



Photo by Andy Sameshima

GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division (QG&G) Newsletter

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▶ Letter from our 2025-26 Chair



Dear Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Community,

I am honored to serve this year as your chair and want to start by thanking Jen Pierce for her leadership of QG&G this past year! My gratitude also to our secretary, Lisa Ely, who holds everything together; our treasurer, Scott Burns, who has held that role for almost 30 years now; and our rotating, dedicated crew of QG&G board and panel members.

We had a great meeting in San Antonio, TX, this October that many of us kicked off with a geoarchaeology-focused Kirk Bryan Field trip. It was wonderful to see so many of you there and spend the week sharing science with each other, however our federal colleagues were sorely missed! GSA without USGS, USFS, NOAA, NASA, BLM, NWS, and so many more is not the same, and the loss of their presence and their science hurts both our scientific community and society at large. I encourage you all to continue reaching out to your elected representatives, urging them to support science and scientists – what you all do is so important!

Our annual awards ceremony celebrated four outstanding professional scientists for their contributions. Steven Forman received the Distinguished Career Award, Stephen Tooth was awarded the Farouk El-Baz award, Alan Nelson and colleagues won the Kirk Bryan Award for their 2021 paper on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and Arjun Heimsath received the Gladys W. Cole Award. You can read their citations and responses in the newsletter. We also celebrated our next generation of scientists with 13 student awards, and I encourage you to check out the list of students and their projects inside. For the first time in many years, all of our student award recipients were able to attend GSA and come to the ceremony to receive their awards in person! Many thanks to our Treasurer Scott Burns who has been leading an effort to raise funds to help our student award winners attend GSA.

If you would like to contribute to the Division's efforts, please consider a donation to QG&G or contribute directly to specific award funds. This year, we are particularly encouraging contributions to the new Victor R. Baker award for Graduate Student Research so we can begin to award it to students. We also have two new student awards to announce this year, the Richard & Annette Wohl Award for Graduate Student Research and the John D. Vitek Periglacial and Alpine Geomorphology Award. We thank Ellen Wohl and Jack Vitek for their generosity to QG&G students!

In fall 2026, we return to Denver for GSA Connects, and I hope to see many of you there. We have a potential Kirk Bryan field trip in the works to look at sediment storage in mountain systems near Colorado Springs. Please consider proposing a field trip, technical session, or short course. The deadline has been moved back to February 19, 2026, so you have plenty of time to submit. Start talking to colleagues now with ideas. Our meetings are stronger when everyone is involved and that starts with proposing robust programming.

Please also consider nominating your colleagues for our professional awards. Nominations are due on February 15th for the Kirk Bryan Award and on April 1st for the Distinguished Career and Farouk El-Baz Awards. Proposals for the Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research award are due on February 15th and student research proposals are due on Feb. 18th.

Good luck to everyone finishing up the semester, and I look forward to seeing you in Denver next year!

Sincerely,

Karen Gran

2025-26 QG&G Division Chair



Division Mission

The purpose of the Division is to bring together scientists interested in Quaternary geology and geomorphology, to facilitate presentation and discussion of their problems and ideas, to promote research and publication of results in those fields of geology, and to advise and assist the officers and committees of the Society in matters pertaining to Quaternary geology and geomorphology.



Founded in
1955

2025–26 Management Board

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Earth & Environmental Sciences Dept
University of Minnesota Duluth
kgran@d.umn.edu

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Department of Earth Sciences
University of Connecticut
William.ouimet@uconn.edu

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Department of Environmental Studies
Davidson College
brjohnson@davidson.edu

Past Chair

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Department of Geosciences
Boise State University
jenpierce@boisestate.edu

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Department of Geological Sciences
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Lisa.ely@cwu.edu

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Scott Burns
Department of Geology
Portland State University
burnss@pdx.edu

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Janet Slate
US Geological Survey
jslate@ultrasys.net

DEI Officer

Veronica Sosa-Gonzalez
v.sosagonzalez@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator

Sarah Schanz
Geology Department
Colorado College
sschanz@coloradocollege.edu

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2024–26 Panel

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Lyman Persico, Whitman College
Jane Willenbring, Stanford University

2025–27 Panel

Josh Galster, Montclair State University
Anne MacDonald, Rivergrove
Environmental Consulting
Sylvia Nicovich, U.S. Geological Survey

2026 Joint Technical Program Committee (JTPC) Representatives

Karen Gran
Will Ouimet
Brad Johnson

QG&G Division Liaison (appointed by GSA President)

Rick Ortiz

Connect with QG&G on LinkedIn and social media!

Follow our LinkedIn division showcase page for updates and events. Prefer Instagram or Facebook? Not a problem!



<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/gsa-quaternary-geology-geomorphology-division/?trk=affiliated-pages>



@agg_gsa



@GSAQGG

Tag us in your science posts!

Want your photo featured in the next QG&G newsletter?
Submit a QG&G related photo [here](#)



Announcements

Congrats to new GSA fellows: Paul Baldauf, José Constantine, Isaac Larsen, and Noah Snyder

Interested in leading a field trip, short course, or technical session at GSA Connect 2026 in Denver?

