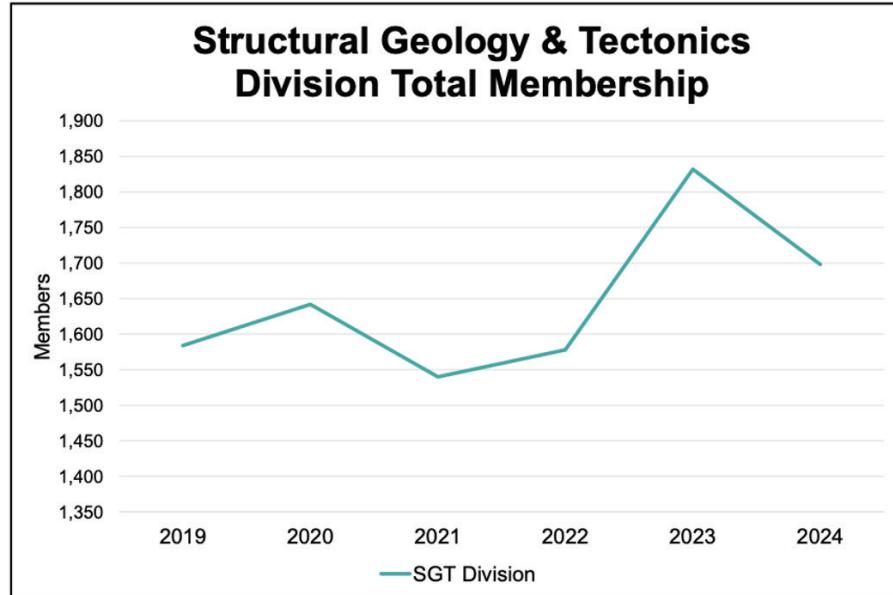
Award committee roles:

- Career Contribution Award
- Outstanding Publication Award
- Laubach Research Award

For more information, please contact Jamie Kirkpatrick (jkirkpatrick2@unr.edu) or Andrew Zuza (azuza@unr.edu).

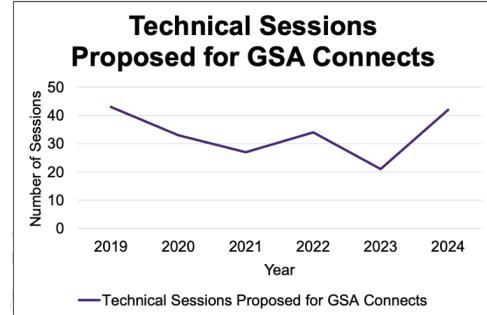
Division “Health”

We have 1,698 members (as of 2024), making us the 2nd largest GSA Division

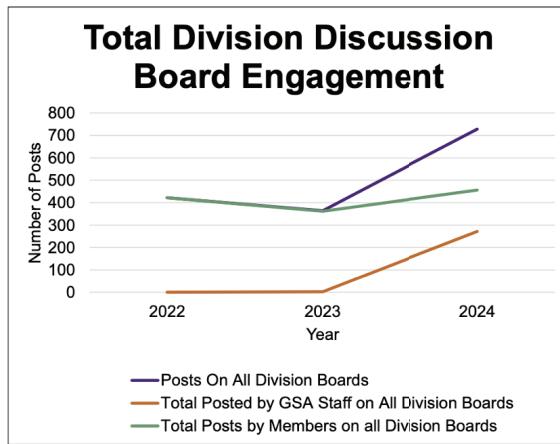
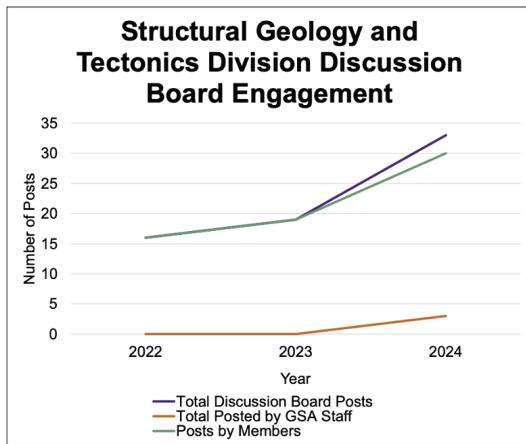


