

June 2012

Right: The room-infamous 'Mickelson Quats' singing the *Pleistocene Digging Song* and the *Basal Till Song* at the 2011 QG&G Awards in Minneapolis. Note the two Kirk Bryan awardees hanging on every syllable (there were words, really?). How many brews does it take to remember the, um, words? (Photo credit to Kyle House, if he claims it.)



Left: Participants attending the annual Kirk Bryan fieldtrip "*Holocene landscape evolution and erosional processes in the Le Sueur River, central Minnesota*" during the 2011 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis.

Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division Officers and Panel Members – 2011/12

Officers – 6 Members, three of whom serve one-year terms: Chair, First Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair; and three of whom serve two-year terms: Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor/Webmaster.

Management Board – 8 Members: Division officers and the Chair of the preceding year; also includes the Historian as an *ex officio* member.

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GSA Councilor Liaison – John Holbrook QG&G Division Liaison – Wesley Hill

(Both appointed by the GSA President)

-- Message from the Chair --

Sara Rathburn

Greetings! As you enjoy the start of summer, I'd like to inform you of a few items regarding the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division. We have an exciting line-up of sixteen QG&G technical sessions ready to be populated with your abstracts for the GSA meeting in Charlotte, NC. Please consider submitting an abstract (deadline Tues., August 14) to one or more of the following sessions so QG&G has a strong showing:

- T16 - Cenozoic Ostracod Research: Developments In Paleoclimatology, Paleohydrology, Paleoecology and Phylogenetics
- T17- Quaternary Sedimentary Architecture as a Prerequisite to Hydrogeological Modeling of Glaciated Terrains
- T18 - The Evolution of Karst Landscapes Through Time In Response to Changing Hydrologic, Geomorphic, and Tectonic Conditions
- T19 - Recent Sea-Level Change in a Late Holocene Context
- T20- Quaternary Atlantic Coastal Plain Formation and Evolution
- T21 - Geological Records of Earthquakes and Tsunamis On Passive and Active Margins Coasts
- T22 - Using Buried Soils to Reconstruct Past Climates: Opportunities and Considerations
- T23 - Gullies in the Landscape
- T24 - Geomorphology of the Anthropocene: The Surficial Legacy of Past and Present Human Activities
- T25 - Landslides and Debris Flows: Global Problems, Local Solutions
- T26 - Linking Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology At the Beach-Dune Interface
- T27 - Post-Glacial Landscape Evolution: Landforms and Processes in Alpine and Sub-Alpine Areas
- T28 - Channel Morphology and Hydraulic Geometry of Channelized Flows: Linking Observations From a Variety of Environments and Scales
- T29 - Advances in the Study of Physical Weathering Processes and Their Influence on Landscape Evolution
- T30 - The Fluvial System: The Legacy of Stanley A. Schumm
- T31- Geol and Anth Influences on East Coast Stream Systems

A special note: GSA wants each division to help contribute something special toward the 2013 (125th anniversary) meeting, such as special sessions, field trips, workshops, etc. The board invites thoughts from the membership on the matter.

Also, save the following dates for other important QG&G events at the Charlotte meeting:

- (1) The QG&G Awards Banquet is on Tues., Nov. 6 from 7:00-11:00 pm. Don't miss the student and professional awards, delicious food and beer, and excellent company.
- (2) The Kirk Bryan Field Trip: *Piedmont Potpourris: New Perspectives on an Old Landscape* is on Wed., Nov. 7. Meeting registration opens in early June 2012. QG&G will have a booth in the exhibit hall during the meeting. Stop by and vote on a Division logo.

- QG&G Logo Contest -

With the 125th Anniversary of GSA coming up in 2013, this is an excellent time to develop a logo for the QG&G website, and for t-shirts, coffee mugs, and beer glasses. Win a \$100 gift certificate and be recognized as the creator of the QG&G Division logo! All logo entries will be displayed at the 2012 GSA meeting in Charlotte at the QG&G booth in the exhibit hall for voting by our membership. A few logo ideas are already displayed on the QG&G facebook page, so look there for starters (www.facebook.com/GSA.1888). There are format requirements that must be followed, with guideline information available on facebook, from GSA (<http://www.geosociety.org/divisions/>), or from the Division chair. The deadline for logo submissions is Friday, Oct. 19, 2012. Please display your submitted logos on facebook and send a copy to the QG&G Division chair at: rathburn@cnr.colostate.edu

Change in 2013 QG&G Division Dues Approved

The QGG Division ballot has been closed and all on-line ballots have been recorded by GSA. The following are the election results.

Ballot		VOTES
Text for Vote	Yes	214
	No	6
	Abstain	2

Ballot Text for Vote:

QG&G Division Membership Dues Increase 2013

The Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division Management Board is proposing a \$2 increase in the annual membership dues from \$8 to \$10 for GSA Professional Members and Fellows beginning in calendar year 2013. The annual membership dues for Student members, Recent Graduates, and K-12 Teachers would remain the same at \$4 with no proposed increase.

QG&G DIVISION AWARDS - 2011

The following awards were given by the QG&G Division at our annual awards ceremony on Tuesday, October 11th, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

— Kirk Bryan Award —

The Kirk Bryan Award for Research Excellence was established in 1951. The award is given for a publication of distinction (within the past 5 years) advancing the science of geomorphology or Quaternary geology, or a related field. Our 2011 award was presented to **Robert C. Walter** and **Dorothy J. Merritts** (Franklin and Marshall University) for their paper *'Natural Streams and the Legacy of Water-Powered Mills'* published in *Science*, v. 319, 299-304 (2008).

Citation Ellen Wohl:

The 2011 Kirk Bryan award goes to Robert Walter and Dorothy Merritts for the 2008 *Science* paper "Natural Streams and the Legacy of Water-Powered Mills." This paper generated national and international attention because of its thorough and timely examination of some long-held assumptions about river form and river restoration. The scientific community has come to regard gravel-bed streams as having a characteristic meandering planform bordered by fine-grained overbank deposits. This conceptualization is based at least in part on mid-Atlantic streams initially described in some of the classic fluvial geomorphic studies of the 1960s. Stream restoration projects commonly seek to re-create this river form under the assumption that it represents the most stable, widespread, and natural configuration for mid-sized rivers. The Walter and Merritts paper calls this conceptualization into question by presenting careful documentation that, prior to European settlement of the eastern United States, many of the streams were small, multi-thread channels in valleys with extensive wetlands that accumulated relatively little sediment. These streams and valley bottoms were subsequently buried by thicknesses of up to 5 m of sediment that was trapped upstream from tens of thousands of mill dams constructed along the streams to create water power for diverse uses during the 17th to 19th centuries. As these mills were abandoned, the filled millponds were forgotten, vegetation grew over the pond sediments, and the streams incised into the sediments and assumed a new, stable planform that was subsequently interpreted to reflect 'natural' stream configuration in the absence of human manipulation of watersheds and

valley bottoms. By demonstrating that the floodplains are actually historical fill terraces and that the streams are not natural archetypes for gravel-bed, meandering streams, Walter and Merritts have provided an opportunity for members of the stream-science community to re-evaluate long-held assumptions about stream process and form, the historical influence of humans on streams, and appropriate models for stream restoration.

A strength of the work presented in this paper is the careful, detailed interpretation of past environments based on stratigraphic and historical records. Walter and Merritts use diverse sources of prehistoric and historical information to reconstruct the environment of valley bottoms prior to, during, and following the period of initial European settlement. As stream science becomes increasingly quantitative and based on numerical simulations, this paper provides a strong reminder that conceptual and numerical models must be firmly grounded in the reality of records from the field. The expectation of what streams 'should' look like is fundamental to our understanding of geomorphic process and form and the application of this understanding to stream management, including restoration. Expectations based on inappropriate assumptions can have direct and widespread consequences. The work of Walter and Merritts exemplifies the application of stratigraphic, paleoenvironmental, and historical records to understanding past and present landforms and to contemporary resource management. Because this work represents fundamental scientific research, as well as the application of scientific understanding to issues of concern to contemporary society, the paper is worthy of the high honor of the Kirk Bryan Award.



2011 Kirk Bryan Award awardees **Robert Walter** and **Dorothy Merritts** with citationist Ellen Wohl.

Response by Robert Walter:

There are few things more gratifying than being recognized by ones peers, especially when this honor began with a recommendation from a colleague as accomplished as Ellen Wohl. I am deeply grateful to Ellen for her recommendation, and to the Kirk Bryan Award committee for selecting our 2008 paper for this citation. I am privileged and humbled.

When I was as a graduate student, I read a short newspaper article about the great Boston Red Sox slugger Ted Williams. He was attempting to describe what he visualized in the batter's box that made him such an outstanding hitter. He said: "When I step into the box, time slows down for me. When the pitch is delivered the ball looks to be the size of a beach ball. That's when I know I'm in the zone." I carried that article for years as inspiration of what it must feel like to be so in tune with your profession that time slows down.