Keep your eye out for deadlines in mid February!

Learn more about careers and opportunities in OG&G by following our LinkedIn showcase page. [linkedin.com/showcase/gsa-quaternary-geology-geomorphology-division/](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/gsa-quaternary-geology-geomorphology-division/)

Upcoming award deadlines

Apply for a student research grant by Feb 18th, 2026!

Submit a GSA Student Research Grant and select “Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology” as the research area to be automatically considered for one of our 12 division grants.

More information and links to apply here:

<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/GSA/grants/gradgrants.aspx>

Nominate an impactful paper published in the last five years for the Kirk Bryan Award.

Nominations are due February 15th, 2026

Send nomination packages to Division Secretary Lisa Ely. More details here:

<https://community.geosociety.org/qggdivision/awards/kirkbryanaward>

Fund research work in semiarid and arid regions through the Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award.

Applications are due February 15th, 2026.

Apply and find more information here:

<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/grants/postdoc.aspx>

Celebrate a lifetime of achievement by nominating a colleague for the Distinguished Career Award.

Nominations are due April 1st, 2026

Send nomination packages to Division Secretary Lisa Ely. More details here:

<https://community.geosociety.org/qggdivision/awards/distinguished-career>

Highlight an outstanding colleague in the field of desert research by nominating them for the Farouk El-Baz Award.

Nominations are due April 1st

Send nominations packages to 1st Vice Chair Will Ouimet. More details here:

<https://community.geosociety.org/qggdivision/awards/el-baz>

Thanks and appreciation

Thank you for your service! Outgoing panel members Lee Corbett, Helen Dow, and Jason Rech, and outgoing past chair Mark Sweeney

Thank you to everyone who helped review awards this year!

Student Award Evaluation Committee: William Ouimet (Chair), Adam Pearson, Alison Anders, Amanda Schmidt, Andy Breckenridge, Brad Johnson, Brian Yanites, Dan Cadol, David Dethier, Doug Clark, Dylan Ward, Evan Dethier, Jake Armour, Jim O'Connor, John Kemper, Jose Luis Antinao, Kristen Cook, Lyman Persico, Margaret Berry, Mark Sweeney, Mary Savina, Matt Jungers, Nari Miller, Nathan Hopkins, Nati Bergman, Pamela Tarquin, Randy Schaetzl, Rebecca Taormina, Sarah Lewis, Sarah Principato, Sarah Schanz, Steve Gordon, and Tammy Rittenour

In Memoriam

This past year, we learned of the losses of several QG&G members. Please share a moment of silence and cherish memories of: August Matthusen, Susan Halsey, John Lovering, Nat Rutter, Wes Hildreth, and Jay Quade.

From Paul Kapp, Professor and Interim Department Head at University of Arizona:

It is with profound sadness that I share the loss of Professor Jay Quade, member of the National Academy of Sciences. Jay passed Friday morning after battling Parkinson's disease.

Jay was a real-life Indiana Jones who inspired and elevated all around him. His insatiable passion for discovery—in both the field and lab—made him one of the most influential geoscientists of his generation. He was an exemplary teacher in lower and upper division courses and devoted countless months to teaching summer field camp.

Jay was a warm and thoughtful colleague, mentor, and friend. His big smile, infectious enthusiasm, and optimism brightened every room. His wisdom and kindness touched countless lives, and his loss will be deeply felt throughout our community.

I invite you to share your favorite memories, stories, and photos of Jay with McKenzie Meza at mim4@arizona.edu. These will be compiled into a tribute page celebrating his life and legacy.



Division Awards

The following awards were given by the QG&G Division at our Annual Awards Ceremony at the 2025 GSA Connects in San Antonio, TX, on Tuesday, 22nd of October 2025.

Distinguished Career Award

The Distinguished Career Award was established in 1985. It is presented to Quaternary Geologists and Geomorphologists who have demonstrated excellence in their contributions to science.

We presented the 2025 award to Steven Forman, Baylor University.

Excerpts from citationist Mike Waters:

We are here today to honor our colleague, Dr. Steven Forman, who is receiving the 2025 GSA Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division Distinguished Career Award. Dr. Forman has made significant contributions that have advanced many areas of Quaternary Science both in the laboratory and in the field. Dr. Forman is a pioneer and leader in the development, refinement, and application of the luminescence dating method. He opened one of the first luminescence dating laboratories in North America in the 1990s and continued to date samples until his retirement this year.

Besides his research, Dr. Forman has given exceptional service to the field of Quaternary studies. He has served on numerous panels, committees, and working groups for different agencies and organizations. He has also mentored multiple graduate students and post-docs who have gone on to become productive Quaternary scientists.

We all have great admiration and respect for Dr. Forman. His scholarship and contributions to Quaternary geochronology, late Quaternary history of many regions, late Quaternary climate change, and the late Quaternary peopling of the Americas are immense and impactful. Very few individuals have contributed so much in four decades. His record of achievement and contributions is truly distinguished. He is the finest Quaternary scholar I have ever known.

Excerpts from Steven Forman's response:

I am humbled and grateful for this Distinguished Career Award from QG&G. I thank deeply my good colleagues Mike Waters, Mark Sweeney, and Julie Brigham-Grette for their substantial efforts on my behalf; I know

how busy you are.