Since 2019 we average >30 SGT Technical sessions at GSA Connects

Year	Technical Sessions Proposed for GSA Connects
2019	43
2020	33
2021	27
2022	34
2023	21
2024	42



Since 2022 our discussion board engagement has increased!
<https://community.geosociety.org/sgt/home>



- We award ~\$6,000 in student awards annually!
- 26% SGT members attended GSA Connects in 2024

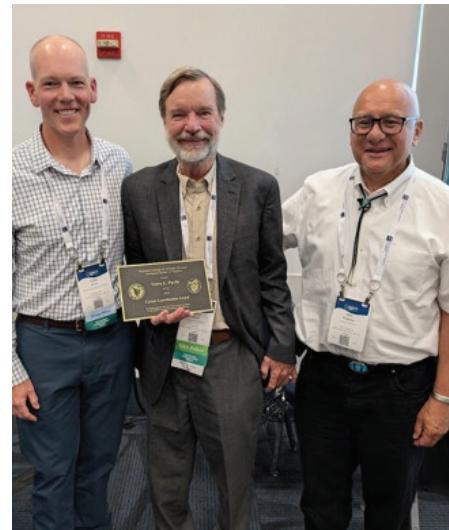
- We experienced a 44% increase in student membership between 2019 and 2024
- We have an active award program for students, as well as early-, mid-, and late-career researchers

2024 SGTD Awards

Career Contribution Award Terry Pavlis

The Career Contribution Award is given to an individual who has made numerous distinguished contributions that have clearly advanced the science of structural geology or tectonics throughout their career.

Congratulations to Terry Pavlis! Terry has made fundamental contributions to the structural geology of extensional systems through his work in the Death Valley region and the northern Cordillera and convergent plate margins including the recognition of ancient subduction zones/megathrusts, ridge subduction in forearc evolution, and the role of transpression in the structural evolution of forearc regions. Terry has also been instrumental with assisting and mentoring many students, post-docs and young faculty members, providing a collaborative and rich mentoring environment for younger earth scientists. To read Terry's full nomination and response please visit: <https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/GSA/Awards/2024/sgt.aspx>



Outstanding Publication Award

This award is given annually for a published work (paper, book, or map) of exceptional distinction that clearly advances the science of structural geology or tectonics. This year's award was given to the 2012 paper by Prof. Douwe van Hinsbergen and colleagues. This work proposes a new 2-stage collision model between India and Eurasia that reconciles disparate estimates of plate convergence from the geologic and paleomagnetic record. This work was selected for both the fundamental nature of the problem addressed and because of the implications that the resulting model has for a broad range of other Earth processes.

Van Hinsbergen, D.J.J., Lippert, P.C., Dupont-Nivet, G., McQuarrie, N., Doubrovine, P.V., Spakman, W., and Torsvik, T.H. (2012) Greater India Basin hypothesis and a two-stage Cenozoic collision between India and Asia: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, v. 109, p. 7659-7664.



Peter Lippert Accepting the award at GSA Connects 2024 in Anaheim, CA.

2024 SGTD Awards

Stephen E. Laubach Structural Diagenesis Research Award

This award promotes research combining structural geology and diagenesis, and curriculum development in structural diagenesis. To help promote the cross disciplinary emphasis of this annual award, the Sedimentary Geology and Structural Geology & Tectonics Divisions have been designated to jointly select the recipient. The 2024 award was given by SGTD.

The 2025 awardee Abdullah Ibrahim (Western Michigan University) project is titled “The origin of polygonal fault network in Khoman Chalk, Egypt: Constraints from the microstructural analysis of syn-kinematic calcite veins.”



Members elected GSA Fellows in 2024

Sara Carena (Ludwig-Maximilians University)

Becky Flowers (University of Colorado)

Gary Solar (Buffalo State University)

Support your 2025 award winners by joining the awards ceremony at the GSA Connects Division Meeting in San Antonio, TX on Tuesday October 21st 5:45-8:30pm in Convention Center, Room 221A.