In the summer of 2003, I found myself standing in ankle deep water of a small second-order stream in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. I was with my colleague Dorothy Merritts and her student Lauren Manion. Lauren was showing us a perplexing site she had found a few days earlier. What was perplexing was that this ankle-deep, 3-m-wide stream had a vertical cut bank nearly 5 m high. The bank was composed entirely of silts and clays, which were horizontally bedded and finely laminated. They looked like pond sediments, and not at all what one expects to see in the bank of a small, meandering stream: no lateral accretion surfaces, no fining-upward sequences, no sand or gravel...just 5 m of massive, finely laminated silty-clay. Dorothy said:

"There must have been a dam. These have to be pond sediments". We walked less than 100 m downstream where we found large, rough hewn blocks of limestone in the stream, some the size of this podium, and we traced them into both banks. The boulders on the left bank were neatly stacked like large bricks, representing the remains of a 5-m-high stone dam. The boulders on the right bank merged into an equally well-crafted stone wall that braced one side a long ditch dug into the base of a colluvial hill slope. We followed the ditch about a kilometer, where it lead to an old, long defunct, water-powered grist mill. As we took in this sequence of events - the high banks, the stone dam exactly the same height as the banks, a kilometer-long millrace – we began to piece the puzzle together.

I grew up in Lancaster County, I fished these creeks as a boy and rode my bike around the countryside. "There were hundreds of mills in Lancaster County..." I said, letting the thought trail off. Silently, as if blinders were lifted, we began to "see" the cumulative impact of hundreds of these dams. Time slowed, and for a fleeting moment I felt like Ted Williams in the batter's box ...

nature was tossing us a huge, juicy fastball right down the middle of the plate.

I am grateful to many colleagues and mentors who instilled in me a love for the Quaternary, and I would like to acknowledge a few here: the late John Moss (F&M, Dorothy Merritts' predecessor, and student of Kirk Bryan), John Hollin (INSTARR), John Andrews (INSTAAR & the 1973 Kirk Bryan Award recipient), the late Dick Hay (Berkeley & Illinois, and the 1978 Kirk Bryan Award recipient), John Westgate (University of Toronto), and especially my graduate advisor Jim Aronson (CWRU, now Dartmouth). The late Derek York (University of Toronto) shared with me his passion for deep (and not so deep) time, and his ability to recognize important research problems when they arose... "separating the cream", as he would say. He is sorely missed.

In her citation for this award, Ellen emphasized that our paper was a reminder of the value of careful fieldwork. With this sentiment in mind, I would like to leave you with this quote from Henry David Thoreau, and a recommendation to observe it's wise counsel: "The two best organs for interpreting the landscape are the soles of the feet."

Response by Dorothy Merritts:

Thank you, Ellen, and members of the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division for honoring our work on mid-Atlantic streams. Our work builds on the legacies of the great geomorphologists Luna Leopold (Kirk Bryan award winner, 1958) and Reds (M. Gordon) Wolman, who for years worked on the same small to mid-sized Piedmont streams in Maryland and Pennsylvania upon which we now spend much of our time. We were fortunate to discuss this work with Reds on multiple occasions, and even to share two days with him in the field before he passed away. We also were fortunate to work with Milan Pavich (USGS), 1991 winner of the Kirk Bryan award. Throughout this research, I benefited from early training by Bill Bull (1993 winner of the Kirk Bryan award). Mid-Atlantic Piedmont streams are far different than those of the Pacific Rim that I traipsed with Bill, but his influence enabled me to see the signal of rapid base-level change in a landscape where we didn't expect to find it. Nearly 40 years ago, Luna Leopold delivered the outgoing president's address to the Geological Society of America at its 1972 meeting, the last time it was held here in Minneapolis. The title of his address was "River Channel Change with Time" (GSA Bulletin v. 84, no. 6, p. 1845-1860). The channel was Watts Branch, a small (10-km² drainage area) tributary to the Potomac River. Luna had monitored channel change since 1972, and concluded it was occurring "far more rapidly than [he]

expected". Urbanization had just begun, and he attributed change and its rapidity to this phenomenon. Luna's observations and astute insights remain sound, but he didn't realize that the channel he studied was the remnants of a race, a ditch dug by some 19th c. miller to bring water through an older sediment-filled millpond to his mill just downstream. Luna's channel sections were located within the incised channel of this filled pond. We now know that a milldam a short distance downstream breached sometime between 1910 and 1955, and this breaching led to rapid incision, channel migration, and erosion. Also, we now know that the valley was a stable wet meadow with groundwater springs, thick nutrient-rich organic mat, and small channels throughout the Holocene. This Holocene wetland had formed on a coarse Pleistocene periglacial colluvial substrate. This new knowledge changes our conception of how the channel and floodplain of Watts Branch and other mid-Atlantic streams formed over time, and in particular the role of human activity in shaping these streams.

What lessons can we learn from nearly 60 years of research on the same streams? Causality is not necessarily the most obvious or even concurrent phenomenon. Base-level change from breaching of old dams, not (just) urbanization, has led to widespread channel incision throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Stratigraphy and mapping are fundamentally important. Boulders and cobbles in the bed of a small stream might be exhumed from a Pleistocene gelifluction sheet, not necessarily evidence of transport during modern storms. Millpond sedimentation was equivalent to a Pompeii effect, blanketing and preserving the Holocene landscape. Finally, when we look back at the classic early work of Reds and Luna we find that they made many of the same discoveries that continue to surprise us. One of the most important is the role of freeze-thaw in bank erosion. Luna referred to it in his 1972 GSA address as the "main mechanism of bank retreat". Our detailed, ongoing studies support this finding, yet modern policies for reducing sediment load to the Chesapeake Bay, an impaired water body, do not account for bank retreat or freeze-thaw.

In closing, we thank our many colleagues (especially Mike Rahnis, Noel Potter, Frank Pazzaglia (2002 Kirk Bryan award winner), and Allen Gellis) and the Department of Earth and Environment at Franklin and Marshall College for their continued support and collaboration.

— Distinguished Career Award —

The Distinguished Career Award, established in 1985, is presented to Quaternary geologists and geomorphologists who have demonstrated excellence in their contributions to science. For 2011, we presented the award to **David Mickelson**, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Citation by Jeff Munroe:

Friends, colleagues, and fellow Quaternarists, in 1986 the Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division met during the annual meeting of the GSA in San Antonio. On the agenda that night was presentation of the first ever Distinguished Career Award. The recipient was Richard Goldthwait, and the citationist was David Mickelson. Tonight the QG&G Division gathers again, and presentation of the Distinguished Career Award is once more on the agenda. On behalf of my colleagues who worked with me on this nomination, I'm pleased to announce that this time Dave Mickelson is the recipient of this prestigious award.

Dave Mickelson studied geology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts before enrolling as a graduate student at the University of Maine-Orono. Working under Hal Borns, Dave completed a Master's thesis investigating the distribution of radiocarbon ages within a bog on the famous Pineo Ridge. From Orono, Dave went to the Ohio State University to pursue a Ph.D. under Dick Goldthwait. For his research in Glacier Bay, Dave documented the formation of stagnant ice landforms around the rapidly downwasting Burroughs Glacier. Closely monitoring the formation of these features in near real-time provided new insights into their significance in the Pleistocene record, and this approach of using observations of modern glacial processes to clarify interpretations of Pleistocene landforms became a hallmark of Dave's research.

From Columbus, Dave went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he and his graduate students embarked on a multi-year effort to formalize the till stratigraphy of Wisconsin. This work led to tremendous improvements in our understanding of the southern Laurentide Ice Sheet and produced significant advances in what is known about the relative timing of glacial lobe fluctuations in the Great Lakes region, the influence of subglacial permafrost and deforming substrates on ice dynamics, and mechanisms for the formations of drumlins and other subglacial landforms.

Over the years Dave and his students became involved with numerical modeling, culminating in the Southern Laurentide Ice Sheet Project, which integrated glacial geomorphology, hydrology, and glaciology to unravel the major influences on ice-sheet dynamics and

landform generation. A similar approach was applied to model groundwater beneath Late Weichselian ice in western Norway, leading to new insights into the nature of groundwater flow in a pressurized subglacial system.

Not content to focus solely on glacial geology, Dave also developed an applied side to his research. Using information collected during till stratigraphy investigations, Dave worked with colleagues in the College of Engineering to explore controls on the stability of bluffs along the shorelines of Lakes Michigan and Superior. He also worked closely with hydrogeologists at Wisconsin, particularly Mary Anderson and Jean Bahr, studying the movement of water through glacial sediments. This work produced results of relevance throughout the Great Lakes region, and led to Dave's involvement with the Love Canal trial in the early 1990s.

In the decade before retiring, Dave began working increasingly on questions of alpine glacial geology and chronology. Together with Brad Singer at the University of Wisconsin, Dave and his students developed chronologies of past glacial advances in the western U.S., as well as on the eastern side of the Andes using cosmogenic ^{10}Be . Numerical modeling was also applied to alpine glaciers in order to better constrain paleoclimate conditions during the Pinedale Glaciation.