However, one's career is not a singular effort but reflects the patience, understanding, good cheer and inspiration of many. I owe my family deepest gratitude. I grew up in a house in which the wallpaper was full and brimming bookshelves, where reading, learning and knowledge was revered by my educator and scientist parents. I also recognize my incredible wife, Lily, whose love, counsel and partnership deeply enriched my life. I owe much to my children for the joy they brought to our life and for enduring my many absences in the field, in laboratories, in libraries, and in manuscripts. I have been lucky to love my profession and find unending joy in wandering in the Quaternary, within ideas, quantities, and isotopes trying to understand past processes, environments, cultures and climate.

We are living the paradigm shift in our discipline that the greatest geologic force in the latest Quaternary is us, industrialized society, that inadvertently is rendering many areas of our planet unsustainable. I have evolved to internalize that the science of global climate change is central to Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology.

We live in deeply troubling times with funding for the CDC, USGS, EPA, NOAA, NASA and NSF diminished with basic research programs disappearing. In the public space the scientific process is denigrated with research in global health, environmental degradation, water resources and climate change deemed extraneous. As a Division and Society, we need to recognize and award those scientists most impacted by these draconian acts to silence science. We must not give up the science, no matter how momentarily it is controversial, taboo, or unwanted. Each of us are stewards of the science for the limited time we have active

brains, and this is our collective responsibility. I remember a piece of advice Pete Birkland passed on, “Never let the lack of funds keep you from the research that inspires you.” So,

let us keep our science alive, be brave, take risks, and forward new frontiers through your students and each other. You are bound to do a better job than the preceding generations.

Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research

The Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research was established in 1999. Dr. Farouk El-Baz, Research Professor and Director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University, contributed the initial endowment for the award. The award is given annually for an outstanding body of work in the field of desert research.

We presented the 2025 award to Stephen Tooth, Aberystwyth University, Wales.

Excerpts from citationist Gerald Nanson, read by Bob Craddock

It’s an absolute pleasure and privilege to stand here today to honor my friend and colleague, Professor Stephen Tooth, recipient of this year’s Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research. For over three decades, he has reshaped how we see, study, and value the world’s drylands — not as barren wastelands, but as dynamic, living systems filled with complexity, resilience, and beauty.

His work on the Okavango Delta — that incredible wetland oasis in Botswana — has been particularly influential. Using optical luminescence dating and careful geomorphic reconstruction, Stephen and his collaborators have shown how this vast system responded to Holocene hydroclimatic shifts, revealing periods of greatly enhanced flow and major channel transformations. It’s a study that has profound implications, not only for understanding the Quaternary history of southern Africa, but for how we interpret the sensitivity of desert wetlands to climate change.

Personally, he is one of my favorite field partners. Few people can describe the history of discovery about any particular region as well as Stephen can. I never fail to learn from him whenever we have a chance to work together. As a side note, no one can dig a hole or trench faster than Stephen either! I think it’s because he is always driven to find out the answer as quickly as possible. Stephen represents the best of what geomorphology can be — a field science rooted in observation, enriched by creativity, and animated by curiosity about how Earth’s landscapes work. His career has deepened our understanding of rivers that flow

without rain, wetlands that thrive in deserts, and landscapes that remind us how resilient our planet can be.

So, it is my great honor — and my personal joy — to congratulate Professor Stephen Tooth, recipient of the 2025 Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research.

Stephen — thank you for inspiring all of us to look closer, think deeper, and appreciate the wonders of the world’s drylands.

Excerpt from Stephen Tooth’s response:

Thank you very much for that citation. It’s always interesting to learn of other people’s opinions of your oeuvre, and of course, in this case it’s very flattering to hear.

It makes it sound like I have done all these research activities by myself, which of course isn’t the case at all, and I’ll come onto that shortly. Second, I owe many, many thanks to my nominators and supporters: Gerald Nanson of course, and Bob Craddock, and Nick Lancaster and Martin Williams. There may be others too that have been supportive and, if so, I thank them as well.

At the end of my PhD, it was Gerald who provided the funds to enable my attendance at a conference in Cape Town, South Africa, and it was there that I met Spike McCarthy. He had heard of my work on Australian desert river floodouts, and was keen to explore similar features in South Africa alongside numerous other research possibilities. He encouraged me to apply for a postdoctoral position at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in the late 90s. I was initially hesitant — South Africa was newly fledged democracy and some people were watching nervously to see how it would fare — but in the

end I went, and have never looked back. Like in Australia, the research opportunities were immense, and there was a very good social scene. It's where I met my American wife, Maggie, who has accompanied me on many a research trip since, and alongside our son Hamish, indulges my constant chatter about landforms and landscapes on supposed family holidays to drylands as well as wetter regions. Maggie and Hamish and our wider families have

been nothing but supportive of my research and other activities.

Everyone plays their part in getting research findings into print: a few lucky people may eventually reap the awards. Tonight, that lucky person is me. As I said in my presentation earlier today, the last year has been exceptionally challenging for me, both personally and professionally. I don't need to go into details here but, as I also said earlier, this award has really helped lift my spirits. So, thank you all.