Recognize your colleagues and peers!

Nominations for most awards are due annually March 1st. For consideration in the 2026 award cycle and more information, please visit the Award tab of our website: <https://community.geosociety.org/sgt/awards>.

SGTD Student Awards

In 2024, we gave out close to \$6,000 to students for research, fieldtrip, and short courses awards!

Ten students were selected to receive enhanced research awards based on their applications to the GSA's Graduate Student Research Grant program:

Name	University
Terry Lee	University of Nevada, Reno
Ishmael Cobbinah	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
A. Boyd	University of Oklahoma
Daniel Vega	Idaho State University
Ana Perez	Colorado State University
Jennifer Chan	Western Washington University
Austin Keirs	Western Washington University
Corey Flynn	University of Colorado
Gombodorj Batsukh	Indiana University
Starla Toto	Stanford University

This year our 2025 winners are:

Name	University
Alexander Brettmann	University of Utah, Salt Lake Campus
Sage Turek	University of Texas at Austin
Emmanuel Darko	Stephen F Austin State University
Dylan Frawley	Colorado State University
Minh Pham	University of Florida
Mitchell Casazza	University of Texas at Austin
Samantha Malavarca	Colorado State University
Madison Preece	University of Texas at Austin
Sydney Rayburn	Western Washington University
Maria Reinoso	University of Oklahoma

We also supported 6 students to attend short courses and/or field trips at the 2024 GSA Connects Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

Camryn Parker (Northern Illinois University)
 Mukhtiar Ghani (University of Göttingen)
 Sagar Sapkota (University of Mississippi)
 Hillary Mwongyera (University of Kansas)
 Hoang Anh Tu (Lavie) Nguyen (University of Saskatchewan)
 Jonathan Anaya (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology)

“Winners of the 2025 Student Field Trip & Short Course Grants will be announced at the GSA Connects SGT Division Meeting.

We welcome SGT members to directly support our students: <https://community.geosociety.org/sgt/>

SGT Out in the field!

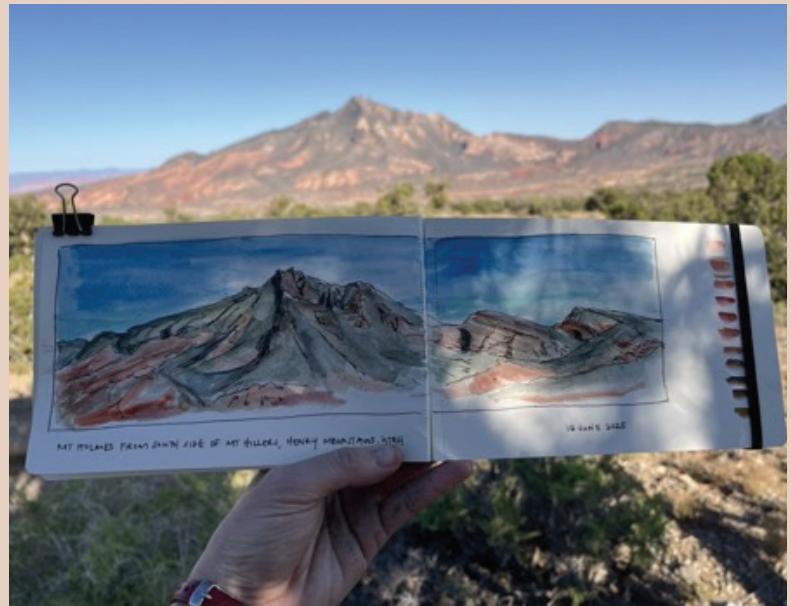


Terry Lee has been geologic mapping in the Ruby Mountains, northeast NV, to better understand the evolution of the Ruby Mountains metamorphic core complex. He was supported by the GSA Graduate Student Research Grant and SGTD.