This brief overview makes it apparent how broad and active Dave's research career has been; yet throughout it all Dave found time to be an incredibly formative mentor for an astonishing number of students. By my count Dave advised 55 M.S. and 20 Ph.D. theses over 34 years at Wisconsin. He connected with countless students through his large introductory classes, and taught glacial geology and other upper-level courses to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students. He served as a mentor for numerous teaching assistants who went on to be teachers themselves, and instructed all of his graduate students in the art of writing successful grant proposals and papers for the scientific literature.

Dave's advising style could be described as "hands off," however that summation is not meant to imply that Dave was disengaged from his students and their work. On the contrary, he was always present to discuss research results and ideas, and to guide in the development of new initiatives. It was clear that he held his students to the highest standards and expected them to learn how to work independently and to take the lead in their own research even from its earliest stages. This characteristic made Dave's research group perennially attractive to independent, self-motivators who wished to develop projects of relevance that meshed with their interests and skills. Over the years this group, affectionately known as "The Quats," grew ever larger while maintaining a notable degree of

connectivity and collegiality that traces its roots back to Dave and the model he set. Through his graduate seminars, fieldtrips to the Kettle Moraine, holiday gatherings at his house, and the annual composition and performance of glacial songs (many of which I must admit I can still remember) Dave created an environment in which innovation was encouraged, learning was fostered, and lifelong connections were forged. In short, Dave's achievements as a mentor are a worthy match for his output as a researcher.

It is also important to note that Dave maintained an impressively high level of outreach throughout his career. His reports on the surficial geology of multiple counties in Wisconsin remain important sources of information for land managers as well as members of the public interested in their shared geologic heritage. Dave was a tireless advocate for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, and traveled extensively throughout the upper Midwest presenting on aspects of this region's unique and varied glacial geology. Most recently in the years since retiring Dave has worked ceaselessly to complete a book on the geology of the Ice Age Trail, which was recently published.

In closing, Dave Mickelson's contributions to the Quaternary geology community, his legacy of teaching and mentoring, and his history of outreach are truly exemplary. The 27 colleagues and former students who provided letters of support for his nomination recognized this, and I'm glad that the Division officers agreed. Please join me in congratulating Dave Mickelson for his receipt of this Distinguished Career Award.



DCA awardee **Dave Mickelson**
with citationist Jeff Munroe.

Response by Dave Mickelson:

Thank you Kyle, thank you Jeff, thank you to the management Board of QG&G, and all of my friends and colleagues who made this award possible. It's an overwhelming honor, considering the fact that my only other academic award was the best napper award in kindergarten – and I'm not referring to flint knapping! In receiving this award I join company with great names in our field and I'm proud to have been chosen. As Vic Baker pointed out last year in his acceptance of the Distinguished Career Award, he and I were both on the Management Board of QG&G when the first distinguished career award was given. That was 25 years ago and the award went to Richard P. Goldthwait or "Doc G" as he was known to his students. Little did I think at that time that I would eventually be recipient of the same award.

This has been a year for remembering my academic roots. In May my wife Vin and I attended an undergrad college reunion, then visited the coast of Maine and explored the area of the kettle hole peat bog which I studied for my Master's thesis. Hal Borns, my advisor, was the person who convinced me to pursue glacial geology as a career. The summer I finished my degree Paul Mayewski and I worked as field assistants for Hal and Parker Calkin. It was there in Western Maine that I met Doc G for the first time, and by the time I arrived at Ohio State in September we had written a first draft of an NSF proposal to work in Glacier Bay, where several other Doc G students had recently done research. Three weeks ago I was in Glacier Bay again and had the opportunity to fly over the Burroughs Glacier and see the dramatic changes that have taken place since I first saw it in 1969 and most recently saw it in 1993.

I'm fortunate to have had a very rich (not monetarily) and rewarding career. I've traveled widely and am fortunate to have professional colleagues, friends and former students around the world. If I can claim any success, it is mainly thanks to valued Wisconsin colleagues like Jim Knox, Vance Holliday, Charlie Bentley, Lou Maher, Brad Singer, Bob Dott, and Al Schneider. I have also thoroughly enjoyed working with Lee Clayton, John Attig, and now Carol McCartney and Eric Carson at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey.

It has been a joy for the last dozen years to have my wife Vin as a participant and enthusiastic supporter of my professional activities such as field trips, book writing, and research travel—yes, Vin we are going to have lunch in another gravel pit!

One of the greatest joys in my professional life has been working with postdocs and graduate students, and seeing them develop their own careers in government, consulting, and academia. Many undergrads also worked in the Quat lab over the years, and I am pleased

that several have seen success in geology after graduation. Many of these former students are here tonight, and I thank you all for stimulating thinking and examining ideas in critical ways. Through the years, personalities have differed, abilities have differed, but enthusiasm has never waned. From the Quaternary men's choir, to the till commandos, from organizing Jell-O cookoffs to going on many field trips, it hasn't been all work. So "thank you" to all of my former students who have contributed so much to my career. And of course, thanks to colleagues in other parts of the country, and other parts of the world, who I have worked with over the years -- they are a great group of people.

Since my retirement a few years ago I've pretty much done what I did before retirement – research, leading field trips, and giving talks on glacial history and climate change. I just no longer get paid for doing it. I guess that says that being a Quaternary geologist is exactly what I want to be. I hope those of you in the next generation of Quaternary scientists will be lucky enough to be able to say the same when you reach my stage in life.

One thing that the Quats have done since the 1970s is compose glacial lyrics to various tunes. Department visitors and others, particularly field trippers from surrounding states, have also contributed, and there are about 70 songs linked to my department web site. For the remainder of my allotted minutes this evening, I have asked them to give you a sample.

http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~qlab/glacial_songs/

— The Farouk El-Baz — Award For Desert Research

The Farouk El-Baz Research Award, established in 1999, is given annually for outstanding work in the field of warm desert research. The award is intended to encourage and reward arid-land studies. The 2011 award was presented to **David Thomas**, Oxford University.

Citation by Nick Lancaster (for Ashok Singhvi):

On behalf of Ashok Singhvi and those who nominated him for the award, it is my great pleasure and honor to deliver the citation for David Thomas for the Farouk El Baz Award for Desert Research this year (2011).

David Thomas is probably best known to many of you for his book "Arid Zone Geomorphology", now in its third edition. This is just one of his many contributions to understanding and communicating the importance of geomorphology to the environments of drylands, which cover almost a third of the Earth surface.

Dave Thomas has made sustained, substantive, and influential contributions to the field of desert research over the past 30 years. It is difficult to think of anyone today in the general field of arid zone geomorphology who has maintained such a broad research portfolio and also made so many connections between the physical and human aspects of desert environments, and in this way significantly influenced the ways in which dryland environments are managed. His contributions have come as a result of well-established and long-running research programs using innovative techniques and approaches; collaborations with a variety of colleagues; mentoring of a large number of talented graduate students; scientific leadership at national and international levels; and an impressive publication record that totals more than 120 journal articles and 48 book chapters, plus several influential books. All this has been possible because of David's boundless energy and enthusiasm.

David's research in drylands has built on the foundations established by Dick Grove, Andrew Goudie, and others and used the best of modern techniques such as OSL dating to understand Quaternary climate change in desert regions, especially in southern Africa, and more recently Arabia. David's contributions to arid zone paleoenvironmental research are many and include studies of dunes and paleo-lakes in southern and central Africa and Arabia; as well as loess deposits in China, but his major effort has focused on the Kalahari region of southern Africa and its (largely vegetation stabilized) dune systems. A key aspect of this research is the sustained attention to a geographic region and many seasons of careful field studies. The result is a real understanding of the geomorphology of the Kalahari dune systems as well as an appreciation of the issues involved in the interpretation of the chronologic and geomorphic information.

David Thomas' use of intensive OSL-dating of paleo-dune systems in the Kalahari and adjacent areas has provided a chronology of dune development that spans much of the last three glacial-interglacial cycles. The large database of OSL ages generated by David and his students has also prompted questioning of existing paradigms for the interpretation of luminescence dates for dunes and pointed to the complexity of the record of dune construction, stabilization, and reactivation in southern Africa and elsewhere. This complexity exists at many spatial and temporal scales from the dunefield to the individual dune. David has also linked knowledge of past climates and modern dune dynamics to understanding and prediction of possible future climate impacts on the Kalahari region by linking models for dune dynamics to climate models to predict changes in dune activity in a warmer world, resulting in a paper in *Nature* in 2005.

David's interest in drylands includes a strong commitment to natural resource management in these areas. Land degradation under pressure from human activities in fragile environment subject to great climatic variability is a serious problem in many drylands. David has written extensively on desertification as a land degradation phenomenon; on the nature of soil and vegetation changes as a result of land degradation and on aspects of human responses and adaptations in dryland environments. With Paul Shaw, he has produced valuable syntheses of environmental information on the Kalahari (*The Kalahari Environment*, published in 1991), emphasizing the linkages between the natural environment and human activities. A classic contribution to environmental management is the World Atlas of Desertification co-authored with Nick Middleton for the 1992 Rio Summit. *Desertification: Exploding the Myth* was published in 1994 and represents a challenge to conventional wisdoms concerning the nature, extent and human contributions to land degradation in dryland regions.