Kirk Bryan Award

The Kirk Bryan Award for Research Excellence was established in 1951 and is given for a publication of distinction within the last five years that advances the science of geomorphology or Quaternary geology or a related field.

Our 2025 award was presented to Dr. Alan Nelson for their 2021 publication:

Nelson, Alan R., Christopher B. DuRoss, Robert C. Witter, Harvey M. Kelsey, Simon E. Engelhart, Shannon A. Mahan, Harrison J. Gray, Andrea D. Hawkes, Benjamin P. Horton, and Jason S. Padgett. "A maximum rupture model for the central and southern Cascadia subduction zone—Reassessing ages for coastal evidence of megathrust earthquakes and tsunamis." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 261 (2021): 106922. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2021.106922>

Excerpt from citationist Breanyn MacInnes:

I am pleased to convey the citation for the 2025 Kirk Bryan Award of the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division to Alan Nelson and co-authors. This paper pulls together a wide range of records of large earthquakes and tsunamis in southern and central Cascadia and applies improved geochronology techniques. The authors employ careful and detailed analysis of field data and stratigraphy, complex and cutting edge statistical analyses of radiocarbon age results, and clearly explained logic to compute a maximum rupture model. This is no black-box analysis—their data and thinking are transparent and clearly expressed, with the data freely available in the paper and as a supplement so anyone can recreate their work and see their reasoning. They also do not gloss over problematic results, but present the range of data and discuss issues with their dataset.

Cascadia has benefited from a generation of researchers at dozens of field sites, resulting in one of the world's most detailed paleoseismic histories. The large author list, extensive bibliography, the shocking number of radiocarbon dates used, and the many



field sites all reflect a culmination of decades of work. As a researcher working on other subduction zones, reading Nelson et al. (2021) is like a dream of what could be achieved elsewhere to understand subduction zone behavior globally. It exemplifies the next-level synthesis possible once enough foundational data exist—and shows the value of carefully re-evaluating legacy data using modern techniques.



Finally, this paper represents Alan Nelson's long career, collaborations, and mentorship, the latter of which is embodied in the diverse author list spanning a wide range of expertise and career stages. Congratulations to Alan and his colleagues for the well-deserved Kirk Bryan Award.

Excerpt from Alan Nelson's response:

As the ringleader of our research team, I am more than honored to accept the 2025 Kirk Bryan Award for our 2021 paper in *Quaternary Science Reviews*. Thank you so much, Bre, for your kind, humbling, and--in the QG&G tradition--appropriately brief citation. Many thanks also to those who wrote letters supporting her nomination, and to the QG&G Division awards panel for recognizing, for the third time, the work of Cascadia's paleoseismology community. To quote Ellen Wohl, the 2009 winner of this award, "It is particularly gratifying when people who are always busy go out of their way to recognize the work of others." Having made and supported previous nominations for this award, I understand its place in the history of North American Quaternary and geomorphology studies. For this reason, you can imagine my utter amazement on learning that our paper had been selected for this year's award.

Personally, I gratefully acknowledge the example of excellent science set by my PhD advisors, John Andrews, who received this same award when he was less than half my age, and Giff Miller, the second author of the paper honored with the award last year. I also thank my Masters advisor, Dave Mickelson, for showing me what field research is all about. Coastwise, I have learned even more over almost three decades from working with coauthors Harvey Kelsey and his former PhD student, Rob Witter. My Cascadia studies also benefited from interacting with and scrutinizing the work of scientists studying Holocene sea level in northwest Europe, particularly Ian Shennan, Michael Tooley, and Orson Van de Plassche. This led to my unbelievably fortunate and productive collaboration at Cascadia with co-author Ben Horton and his many top-notch, fun-loving students, two of whom are also coauthors. Many USGS scientists also furthered my four-decade paleoseismology career at USGS, a few include Lee-Ann Bradley, Steve Personius, Tony Crone, Mike Machette, Bob Bucknam, Rich Briggs, and coauthor Chris DuRoss.

On behalf of all Cascadia paleoseismologists, our team thanks the QG&G Division of GSA for recognizing the scientific and societal importance of our work.

Gladys W. Cole Memorial Grant

The Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award is restricted to investigation of the geomorphology of semi-arid 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.

Our 2025 award was presented to Arjun Heimsath, Arizona State University, for his proposal "Unzipping the Desert Southwest: Extracting a Climate Record."

QG&G Student Awardees

QGG is proud to provide funds for 13 student research awards, the most of any GSA division! To apply for these, select “Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology” as the field of research when submitting a GSA student research grant.

The following awards were presented at the 2025 Awards Ceremony in San Antonio, TX.

J. Hoover Mackin Student Research Award

The J. Hoover Mackin Research Award was created in 1974 to support PhD graduate research in Quaternary geology/geomorphology. The 2025 recipient was **Jason Drebber**, Colorado School of Mines, for their proposal “Measurements of in-situ ^3He , ^{21}Ne , and ^{14}C for Production Rate Calibration of in-situ ^{14}C in Olivine.” Advised by Dr. Ryan Venturelli.