Exploring faulting in Goblin Valley State Park, UT



Water Color of the Henry Mountains, UT, by Dr. Sarah Titus





SGTD and the GSA Connects 2025 Meeting (San Antonio, TX)

- GSA Structural Geology and Tectonics student networking/mixer. Scheduled for Sunday October 19th, 6-8 pm at the River's Edge Café & Patio Bar, 200 S Alamo St.
- Division Business Meeting and Awards Reception Tuesday October 21st, 5:45-8:30pm in the Convention Center, Room 221A.

SGT Related Field Trips at GSA Connects

- Subduction, underplating, and exhumation in a hot subduction zone (FT25CN418)
- Warren Hamilton Field Trip: The West Texas Nexus: Orogeny, Magmatism, K-Pg Boundary, Vertebrate Biostratigraphy, and Chihuahuan Desert Geohydrology (FT25CN425)
- Architecture of a Seismic-Scale Normal Fault Zone: The Hidden Valley Fault, Canyon Lake Gorge, Texas (FT25CN402)

SGT Related Short Courses at GSA Connects

- Collecting Data with StraboField Mobile App and StraboMicro Application Sat., 18 Oct., 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (SC25CN504)
- Plate Tectonics for Science and Teaching Using GPlates Paleo-GIS Software Sat., 18 Oct., 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (SC25CN521)
- Value of Applied Geophysics: Theory and Value of Applied Geophysics for Exploration and Production; Subsurface Characterization for CCS, Fault Identification and Mapping for Injection Well Permitting, and General Research Sat., 18 Oct., 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (SC25CN529)
- Introduction to Field Safety Leadership Sat., 18 Oct., 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$25 for students. (SC25CN531)
- ASBOG FG and PG Exam Prep: By Reg Review Sat., 18 Oct., 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (SC25CN533)

SGT Related Technical Sessions at GSA Connects

- T212. Advances and Challenges in Seismotectonic Studies in Slow-Deforming Regions (talks)
- T213. Advancing Earthquake Geology and Surficial Deformation from Geologic Provinces to Political Entities through Multidisciplinary High-Resolution Data (talks & posters)
- T204. Best Student Geologic Map Competition (posters)
- T215. Evolution of Orogenic Belts Through Time: Insights from Sedimentation, Deformation, Magmatism, and Metamorphism (talks & posters)
- T216. Exploring Feedbacks Between Tectonics and Climate on Lithospheric Evolution Using Multidisciplinary Approaches (talks)
- T205. Going with the Shear - New Insights into Lithospheric Extensional and Strike-Slip Systems (talks & posters)
- T206. Honoring the Late Professor Mohamed Abdelsalam: Outstanding Researcher, Generous Colleague, Legendary Mentor, and Ambassador for the Geosciences In Africa (talks & posters)
- T217. Integrating Geochronology and Geochemistry to Decipher the Tectonic Evolution of Orogenic Belts (talks & posters)
- T207. Latest Research Advances in Structural Geology and Tectonics (talks & posters)
- T218. Paleozoic Tectonics of SW Laurentia Without Borders: Final Amalgamation of Pangea in the USA, Mexico, and South America (talks)
- T219. Presentaciones de Geociencias en Español: Continuamos con la experiencia en la GSA 2025/Geoscience Presentations in Spanish: Continuing the Experience at GSA 2025 (talks)
- T209. Rock Deformation and the Dynamics of Mountain Building: A Session Honoring the Scientific Contributions of John P. Platt (talks & posters)

- **T210. Strain and Displacement: Patterns, Gradients, Partitioning, and Reconstructions (talks & posters)**
- **T222. Subduction Zone Processes: Insights from Geology, Geochemistry, and Petrochronology (talks & posters)**
- **T223. Tectónica de las Américas: Sesión en español (talks)**
- **T211. The Deformation-Metamorphism-Fluid Triplet Governing Plate Boundaries and Orogenes (talks)**
- **T224. The Geodynamic Evolution of the Himalaya: From Mountain Building to Modern Seismicity and Climate Change (talks & posters)**
- **T225. Toe to Toe: Cordilleran Systems from Trench to Retroarc Domains (talks & posters)**

Contact us for more information

+1-303-357-1000

The Geological Society of America

3300 Penrose Place

Boulder, CO 80301-1806

www.geosociety.com