David Thomas has been very active in promoting international collaborations and research in drylands. He has played a significant role in international programs that have facilitated collaboration between researchers from different countries and particularly in engagement with researchers from the developing world. Between 1998 and 2003 he was principal co-leader, of the IGCP Project 413 "Understanding Future Dryland Change from Past Dynamics" and from 2004 to 2009 was leader of the IGCP project 500 "Dryland Change: Past, Present, Future". Both these projects were recognized for their role both in developing good science on major desert issues, for facilitating better international collaboration, and for engaging developing world and young scientists. In addition to these formal projects, David's research in a wide variety of locations has brought collaborations with many local scientists and students.

In addition to this incredibly productive research career, David Thomas has somehow found time to provide academic leadership, first as Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Sheffield, where he established the Sheffield Centre for International Drylands Research; and now as Head of the School of Geography and the Center for the Environment at Oxford University. These are challenging positions in the dynamic academic and funding environment of the UK in recent years, and involve many hours of committee work. By establishing strong and dynamic academic programs, and recruiting high quality students, David has promoted graduate research in arid zone geomorphology and environments. He has consequently been very active in mentoring students, mostly at the doctoral level. Their

research has consistently been of a very high standard and has made major contributions to drylands research, reflected in the many publications that they have co-authored with David. Many of these students have gone on to academic or research careers with a focus on drylands, and so have helped to expand the range of expertise addressing the geomorphology and environments of these regions.

Many researchers are content with publishing the work of themselves and their students. David has gone further by editing the premier book on Arid Zone Geomorphology, now in its 3rd edition. This is a real contribution to the field of geomorphology as a whole.

As a result of many years of field research in the Kalahari, mentoring of students, application of geomorphology to human use of arid regions, scientific leadership, and publication of the results, David Thomas has made a major and sustained contribution to arid lands research. He is truly deserving of the 2011 Farouk El Baz Award for Desert Research.

Please join me in congratulating David on his award.



El-Baz awardee **David Thomas** with citationist **Nick Lancaster**.

Response by David Thomas:

It is an honour to be here with you in Minneapolis, and to be in the company of like-minded scientists. It was also wonderful to meet Farouk El-Baz this morning, as he was at my award lecture, something that I feel very honoured by. Listening to what Nick Lancaster has just said, I do not quite recognise the individual being referred to. I am not used to receiving awards- in fact the last time I received one was I think at the end of High School. I don't actually think I am deserving of this but it reminds me of the comment about awards made by the character Sarah Morton in the film 'The

Swimming Pool'. If you don't know the comment, I suggest that you check it out online...

Being serious, receiving a prestigious award such as this does make you think and reflect and what has happened to be able to get to such a position. In that regard - and I am aware that it is a cliché - it has made me acutely aware of the contributions of others that have inspired, directed and assisted me, whether they realised it or not. I am also amazed that a group of colleagues saw fit to propose me for this award and in that regard I would like to thank them all, particularly Ashok Singhvi, who cannot be here, and Nick Lancaster, for their roles in this.

Many people have helped and inspired me over the years and it is important that I acknowledge this- particularly my family (notably Lucy, my wife) who tolerate the lengthy periods I spend away on fieldwork each year. In terms of the full story of how I got to here, there are three people especially that it is essential that I acknowledge, plus a wider group of colleagues - my graduate students- whose contributions to my academic life have been inspirational.

Three key individuals have inspired me at different stages of my career. First is my father. He was a geographer, a school teacher, and the quiet, insipient inspiration he garnered on me from my early years above anything else set the scene for what I have since achieved. His love of the outdoors, of the landscape and especially the weather, and the knowledge of places he travelled to during the second world war, created an environment that clearly must have rubbed off on me. In turn, this seems to be rubbing off on my teenage daughters, but we shall see.

Second is Andrew Goudie, who received this award himself a few years ago. His record and contribution to geomorphology and the discipline in general goes without saying. What doesn't is that it was Andrew who, when I was 18, interviewed me and admitted me to Oxford as an undergraduate, despite my rawness and not very obvious Oxford fit at the time. I was therefore lucky to become a member of a small group of undergraduates at the best college (Hertford College) for geography at Oxford University. Then he invited me to undertake a doctorate and it was that which saw my direct entry into research in Africa and in dryland and desert regions. The rest is history but, critically for me, Andrew has always supported me, always helped, especially in the early days, nurture my career particularly when I took up my first post at Sheffield University, and who was greatly encouraging when the post I now hold- Professor (in the UK sense, rather than in USA use of the title) of Geography at Oxford, became available.

Third is A.T. ('Dick') Grove. I have only ever met him a few times (one being my doctoral viva in 1984) but it

was his 1969 paper on the Kalahari, published in the unfashionable Geographical Journal, about which I spoke in my lecture this morning, that truly set the scene not just for my interest in that part of the world, but for how meticulous fieldwork, and the linking of geomorphology and Quaternary research, can reap dividends in developing a robust understanding of the impact of climate change on the landscape. It is thirty years ago this month that I started my doctorate, not knowing where it would lead, and almost 30 years (March 1981) since I first set foot in Africa and the Kalahari, when I embarked on 8 months fieldwork, with that paper, in the days before GPS, as one of my guiding lights. In the last few years I have revisited that paper many times, and I recognise it as one of the unsung greats of geomorphological writing. It has contributed to me rethinking the role of landforms in palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, and has led to ideas for some current research that I am involved with. I urge everyone to look at it, just as I encourage my students to do. Dick was of course the doctoral supervisor of Andrew Goudie which makes him my academic grandfather, and along the same lines, since he was Nick Lancaster's supervisor too, it makes Nick my academic uncle.

Two things have opened my eyes at this GSA conference, and I would like to reflect briefly on both. First is how well Quaternarists and Geomorphologists are connected here, indeed, in this room this evening. While that relationship exists to some extent in the UK, where indeed there are many scientists who are both Quaternarists and Geomorphologists, we tend to divide, due to the way academia is organised, the one from the other: we have a Quaternary Research Association and a British Geomorphological Society. That both groups come together professionally under one heading here is I feel a great benefit and a great opportunity: the study of landscape processes and landscape history should go hand in hand and benefit greatly when they do. I try to practice this in my work but this is not always the case. In particular it strikes me that in many quarters the valuable contributions of geomorphological proxies to studies of the Quaternary are overlooked, no more than in Africa where colleagues and I are striving to encourage the fuller use of them amongst Quaternary scientists who sometimes see the complexity of their interpretation as a reason to undervalue the information that landform proxies actually provide.

Second, and so apparent this evening, is how vibrant the 'next generation' of Quaternarists and Geomorphologists is. The membership of this room, and the early career awards distributed this evening, testify to this.

A discipline is only as good as the next generation of practitioners: and your next generation seems large and

strong. This is wonderful to see especially at a time when higher education and research is being squeezed in the UK, where it becomes harder to pursue 'blue skies' ideas because the pressure on funding dictates that priorities are perceived too often outside the academic world. Just as my mentors inspired and encouraged me, so I have seen a community of students as critical not just for new ideas, but as people to work with as, inevitably, progression up the greasy pole means more time spent on management and administration at the expense of research and thinking time. I am fortunate then in having supervised, to date, thirty doctorates to completion. Many of these individuals, well over half, are in academic jobs, inspiring their own next generations, and some have the (mis)fortune of being heads of their own departments now. I still have the privilege of working closely with several of them, both early and recent doctoral students of mine, and that linkage is extremely important to me and a constant source of new ideas and inspiration.

So while I owe a debt to those who guided my early career, I would like to dedicate this award to the next generation and to those graduate students and postdocs who tolerate the amount of time I have to spend on Head of department duties, and who give me faith that Quaternary science and geomorphology both have a healthy future. Thank you GSA QG&G and Farouk El Baz for this award: it is an incredible honour to me to receive it.

- Gladys W. Cole Memorial Award -

The Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award is restricted to investigation of the geomorphology of semiarid and arid terrains in the United States and Mexico. It is given each year to a GSA Member or Fellow between 30 and 65 years of age who has published one or more significant papers in geomorphology. The Fund was established in 1980 by Dr. W. Storrs Cole in memory of his wife. The first award was presented in 1982. The 2011 award was given to **David Marchetti**, Western State College for "*Reconciling cosmogenic exposure ages and U-series soil carbonate ages of gravel deposits in the Fremont River drainage basin, Utah.*"

— Student Research Awards —

Our Division offers three student awards:
The **J. Hoover Mackin Research Award** was created in 1974 to support graduate student research in Quaternary geology or geomorphology. The **Arthur D. Howard Research Award** was established in 1992 to support graduate student research in Quaternary geography or geomorphology. The **Marie Morisawa Award** was established in 2006 to support a promising female graduate student in geomorphology.