Arthur D. Howard Student Research Award

The Arthur D. Howard Research Award was established in 1992 to support graduate student research in Quaternary geography or geomorphology. The 2025 Howard Award for MS research was given to **Matthew Rens**, Oregon State University, for their proposal “Sr Isotope Ages on Purported MIS 9 and 11 terraces in San Clemente, California.” Advisor: Dr. Jessica Creveling.

Marie Morisawa Student Research Award

The Marie Morisawa Award was established in 2006 to support promising female graduate students in geomorphology. The 2025 Morisawa Award was given to **Ashley Ford**, Colorado State University, for their proposal “Subsurface Dynamics of Microplastics in the Land of Headwaters.” Advisor: Dr. Rebecca VanderLeest.



Peter Birkeland Soil Geomorphology Student Research Award

The Peter Birkeland Soil Geomorphology Award was established in 2016 to contribute to the advancement of soil geomorphology. The 2025 Birkeland Award was given to **Adrian Wackett**, Stanford University, for their proposal “Forged in flames, quartered in quartz: Using cosmogenic noble gases to reconstruct past fire regimes.” Advisor: Dr. Jane Willenbring.

J. Hoover Mackin Student Research Award

This award was established in 2012 in honor of Stanley Schumm and recognizes the contributions of graduate students in the field of fluvial geomorphology. The 2025 recipient was given to **Megan Wilson**, Western Washington University, for their proposal “Influence of large wood on post-fire in-channel sediment storage in basins of varying vegetation.” Advisor: Dr. Allison Pfeiffer.



Denton, Andrews, Porter Glacial Geology Student Research Award

The Denton, Andrews, Porter Glacial Geology Award (DAPGGA) was established in 2020 in honor of the initial primary donor’s academic advisors: George H. Denton, John T. Andrews, and Stephen C. Porter. The 2025 award was given to **Nora Vaughan**, Lehigh University, for their proposal “Pleistocene valley-bottom incision in the Eastern Piedmont, USA.” Advisor: Dr. Frank Pazzaglia

Donald R. Coates Student Research Award

The Donald Coates Award Fund was established in 2020 to support MS or PhD graduate student research on Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology. The 2025 award was given to two students:

Kate Droblich (top), Colorado State University, for their proposal titled “Arrest of the Blue Ridge Escarpment: Sediment Caliber Impacts on Bedrock Erodibility”. Advisor: Dr. Sean Gallen.

Luciano Cardone (bottom), University of Kentucky, for their proposal titled “Tracking Floods in the Kentucky River Basin from Geological and Historical Records.” Advisor: Dr. Michael McGlue



Jack Shroder Award for Mass Movement Processes

The Jack Shroder Award was established in 2020 to support MS or PhD student research on Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology. The 2025 award was given to Katherine Braun, University of Wisconsin Madison, for their proposal “Identifying drivers of ice-wedge permafrost thaw in Arctic Alaska.” Advisor: Dr. Christian Andresen.

QG&G Student Awardees



Richard B. & Cynthia Waitt Award for field-based surficial geology or volcanology

The Jack Shroder Award was established in 2020 to support MS or PhD student research on Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology. The 2025 award was given to Katherine Braun, University of Wisconsin Madison, for their proposal “Identifying drivers of ice-wedge permafrost thaw in Arctic Alaska.” Advisor: Dr. Christian Andresen.

Troy L. Péwé Award for periglacial geology

The Troy Péwé Award was established in 2019 to support research grants to graduate students focusing on periglacial geomorphology or environmental geomorphology in the context of better understanding and mitigating hazards. The 2025 recipient was Julia Rogerson, University of Massachusetts Amherst, for their proposal “Surficial Mapping of Northern Nunivak Island, Bering Sea Alaska.” Advisor: Dr. Julie Brigham-Grette.



John A. Black Student Research Award

The John A. Black Award supports graduate student field-based research on coastal processes for geomorphology research located in the USA, Puerto Rico or Canada. The 2025 award was given to Bering Tse, University of Washington, for their proposal “Mapping Tsunami Deposits in Southern Cascadia: Refining Inundation Extent Beyond Sand Deposition.” Advisor: Dr. Juliet Crider.

Robert K. Fahnstock Memorial Student Research Award

The Fahnstock Memorial Award from GSA honors the memory of the former member of the Research Grants Committee, who died indirectly as a result of his service on the committee. The award is given for the best proposal in sediment transport or related aspect of fluvial geomorphology. The 2025 recipient was Justin Cerv, Texas A&M University, for their proposal “Depositional History of Kuwait Bay.” Advisor: Dr. Timothy Dellapenna.



Awards Ceremony 2025



Alan Nelson receives the Kirk Bryan Award from (left to right) Jen Pierce, Karen Gran, Will Ouimet, and Lisa Ely.



Stephen Tooth accepts the Farouk El-Baz award from QG&G chair Karen Gran.

Awards Ceremony 2025



From left to right: Scott Burns, Jenn Aldred, Nora Vaughan, Tammy Rittenour, and Jen Pierce



Steven Forman accepts the DCA Award



From left to right: Matthew Rens, Adrian Wackett, Kate Drobnich, and Julia Rogerson celebrate their QG&G awards!