— J. Hoover Mackin Award —

The 2011 Mackin Award for Ph.D. research was given to **Philip Prince**, Virginia Tech, for “The role of stream capture in driving transient landscape evolution in tectonically quiescent settings”.

Honorable mention: **John Gartner**, Dartmouth College, for “Times scales of stream bed sediment exchange at depth”.



Mackin awardee Philip Prince.

— The Marie Morisawa Award —

The 2011 Marie Morisawa Award was given to **Kristen Cooke**, University of Victoria, for “Resolving large-magnitude earthquake events and isolation of a paleo-seismic signature in fjord sediment archives of northern Cascadia”.

Honorable Mention: Jessica Zinger, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for “Morphodynamics of cut-off meander bends”.

— Arthur D. Howard Research Award —

The 2011 Howard Award for M.S. research was given to **Linda Martin**, Rutgers University, for “Paleo-environment reconstruction of Pleistocene to Holocene beds near Eliya Springs, west Turkana, with correlation to early Homo sapiens sites”.

Honorable Mention: **Jessica Zinger**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for “Morphodynamics of cut-off meander bends”.



Howard Awardee Linda Martin



Howard & Morisawa honorable-mention awardee Jessica Zinger

Robert K. Fahnestock Memorial Award

The 2011 Fahnestock award honors the memory of the former member of the Research Grants Committee, who died indirectly as a result of service on the committee. The award is given for the best proposal in sediment transport or related aspects of fluvial geomorphology.

The 2011 recipient was **Jennifer Schmitz**, University of Wisconsin, for "Geologically constrained high-resolution numerical modeling of the glacial history and polythermal ice dynamics on Cumberland Peninsula, Baffin Island."

-- The John Montagne Fund --

The Montagne fund was established in 2000 to support one student's research in Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology. The 2011 recipient was **Annina Margareth**, Dalhousie University.

2011 CANQUA Awards

Jim Teller (Department of Geological Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg) and **John Westgate** (Department of Geology, University of Toronto) were recipients of the **2011 W.A. Johnston Medal**, the highest award of the Canadian Quaternary Association (CANQUA), for excellence in Quaternary science.

--- UPCOMING MEETINGS ---

2012 ROCKY MTN FOP

The 2012 Joint Pacific Northwest/Rocky Mountain Friends of the Pleistocene field trip will visit the spectacular Owyhee Canyon volcanic region of southeastern Oregon on August 23-26, 2012. We will examine the geomorphic impacts of channel-encroaching lava flows and landslides that potentially play a significant role in creating and maintaining the landscapes of uplifted volcanic terranes throughout the western U.S. Over the last 2 Ma, numerous lava flows and landslides have entered the canyon of the Owyhee River in southeastern Oregon, dramatically and repeatedly altering the river's course and profile.

Field trip participants will visit the Cenozoic lava dams and landslides along the eastern rim of the Owyhee Canyon, ponder the unusually extensive and persistent landslide and earth-flow complexes at The Hole in the Ground, and explore the Holocene Coffee Pot crater and lava lake in the Jordan Craters area. The trip will include moderately strenuous hiking into the Owyhee canyon to the most recent Pleistocene West Crater lava dam and associated lacustrine deposits.

For more information about the trip, enticing photographs, and registration go to [<https://sites.google.com/site/owyheefop/>](https://sites.google.com/site/owyheefop/).

Add your name to the Owyhee FOP email list or direct any questions about the FOP trip to [<owyhee2012@gmail.com>](mailto:owyhee2012@gmail.com).

---- MISCELLANEA ----

SPECIAL ISSUE of the Journal of the Geological Society of Sweden devoted to varved sediments.

Scope: Latest developments in the sedimentology and genesis of varved sediment and their use in chronologic and paleoclimatic studies of the Holocene, Late Glacial, and even earlier.

Background: Just over 125 years ago, Sweden's Gerard De Geer, University of Stockholm, measured and correlated glacial varves at Djurgården in Stockholm. Since then, varves, at times questioned, have become an important tool for precise chronologic studies and, more recently, a key proxy in Holocene paleoclimatic studies. There has been a recent resurgence in varve studies, and this volume is dedicated to providing important examples of recent work in the areas of genesis, chronology, and use as climate proxies.

Guest editors: (1) Pierre Francus, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Centre Eau, Terre et Environnement, Québec, Québec G1K 9A9, Canada. (2) Jack Ridge, Department of Geology, Tufts University, Medford, Mass., USA 02155

First Call: February 1, 2012

Final deadline: November 1, 2012.

To submit online: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sgff>

Instructions: www.tandfonline.com/sgff

International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG)

The organizing committee of the 16th Joint Geomorphological Meeting on "Morphoevolution of Tectonically Active Belts" to be held in Rome, Italy, on July 1 - 5, 2012, informs the international geomorphological community that a dedicated website exists at the following address:

<http://www.16jgm-rome2012.org/>

European Geosciences Union

The European Geosciences Union has created web pages for its divisions. For the Geomorphology division, we are looking to build a useful and exciting site that provides the research and student community with up to date news, information about meetings and publications, training opportunities and job openings at all levels, research and teaching resources, links and networking mechanisms. It will be a site for you to post and to find material, to learn about and broadcast what is happening in geomorphology. The pages went live on November 1, 2010.

Environmental & Engineering Geoscience seeks contributed papers

(EEG) is co-published by GSA and the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists. The journal accepts peer reviewed manuscripts that address issues relating to the interaction of people with hydrologic and geologic systems. Geomorphology studies are most welcome. Theoretical and applied contributions are appropriate, and the primary criteria for acceptance are scientific and technical merit. As of 2009 color figures which are needed to convey scientific content are printed at no charge to authors. Electronic submission and review are conducted at <http://eeg.allentrack.net>

MRI DATABASE

For those interested in integrated global change research, we would like to draw your attention to the database being built by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) in Bern, Switzerland.

The database is MRI's central networking tool to connect people from research, government, NGOs and the private sector involved in the issue of global change in mountain regions in one way or another. It includes both contact information and details on the participants' areas of expertise. To date the database already

comprises close to 3000 entries. Make (or revise) your entry now at: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/view/40/44/>.

MRI's goals are to advance the understanding of how global change, especially climate change, will impact mountain environments, peoples and economies throughout the world, and to promote the use of that understanding in the pursuit of sustainable management of mountainous regions. MRI is endorsed by IGBP, IHDP, GTOS and the MAB Program. Find out more at our new website: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch>.

SWGNET Online

Georectified Aster satellite imagery data as geotiff for the Southwestern US and northern Mexico. More than 2300 images (>350Gb) available and more on the way. They have been acquired from 2000 to 2004. Image selection is done through our main swgeonet map server:

<http://aspen.asu.edu/website/Geoinformatics/viewer.htm>.

Just make one or more of the Aster layers visible, make the one you are interested in active, and click on a footprint of interest with the inquire (i) tool and then click through the various options.

Here is a tutorial that might help to get you going: http://www.geoinformaticsnetwork.org/swgeonet/Data/Tutorials/Tutorial-ASTER_data.htm.

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DENDROCHRONOLOGY DATABASE

The Bibliography of Dendrochronology is an archive of printed documents relevant to tree-ring research worldwide, that you can search for free. It was compiled and is constantly updated by Henri D. Grissino-Mayer. It currently contains over 8200 references dating back to 1737. <http://www01.wsl.ch/dendrobiblio>

You are welcome to contribute by sending reprints of relevant publications to:

Dr. Henri D. Grissino-Mayer
Department of Geography
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996
(865) 974-6029
<http://web.utk.edu/~grissino>

IAG NEWSLETTER

IAG Newsletters are available on the IAG Website:
<http://www.geomorph.org>

GEOMORPHORUM

The newsletter of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Geomorphology Specialty Group can be accessed at:
<http://www.aag-gsg.org/geomorphorum.shtml>

PAGES - (PAst Global changES)

The core mission of PAGES is to *facilitate international collaborations and interdisciplinary science*, especially between individuals involved in national programs with overlapping interests. The PAGES scope of interest includes the physical climate system, biogeochemical cycles, ecosystem processes, biodiversity, and human dimensions. The emphasis is on high-resolution studies of global change – such as those stored in ice cores, tree rings, speleothems, corals, lakes, marine records, etc. – and the use of these data for making sound estimates of future global change. What is PAGES and how can a GSA/Quaternary Member get involved? <http://www.pages.unibe.ch>.

PAGES even played a key role with NOAA in establishing the WDC-A for Paleoclimatology as the central depository for global paleoclimate data.

WDC-A stands for World Data Center for Paleoclimatology, which is a part of the NOAA National Climate Data Center (NCDC).
<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/paleo/paleo.html>

CGRG BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CANADIAN GEOMORPHOLOGY

<http://cgrg.geog.uvic.ca/cgi-bin/search.cgi>

1. The Bibliography of Canadian Geomorphology is a searchable database dedicated to identifying publications and presentations describing the practice and application of geomorphology in Canada. Included are over 18,000 records related to the fields of aeolian, applied, coastal, fluvial, glacial, hillslope, karst, periglacial, permafrost and offshore geomorphology. The database also includes records describing Canadian Quaternary/ Holocene environments and a substantial body of records related to Canadian hydrology.