Full award citations and responses

Distinguished Career Award

From citationist Mike Waters:

We are here today to honor our colleague, Dr. Steven Forman, who is receiving the 2025 GSA Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division Distinguished Career Award. Dr. Forman has made significant contributions that have advanced many areas of Quaternary Science both in the laboratory and in the field.

Dr. Forman is a pioneer and leader in the development, refinement, and application of the luminescence dating method. He opened one of the first luminescence dating laboratories in North America in the 1990s and continued to date samples until his retirement this year. Steve told me that he did luminescence dating not only to help other scholars, but so that he could investigate the history and mechanisms of late Quaternary environmental and climate change at his field sites in North America and around the world.

In North America, Dr. Forman studied the geological record of droughts which are important for evaluating recent climate change in the context of natural variability. He studied late Quaternary aeolian sand and loess deposits across the United States. In northern Eurasian, he worked on ice sheet and climate dynamics for the last 200,000 years. In South America, he studied the environmental and climate controls that created the sand seas of the western Argentinian Pampas. In Africa, Steve studied the lacustrine history of Lake Turkana, Kenya, to understand climate dynamics over the past 100,000 years. In Asia, he worked on late Quaternary loess and sand sequences in China.

Dr. Forman also has a keen interest in archaeology. That is how I came to collaborate with Steve. From Paleolithic sites in Siberia to sites of the First Americans in North America, Steve has provided ages that are changing our view of the timing of the early entry of humans to the Americas at the end of the Pleistocene.

Besides his research, Dr. Forman has given exceptional service to the field of Quaternary studies. He has served on numerous panels, committees, and working groups for different agencies and organizations. He has served on editorial boards, as associate editor, and as editor of important geological and Quaternary journals. He has also mentored multiple graduate students and post-docs who have gone on to become productive Quaternary scientists.

We all have great admiration and respect for Dr. Forman. His scholarship and contributions to Quaternary geochronology, late Quaternary history of many regions, late Quaternary climate change, and the late Quaternary peopling of the Americas are immense and impactful. Very few individuals have contributed so much in four decades. His record of achievement and contributions is truly distinguished. He is the finest Quaternary scholar I have ever known.

Response from Steven Forman:

I am humbled and grateful for this Distinguished Career Award from QG&G. I thank deeply my good colleagues Mike Waters, Mark Sweeney, and Julie Brigham-Grette for their substantial efforts on my behalf; I know how busy you are. Many Thanks. I also thank the QG&G Board for their time, efforts and resources in maintaining this and other awards, which encourages research excellence and supports so many aspiring students.

However, one's career is not a singular effort but reflects the patience, understanding, good cheer and inspiration of many. I owe my family deepest gratitude. I grew up in a house in which the wallpaper was full and brimming bookshelves, where reading, learning and knowledge was revered by my educator and scientist parents. I also recognize my incredible wife, Lily, whose love, counsel and partnership

deeply enriched my life. I owe much to my children for the joy they brought to our life and for enduring my many absences in the field, in laboratories, in libraries, and in manuscripts. I have been lucky to love my profession and find unending joy in wandering in the Quaternary, within ideas, quantities, and isotopes trying to understand past processes, environments, cultures and climate.

I gratefully acknowledge the many colleagues, postdoctoral scientists, and students, too many to name, from across this planet who contributed to exploration, learning, and research—your valuable contributions are remembered and cherished. I have been fortunate to work with students and scientists from across the Americas, Asia, Europe and Africa and often in their countries. This exposure to many cultures, lifeways and perspectives has broadened and enriched my life. I have learned that wisdom, creativity and empathy know no nationality, gender, perspective, or way of life.

What set the pace for my career was the exhilarating Ph.D. program in Geology at University of Colorado–Boulder. I was fortunate in having three remarkable mentors at INSTAAR: Giff Miller, John Andrews and Pete Birkeland. Being a Giff Miller student was like living the “Kinks” song “I’m not like everybody else.” We were the few (and the foolish) that were venturing into the High Eurasian Arctic to define relative sea level and glacial history for the unknown ice sheets at the top of the world. It was a fulfilling but at times frightening challenge, with NSF support, which reaped new knowledge to constrain the extent of past ice sheets and relative sea level changes. At Colorado, freedom abounded, and I was encouraged by Giff, as a PhD student to venture to the University of Cambridge and study with the brilliant Ann Wintle, which set my career course in OSL geochronology. Many thanks Giff and Ann.

CU was a pivotal experience because it was a nurturing and exciting research setting that questioned conventional wisdom and to re-examine the unknowns, knowns and unknown unknowns, to quote Donald Rumsfeld. We were encouraged to take research risks, join diverse

teams, stay curious and open, and share data, calculations, ideas, and doubts. The principle of equifinality was embraced, underscoring that a landform, a soil, or a past climate event can result from multiple developmental processes or pathways. Also, I learned that research has evolving outcomes, that we should endeavor for constant improvements; and each publication is a progress report.