2. Recent Publications in Canadian Geomorphology:
<http://cgrg.geog.uvic.ca/list.htm>.

Since the last newsletter, we were notified of the passing of the following colleagues:

Glenn Berger
H. Edgell, April 13, 2010
Warren Thompson, July 1, 2011
James Taranik, June 21, 2011
W. Kamb, April 21, 2011
Jack Sunderman, August 23, 2011
William Farrand, March 1, 2011
Meredith Ostrom, November 11, 2010
James Benedict, March 1, 2011
Stanley Schumm, April 11, 2011
James Machlachlan, June 26, 2010
Carol La Delfe
Thomas Winter, October 8, 2010
Richard Hadley, January 19, 2010
John Montagne
Charles Stearns, June 27, 2010
Donald Baker, July 19, 2010
Allen Braumiller, January 29, 2010
E. Pirkle, January 12, 2010

QG&G Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 9, 2011

4:00 PM-6:00 PM, Minnesota Convention Center
Room M100J, Minneapolis, MN

Attending:

Officers

Paul Bierman, Past Chair

Kyle House, Chair

Sara Rathburn, 1st Vice Chair

Jim O'Connor, 2nd Vice Chair

Alan Nelson, 2nd Vice Chair elect

Jon Major, Secretary

Scott Burns, Treasurer

Dennis Dahms*, Newsletter editor/Webmaster

Thom Davis, Historian

Panel:

Dave Wilkins*, Yvonne Martin*, Yehouda Enzel 2009-2011
Panel (outgoing)

Karen Gran, Anne Jefferson, Tammy Rittenour 2010-2012
Panel

Ben Laabs, MaryAnn Madej, Margaret Berry 2011-2013
Panel (incoming)

Other invitees:

Diane Lorenz*, GSA

John Holbrook, GSA Council liaison

Wesley Hill*, GSA Division liaison

* Sent regrets for not attending

Meeting called to order at 4:10pm

GSA Division Chair's Report: Kyle House (Chair) gave a summary of the division chair's meeting held Saturday, October 8, 2011. Items on the meeting agenda of note to the division included: (1) GSA's 125th anniversary celebration in Denver in 2013. GSA wants each division to help contribute something special toward the meeting, such as special sessions, field trips, workshops, etc. The board invites thoughts from the membership on the matter. Please contact any of the officers if you have ideas. (2) QG&G needs a formal division logo. GSA wants to reinforce the society's branding, and a logo is a good way to do this. GSA wants each division to have a logo in place for the 125th anniversary. If a division fails to get a logo in place, GSA may put one together for it. Kyle wants to have a broad 'logo contest' for the division membership. The winning logo will receive a \$100 gift certificate. One blast email on the topic has been sent to the membership, and another will be sent out in summer 2012. There are strict format requirements that must be followed. Guideline information is available from the Division chair. (3) GSA is trying to engage more in social media outreach, and is making a push to get into digital media and applications. QG&G has created a facebook page and it has gotten modest use (260 likes as of October 2011). The page has attracted a mostly younger and international following. (4) Controversial abstracts. Various groups having controversial views are aggressively participating in the annual and sectional GSA meetings. This topic engendered a lively discussion on whether the abstract acceptance process as a whole needs to be reviewed, or whether GSA should simply accept all abstracts, much like AGU, unless the content is particularly egregious. No firm decision was made, so for now the Joint Technical Program Committee (JTPC) representatives and session advocates will screen abstracts solely for scientific merit and content. (5) The Minneapolis meeting had 260 topical sessions proposed, but many ended up being canceled. For future meetings, QG&G will combine similarly themed session proposals to avoid dilution. A few years ago the QG&G chair put out a call for session advocates for a few 'themed' sessions, and then aggressively advertised for people to submit abstracts to those themed sessions. QG&G will adopt that approach again. (6) In an effort for GSA to be more collegial than competitive with AGU, there will be a joint Penrose-Chapman conference on sea-level change in 2012. Along those lines, QG&G felt that GSA should not try to 'compete' with AGU, but rather should continue to focus on what it does well (smaller meetings, field trips, workshops, etc.). (7) If divisions are interested, GSA Foundation will help them plan fund raising. Members having ideas on fund-raising activities are encouraged to contact the Division chair. (8) Some divisions have booths in the exhibit hall and sell merchandise. Each division has the right to staff a free exhibit booth. The board felt QG&G should consider staffing such a booth, and perhaps offering merchandise such as water bottles, tee-shirts, etc. for sale. The board would like to hear from the membership on this matter.

Treasurer's report: Scott Burns (Treasurer) reported that in fiscal year 2010-11, the Division had a total income of \$8927, and total expenses of \$12,730 for a net deficit spending of \$3803. Most of that deficit came from greater than expected costs for catering the board meeting and awards ceremony. For fiscal year 2011-12, Scott presented a budget having projected income of \$9000 from dues, \$2600 from a donor as a pass-through subsidy for students for the Kirk Bryan field trip, and projected expenses of \$13,250, for a projected deficit spending of \$1650 (see attached report). The bulk of the proposed deficit spending regards subsidizing the Kirk Bryan and Howard awards. The foundation funds for these awards are presently insufficient to support them at their current levels, so the division will subsidize the differences. As of June 2011, the Division has total reserve assets of \$9426. Scott noted that as award base funds continue to rebound and grow, the division will ease out of supplementing some of the awards, and deficit spending should cease within the next year or two. Scott concluded that with the Division reserves, we could continue the deficit spending we have incurred the past few years because he believes the division is financially healthy and foundation funds will recover in the future. Motion to approve the proposed budget with deficit spending was passed. Discussion was then raised as to whether division dues should be raised slightly beginning in 2013 to better support award subsidies, the awards ceremony, student participation in the Kirk Bryan field trip, and to reduce or eliminate deficit spending. It was noted that dues was last increased in 1999, from \$4 to the current \$8 (which is one of the lowest division dues in GSA). Motion to raise the dues for Professional Members and Fellows from \$8 to \$10 was proposed, seconded, and passed. Dues for student members, recent graduates, and K-12 teachers will remain at \$4. A proposal to raise dues will be put to membership vote in summer 2012.

Easterbrook Distinguished Scientist Award: The management board voted to keep the Distinguished Scientist Award in hiatus. Scott Burns noted that he and GSA have engaged Don Easterbrook in further discussion regarding funding for the award. The division still needs to fund the award for our last awardee from 2009, but the foundation fund is not sufficient to do so. Scott has found a donor who is willing to put up half the balance for the award and this is something he and GSA will discuss with Don. The Division management board felt that the award needs to have an endowment capable of fully supporting the award before it can come out of hiatus. A 2010 letter from the board to GSA and Don Easterbrook articulated the board's position on the matter.

Donna Russell (GSA Foundation) provided the following information regarding the base funds for the Division awards (as of February 28, 2011):

Kirk Bryan award: \$92,441

Don J. Easterbrook Distinguished Scientist award: \$9704

Farouk El-Baz award: \$208,431

Arthur D. Howard (MS) student award: \$44,328

J. Hoover Mackin (PhD) student award: \$69,724
Gladys W. Cole Memorial research grant: \$168,133
Marie Morisawa fund: \$57,506

GSA allows divisions to use up to 5% of the average value of the base funds from the preceding two years to support awards as long as the base funds exceed \$40,000.

Historian's report: Thom Davis (Historian) reported that he is trying to create a photo archive of all awardees of Division professional awards, particularly the Kirk Bryan and Distinguished Career Award recipients. He has photos of some awardees, but has been seeking more without much success. He will work with Dennis Dahms to put what he has up on the division website.

Fall Newsletter: Dennis Dahms (Newsletter editor/Webmaster) informed the board that he was not going to be able to get the fall newsletter completed in a timely manner. As a result this method of communication with the membership will wait until release of the spring newsletter.

Membership report: The QG&G membership was 1486 as of August 29, 2011.

Election: The election for 2011-12 QG&G officers closed July 5, 2011. In that election, 20.4% of QG&G members voted (304 out of 1486 eligible). Newly elected board and panel members include: Alan Nelson (2nd Vice Chair), Benjamin Laabs, Margaret Berry, MaryAnn Madej (panelists). Sara Rathburn was elected Chair, Jim O'Connor, 1st Vice Chair, Scott Burns, Treasurer, and Dennis Dahms, Newsletter editor/Webmaster.

Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Fellows elected in 2011 are:

Paul Bishop
Eldon Gath
Monica Gowan
Darryl Granger
Neal Iverson
Kathleen Nicoll
Richard Langford
Lewis Owen
Frederick Swanson
Harvey Thorleifson
Christopher Waythomas
Robert Young

2012 Annual GSA meeting, Charlotte, NC. The board discussed again the need to have various topical themes represented at the national meetings, and to have some knowledge early on of topical themes being submitted that request QG&G sponsorship. One idea regarding sponsorship is to have proposers send the QG&G chair advance notice regarding a theme session that they would like to propose (perhaps a month in advance of the proposal deadline). This will give the chair a chance to discuss the proposal with the

QG&G board if needed, will help avoid potential duplication of efforts among proposers, and will keep the chair from being blindsided at the last minute with a sponsorship request. In past years, the Chair has sent an email to the membership requesting that notice of session proposals be submitted to QG&G in advance of the proposal deadline. That seemed to work reasonably well, and the approach will be tried again for the Charlotte meeting. The board also experimented with selecting various themes in advance, and sending out an email to the membership soliciting members to propose topical sessions related to those themes. This also seemed to work well and will be done again. The board felt that the following themes should be represented at the national meeting: soils, glacial geomorphology, coastal geomorphology, tectonic geomorphology, aeolian processes, geochronology, fluvial geomorphology, climate studies, paleoclimate studies, hillslope geomorphology, geomorphic hydrology. **Sara Rathburn** (incoming Chair) will send out an email to the membership announcing the idea, and urging the membership to target topical sessions related to those themes for the Charlotte 2012 meeting. GSA Council has also stated a policy encouraging new and innovative types of sessions in future meetings, not simply the standard short-talk style sessions. Sara will encourage the membership to submit novel session ideas. The 2012 Joint Technical Program Committee representatives will be **Sara Rathburn** (incoming Chair) and **Jim O'Connor** (incoming 1st Vice Chair).

The **Charlotte meeting Kirk Bryan field trip** was discussed. The Wednesday format for the trip seems to be working well and will be kept. The board received a proposal from **Missy Eppes** and **Anne Jefferson** (panelist) regarding a Kirk Bryan trip for the Charlotte 2012 meeting. They have proposed a trip to the Appalachian Piedmont to discuss new perspectives on an old landscape. The board voted unanimously to approve the proposal, and had some suggestions for Missy and Anne to consider regarding trip logistics.

Division/Associated Societies Chair's meeting will be held in Boulder, CO, in mid- to late April, 2012. In 2007, the board voted to send two representatives to the meeting (Chair and 1st Vice Chair) when possible. GSA will contribute up to \$700 toward the costs of Division attendees to this meeting, and the Division will contribute \$300. **Sara Rathburn** and **Jim O'Connor** will attend the meeting.

Morisawa student award: Jim O'Connor (2nd Vice Chair) discussed the selection process for the Morisawa awardee and wondered whether the award should remain restrictive or become more inclusive. The award was founded to honor a promising female graduate student, and any changes to the intent of the award would need to be discussed with the founder. It was further suggested that because the award now has a well-endowed base fund, its value should be raised to be on par with the Mackin and Howard awards. A vote on this motion was put to the board members via email after the Minneapolis meeting had concluded, and on October

18, 2011 the board voted to increase the award value to \$2500.

Awards: The annual awards ceremony was held Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 7-11 PM at the Minnesota Convention Center, Minneapolis.

Kirk Bryan Award

Robert C. Walter and Dorothy J. Merritts, for *Natural streams and the legacy of water-powered mills: Science, v. 319, p. 299-304 (2008)*. (\$5000, plaque)

Ellen Wohl, Citationist

Thanks to the following panel members for evaluation: **Yvonne Martin, David Wilkins, Karen Gran, Anne Jefferson, Tammy Rittenour, Andrew Fountain** (in lieu of Yehouda Enzel)

Distinguished Career Award

David Mickelson, University of Wisconsin (\$1000, plaque)

Jeffrey Munroe, Citationist

Evaluation was conducted by the 2011 management board and panel members.

Farouk El-Baz Award

David Thomas, Oxford University (\$9100; plaque)

Nick Lancaster (for Ashok Singhi), Citationist

Thanks to the following panel for evaluation of the award: **Missy Eppes, Marith Reheis, Alan Gillespie**.

Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Grant from GSA

David Marchetti, Western State College, for his research proposal entitled *Reconciling cosmogenic exposure ages and U-series soil carbonate ages of gravel deposits in the Fremont River drainage basin, Utah*. (\$6500; plaqued certificate).

Evaluation was conducted by the 2011 management board.

J. Hoover Mackin (PhD) Award

Philip Prince, Virginia Tech University, for *The role of stream capture in driving transient landscape evolution in tectonically quiescent settings* (\$2500, plaqued certificate). Advisor: James A. Spotila.

Honorable mention: John Gartner, Dartmouth University, for *Time scales of stream-bed sediment exchange at depth* (plaqued certificate). Advisor: Carl Renshaw.

Thanks to the student awards panel: Jim O'Connor (2nd Vice Chair), Lisa Ely, Glenn Thackray, Noah Snyder, Faith Fitzpatrick.

Arthur D. Howard (MS) Award

Linda Martin, Rutgers University, for *Paleoenvironment reconstruction of Pleistocene to Holocene beds near Eliye*

Springs, west Turkana, Kenya, with correlation to early Homo sapiens sites (\$2500, plaqued certificate). Advisor: Craig Feibel.

Honorable mention: Jessica Zinger, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, for *Morphodynamics of cutoff meander bends* (plaqued certificate). Advisor: Jim Best.

Thanks to the student awards panel: Jim O'Connor (2nd Vice Chair), Steve Kite, Daniel Malmon, Sarah Lewis, Allen Gellis.

Marie Morisawa Award (for promising female graduate student)

Kristen Cooke, University of Victoria, *Resolving Holocene large-magnitude earthquake events and isolation of a paleo-seismic signature in fjord sediment archives of northern Cascadia* (\$1000, plaqued certificate). Advisor: Vera Pospelova.

Honorable mention: Jessica Zinger, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, for *Morphodynamics of cutoff meander bends* (plaqued certificate). Advisor: Jim Best.

Thanks to the student awards panel: Jim O'Connor (2nd Vice Chair), Lisa Ely, Faith Fitzpatrick, Sarah Lewis.

Robert K. Fahnestock Memorial Award from GSA

Jennifer Schmitz, University of Wisconsin, for *Effects of fire and logging on carbon accumulation rates in northern Wisconsin lake sediments* (plaqued certificate). Advisor: Sara Hotchkiss.

John Montagne Fund from GSA

Annina Margareth, Dalhousie University (plaqued certificate). Advisor: John Gosse.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Division Newsletter Editors

Many Divisions “publish” their newsletters mainly by posting them on their Division websites. All Division websites can be accessed from:

<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/divisions.htm>.

Archaeological Geology – Spring, Fall

Contact: Chair, Loren Davis, loren.davis@oregonstate.edu

Coal Geology – No set schedule.

Contact: Chair, Sue Rimmer, srimmer.siu.edu

Environmental and Engineering Geology – Spring, Summer, Fall

Contact: Chair, William Schultz, wschultz@usgs.gov

Geobiology & Geomicrobiology – No set schedule.

Contact: Chair, Frank Corsetti fcorsett@usc.edu

Geoinformatics – No set schedule.

Contact: Chair, Walter Snyder, wsnyder@boisestate.edu

Geology & Health – No set schedule.

Contact: Chair, Robert Finkelman, bofb@utdallas.edu

Geology & Society – No set schedule.

Contact: Chair, Craig Cooper, craig.cooper@inl.gov

Geophysics – No set schedule.

Contact: Chair, Audrey Huerta, huertaa@geology.cwu.edu

Geoscience Education – Winter, Summer

Contact: Chair, Sadredin Moosavi, smoosavi@charter.net

History of Geology – Quarterly.

Contact: Chair, Ken Aalto, kra1@humboldt.edu

Hydrogeology – Spring/Summer, Fall

Contact: Chair, Steve Ingebritsen, seingebr@usgs.gov

Limnogeology – No set schedule.

Contact: Chair, Daniel Deocampo deocampo@gsu.edu

Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, Volcanology

Contact: Chair, Russell Harmon, russell.harmon@us.army.mil

Planetary Geology – Summer or Fall

Contact: Chair, Simon Kattenhorn, simkat@uidaho.edu

QG&G – Spring/Summer, Fall

Contact: Newsletter editor Dennis Dahms,
dennis.dahms@uni.edu

Sedimentary Geology – Spring, Fall

Contact: Chair, Richard Langford, langford@utep.edu

Structural Geology & Tectonics – Spring, Fall

Contact: Chair, Ronald Bruhn, ron.bruhn@utah.edu

MEMBERS OF GSA QG&G DIVISION

Ballot for 2012-2013 Officers - Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division (QG&G)

Please vote by completing the section at the bottom and mailing it to GSA postmarked no later than July 9, 2012. Biographical data for the candidates are on the pages following this ballot.

You may vote online by July 9 at: <https://rock.geosociety.org/ballot/vote.asp?Name=qgg>

Access the online ballot using your GSA member number or your e-mail address if it is in your GSA records – but not both. For assistance, please contact GSA at gsaservice@geosociety.org or (303) 357-1000 or call toll-free in the U.S. at (888) 443-4472. You may also submit your completed ballot by fax (303) 357-1074.