I have been fortunate to work across our planet from the Arctic to the Equator and in many arid and semi-arid landscapes with their stunning Monet-like beauty. I have seen much, such as rapidly retreating glaciers in the Eurasian Arctic, new lakes quickly pop up in former sand sheet areas in western Argentina and the rapid expansion of aridification in the Tengger Desert in China, Atacama Desert in Peru and across the southwestern U.S. all in response to anthropogenic changes either to land use and/or climate effects from the egregious increase in greenhouse gases.

When I initially ventured into the Quaternary, as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois in 1978, the focus was on defining the extent of Pleistocene ice sheets and associated environments. This emphasis has shifted dramatically to understanding Earth systems in context to the rapid climate and environmental changes from our fossil fueled society. We are living the paradigm shift in our discipline that the greatest geologic force in the latest Quaternary is us, industrialized society, that inadvertently is rendering many areas of our planet unsustainable. I have evolved to internalize that the science of global climate change is central to Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology.

We live in deeply troubling times with funding for the CDC, USGS, EPA, NOAA, NASA and NSF diminished with basic research programs disappearing. In the public space the scientific process is denigrated with research in global health, environmental degradation, water resources and climate change deemed extraneous. As a Division and Society, we need to recognize and award those scientists most impacted by these draconian acts to silence science. We must not give up the science, no matter how momentarily it is controversial,

taboo, or unwanted. Each of us are stewards of the science for the limited time we have active brains, and this is our collective responsibility. I remember a piece of advice Pete Birkland passed on, “Never let the lack of funds keep you from the research that inspires you.” So,

let us keep our science alive, be brave, take risks, and forward new frontiers through your students and each other. You are bound to do a better job than the preceding generations.

Thank you deeply for this award and your patience and attention to this address.

Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research

**From citationist Gerald Nanson,
read by Bob Craddock**

It’s an absolute pleasure and privilege to stand here today to honor my friend and colleague, Professor Stephen Tooth, recipient of this year’s Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research.

As you know, this award recognizes outstanding contributions to our understanding of arid zone processes — and there is truly no one more deserving of that recognition than Stephen. For over three decades, he has reshaped how we see, study, and value the world’s drylands — not as barren wastelands, but as dynamic, living systems filled with complexity, resilience, and beauty.

Steve’s scientific journey began in the deserts of central Australia, where he completed his PhD under the supervision of Gerald Nanson at the University of Wollongong. His early work in those remote landscapes revealed something that has since become a hallmark of his career: a willingness to challenge accepted ideas when the evidence points in a new direction.

His studies of floodouts and anabranching channels fundamentally redefined how we understand the interactions between flow, sediment, and vegetation in ephemeral river systems, once thought to be chaotic, but which Stephen showed are governed by subtle and elegant rules of form and process.

Since then, Stephen has built an extraordinary research portfolio that now spans five continents — from the deserts of Australia and southern Africa, to South America, the Mediterranean, the American Southwest, and India. Along the way, he’s described new alluvial river styles, documented the dynamics

of bedrock and mixed bedrock-alluvial systems, and illuminated the geomorphology of wetlands in some of the planet’s driest landscapes.

His work on the Okavango Delta — that incredible wetland oasis in Botswana — has been particularly influential. Using optical luminescence dating and careful geomorphic reconstruction, Stephen and his collaborators have shown how this vast system responded to Holocene hydroclimatic shifts, revealing periods of greatly enhanced flow and major channel transformations. It’s a study that has profound implications, not only for understanding the Quaternary history of southern Africa, but for how we interpret the sensitivity of desert wetlands to climate change.

Beyond his numerous publications — there are more than a hundred of them, many now considered classics in our field — Stephen has become a global leader in dryland geomorphology. He co-founded the Wetlands in Drylands Research Network, uniting researchers from around the world to focus on fragile, underappreciated ecosystems that support both biodiversity and human livelihoods. His outreach work — from The Conversation articles to classroom materials and art-science collaborations — shows both a desire and a gift for communicating the relevance of geomorphology to broader audiences.

His service to the geomorphology community has been equally outstanding — as Chair of the British Society for Geomorphology, as a dedicated reviewer and editor, and as a mentor to countless students and early-career scientists. His leadership has helped shape our discipline into one that is not only more

rigorous but also more inclusive and globally connected.

But Steve's impact goes beyond his scientific achievements. Those who've worked with him know his curiosity, humility, and generosity of spirit--all of which are coated with a wonderful sense of humor. He brings people together — across disciplines, across continents — and always with a genuine enthusiasm for discovery.

Personally, he is one of my favorite field partners. Few people can describe the history of discovery about any particular region as well as Stephen can. I never fail to learn from him whenever we have a chance to work together. As a side note, no one can dig a hole or trench faster than Stephen either! I think it's because he is always driven to find out the answer as quickly as possible. Stephen represents the best of what geomorphology can be — a field science rooted in observation, enriched by creativity, and animated by curiosity about how Earth's landscapes work. His career has deepened our understanding of rivers that flow without rain, wetlands that thrive in deserts, and landscapes that remind us how resilient our planet can be.

So, it is my great honor — and my personal joy — to congratulate Professor Stephen Tooth, recipient of the 2025 Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research.

Stephen — thank you for inspiring all of us to look closer, think deeper, and appreciate the wonders of the world's drylands.