Chair (one-year term; vote for one candidate):

Jim O'Connor Write-in _____

1st Vice-Chair (one-year term; vote for one candidate):

Alan Nelson Write-in _____

2nd Vice-Chair (one-year term; vote for one candidate):

Dave Dethier Write-in _____

Secretary (two-year term; vote for one candidate):

Sarah Lewis Write-in _____

Panelists (two-year term; vote for three (3) candidates):

Meredith Kelly Sara Mitchell Jeff Munroe

Will Ouimet Amanda Henck-Schmidt Sean Smith

Write-in _____

Mail to: Division Office, Geological Society of America, PO Box 9140, Boulder, CO, 80301-9140

You must complete the following section to validate your ballot:

Your Name (printed) _____

Your Signature (required) _____

Your GSA Member Number * (required) _____

* Your 7 digit GSA member number is on the top right corner on the external mailing label. If you need assistance with your member number, call: (888) 443-4472

Biographies of Candidates for 2012-2013 Officers QG&G Division

Division Chair 2012-2013 (1 year term)

Jim O'Connor: Education: BS, University of Washington (Geol. Sciences); MS, PhD, University of Arizona (Major, Geosciences; Minor, Hydrology). Experience: Hydrologist, Pima County Flood Control District, 1985-1986; National Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellow, U.S.G.S., 1991-1994; Research Hydrologist, U.S. Forest Service, 1994-1996; Research Hydrologist, U.S.G.S., 1996-present. Professional Affiliations: GSA (Fellow), AGU. GSA Service: Committee on Research Grants, 1998-2000; Associate Editor GSA Bulletin, 2002-2009; 2009 Annual Meeting Local Committee (Portland, Field Trip co-Chair); GSA QG&G Panelist (1998-2000). Awards: Kirk Bryan Award (GSA, 1995), Robert K. Fahnestock Award (GSA, 1988), Hoover Mackin Award (GSA, 1987, 1985). Research Interests: Flood processes, fluvial geomorphology, Pacific Northwest Quaternary geology.

First Vice-Chair 2012-2013 (1 year term)

Alan R. Nelson: Education: BS, MS, University of Wisconsin-Madison; PhD, University of Colorado-Boulder. Experience: Geologist, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, 1979-1985; Research Affiliate, INSTAAR, University of Colorado, 1981-present; Research Geologist, USGS, Golden, CO 1985-present. Awards: Killam Fellowship, Dalhousie University, 1978-79; Gilbert Fellowship, USGS, 1989; Memberships: GSA 1972-, AMQUA 1972-, SEPM 1980-1992, AEG 1990-1999, IGCP-274,367, AGU, SSA, Tsunami Society. Service: Editorial Board, Geology 1987-1989; QG&G Secretary 1998-2002; College of Reviewers for Canada Research Chairs Program 2003, 2010. Research: Paleoseismology and tsunami hazards in U.S. Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Chile; intertidal stratigraphy and micropaleontology applied to coastal tectonics; paleoseismic records in lakes; paleoseismology of reverse faults in U.S. Pacific Northwest; neotectonics, geomorphology, amino acid dating, and soils in Basin and Range, western U.S.

Second Vice-Chair 2012-2013 (1 year term)

David Dethier. Education: BA, Dartmouth College; MS and PhD, University of Washington. Experience: Project geologist, USGS, Seattle; Staff Member, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Professor of Geosciences, Williams College. Professional affiliations: GSA, AGU, Soil Science Society of America, AAAS. AAAS Nominating Committee, Geology and Geography Section, 96-98. GSA Service: GSA QG&G Management Board 99-02. Research Interests: Weathering and erosion history of the Front Range, Colorado; geochemistry and hydrology of surface and ground water systems; glacial history of northwestern Washington

Secretary 2012-2014 (2 year term)

Sarah Brown Lewis. Education: BA 1996, Tufts University; MS 1999, The University of Vermont. Experience: 1999-2000 Project Geologist, Terrasearch, Inc.; 2001-present, Senior Faculty Research Assistant, Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. Professional Affiliations: GSA, AGU, AWG. GSA Service: Evaluator, QG&G 2011 Student Research Awards. Awards: QG&G Division 1998 Howard Award. Research Interests: The influence of extreme events (floods, hurricanes, earthquakes) and disturbance (timber harvest, dam emplacement or removal) on fluvial morphology and watershed evolution.

Panelists for Award Evaluations- 2012-2014 (2 year term) Choose 3 Candidates:

Meredith A. Kelly. Education: BS, Tufts University; MS, University of Maine; PhD, University of Berne. Experience: The Ohio State University, Byrd Polar Research Center, University Postdoctoral Fellow 2003-2004; Columbia University, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Postdoctoral Fellow 2004-2007; Doherty Associate Research Scientist 2007-2009; Dartmouth College, Department of Earth Sciences, Assistant Professor 2009-present. Professional Affiliations: GSA, AGU, Sigma Xi, AWIS. Research Interests: Paleoclimate and paleoenvironmental reconstructions using glacial geomorphology and lake sediment records; cosmogenic nuclide and radiocarbon dating, polar and glacial landscape evolution.

Sara Gran Mitchell. Education: BA, Carleton College; MS, University of Vermont; PhD, University of Washington. Experience: Assistant Professor, College of the Holy Cross. Professional affiliations: GSA, AGU. GSA Service: Arthur D. Howard award proposal reviewer, 2008. Research interests: glacial and fluvial geomorphology; topographic evolution of glaciated mountain ranges; sediment transport and hydrology of small watersheds.

Jeff Munroe. Education: BA, Bowdoin College; MS, University of Wisconsin-Madison; PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Experience: Northland College, Lecturer 1996-1997; Middlebury College, Assistant Professor 2001-2008; Middlebury College, Associate Professor 2008-present. Professional Affiliations: GSA, AGU, AMQUA, U.S. Permafrost Association. Service: Panelist NSF IF/MRI program, guest editor for Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research (v. 39, no. 4) and Geomorphology (v. 75, no. 3-4). Awards: Middlebury College Perkins Distinguished Teaching Award nominee 2002 and 2007, University of Wisconsin-Madison Distinguished Research Paper Award 2003, University of Wisconsin-Madison Vilas Fellowship 2001, GSA-QGG Mackin Award honorable mention 1999. Research Interests: Quaternary geology, glacial geology, paleolimnology, Arctic and alpine environments.

Will Ouimet. Education: BA, Williams College; PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Experience: Postdoctoral Researcher, Pennsylvania State University, 2007-2008; Visiting Assistant Professor, Colorado College, 2008-2009; Visiting Assistant Professor, Amherst College, 2009-2011; Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut, 2011-present. Professional Affiliations: GSA; AGU; AAG. GSA Service: Session Convener, 2012 GSA Northeastern Section Meeting; Reviewer, GSA Bulletin and Geology. Other Service: Organizing Committee, 2012 MYRES Meeting. Research Interests: Erosional processes and landform/landscape evolution; role of tectonics and climate in shaping topography; human impacts on the landscape; tectonic geomorphology; fluvial geomorphology; hillslope processes; cosmogenic radio nuclides; thermochronology; GIS; critical zone dynamics.

Amanda Henck Schmidt. Education: BSE, Princeton University; PhD, University of Washington. Experience: Fulbright Fellow, Sichuan University and Jiuzhaigou National Park, 2010; Assistant Professor, Oberlin College, 2010-present. Professional Affiliations: GSA, AGU, Association of American Geographers, Sigma Xi. Awards: QG&G Division J Hoover Mackin Award, 2006; GSA Robert Fahnestock Award, 2006; Sichuan University and Jiuzhaigou National Park Post-doctoral Fellowship Award, 2010. Research Interests: Human-landscape interactions, particularly the interaction between long-term indigenous and modern land uses in western China; tectonic geomorphology in Eastern Tibet.

Sean Smith. Education: BS, Univ. of Maryland; MS, Univ. of Maryland; PhD, The Johns Hopkins Univ. Experience: MD Dept. of Natural Resources (Annapolis, MD), Environmental Scientist, 1989-1997; Geomorphologist, Philip Williams and Assoc. (San Francisco, CA), 1998-1999; Geologist, MD Dept. of Natural Resources, 1999-2011; Asst. Professor, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Univ. of Maine, 2011-Present. Prof. Affiliations: GSA, AGU, Geol. Soc. of Maine. Prof. Service: Organizer – Stream Info. Exchange Symposia, 1996-2008; AGU Session Chair, Spr. 2000; ASCE – Comm. on Proc. of Unstable Channels, 2000; MD Water Monit. Council - Annual Meeting Session Organizer, 2001; Chesapeake Res. Consortium - Conf. Session Organizer, 2009. Research Interests: Geomorphology, catchment hydrology and sediment processes, sediment transport, stream-channel dynamics, watershed responses to human disturbances.

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Photos from the Kirk Bryan fieldtrip during the Minneapolis Annual Meeting, October 2011 (Courtesy of P. Kyle House)