Response from Stephen Tooth:

Thank you very much for that citation. It's always interesting to learn of other people's opinions of your oeuvre, and of course, in this case it's very flattering to hear.

It makes it sound like I have done all these research activities by myself, which of course isn't the case at all, and I'll come onto that shortly.

I wanted to give a lot of thanks tonight but I was told strictly to keep my response to under five minutes, and the assembled committee here

on stage are hard taskmasters. So, as you can see from my notes, I have scribbled out a lot of words.

But in the limited time that I have, first, I should give my gratitude to Farouk El-Baz for providing the inspiration for the award that is named after him, and for the initial endowment all those years ago, and also for the continued support of the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division of the GSA in administering the award.

Second, I owe many, many thanks to my nominators and supporters: Gerald Nanson of course, and Bob Craddock, and Nick Lancaster and Martin Williams. There may be others too that have been supportive and, if so, I thank them as well.

Third, I extend my appreciation to the Awards Committee — I didn't know who they were until the slide came up earlier with their names — who obviously were persuaded by the nomination and support letters and other materials, and decided that I was deserving of being the 28th recipient of the award. I've looked down the list of past award winners, some of whom I have met, and a great many of whom I have looked up to and cited in my own work, and it is humbling to find myself at the end of that list.

I should also say that I have been extremely fortunate throughout the vast majority of my academic journey, with good mentorship and serendipity playing a key role. The late Professor Ken Gregory at the University of Southampton, in England, took me under his wing when I was an undergraduate student in the very early 90s and gave me early research and publication experience, and he was also the person that encouraged me to write to Gerald Nanson in Wollongong about PhD research opportunities.

This was in pre-email days, in fact pre-internet days, at least as we now know it. In the early 1990s, I got my father to type a letter to Gerald. I popped it in the post, and waited for a reply by post, without any real expectations. Several weeks later, a large package arrived postmarked from Australia, and alongside

several of Gerald's own reprints on the amazing desert rivers of the Channel Country, there was an enthusiastic letter offering me a PhD scholarship at the University of Wollongong.

A few months later, I was down in the southern hemisphere and an amazing 30+ year career studying desert rivers started, a small part of which I summarized in my presentation earlier today.

At the end of my PhD, it was Gerald who provided the funds to enable my attendance at a conference in Cape Town, South Africa, and it was there that I met Spike McCarthy. He had heard of my work on Australian desert river floodouts, and was keen to explore similar features in South Africa alongside numerous other research possibilities. He encouraged me to apply for a postdoctoral position at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in the late 90s. I was initially hesitant – South Africa was newly fledged democracy and some people were watching nervously to see how it would fare – but in the end I went, and have never looked back. Like in Australia, the research opportunities were immense, and there was a very good social scene. It's where I met my American wife, Maggie, who has accompanied me on many a research trip since, and alongside our son Hamish, indulges my constant chatter about landforms and landscapes on supposed family holidays to drylands as well as wetter regions. Maggie and Hamish and our wider families have been nothing but supportive of my research and other activities.

My appointment at Aberystwyth also partly came about as a result of a chance meeting, but I haven't the time to explain that tonight.

That will have to be a story for another day. I can just say that over the last quarter of a century, I have operated there from a relatively stable platform – if there is anything stable in academia – and have been able to continue my dryland research in many parts of the world, be it Australia, Africa, the Americas, Asia. Long may it continue.

I should also say that I have been extremely fortunate with the vast majority of my academic collaborations. Over the years, I have co-authored journal papers, book chapters and outreach materials with numerous other people – just over 200 at last count – and there are many other people across the research ecosystem who also deserve thanks: the funders and funding committees that enable the research trips, the field assistants and laboratory technicians, and the reviewers of my submitted papers. The latter often go unacknowledged, but here too I would say I have been fortunate in that the vast majority of reviews of my papers – 85 or even 90% – even if harsh have generally been fair and generally been supportive, and if they haven't, they have at least have made me think more deeply about the research issues at hand, and so have helped improve the final versions of publications.

Everyone plays their part in getting research findings into print: a few lucky people may eventually reap the awards. Tonight, that lucky person is me. As I said in my presentation earlier today, the last year has been exceptionally challenging for me, both personally and professionally. I don't need to go into details here but, as I also said earlier, this award has really helped lift my spirits. So, thank you all.

Kirk Bryan Award

From citationist Breanyn MacInnes:

I am pleased to convey the citation for the 2025 Kirk Bryan Award of the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division to Alan Nelson and co-authors for the paper titled “A maximum rupture model for the central and southern Cascadia subduction zone—reassessing ages for coastal evidence of megathrust earthquakes and tsunamis” published in *Quaternary Science Reviews* in 2021.

This paper pulls together a wide range of records of large earthquakes and tsunamis in southern and central Cascadia and applies improved geochronology techniques. The authors employ careful and detailed analysis of field data and stratigraphy, complex and cutting edge statistical analyses of radiocarbon age results, and clearly explained logic to compute a maximum rupture model. This is no black-box analysis—their data and thinking are transparent and clearly expressed, with the data freely available in the paper and as a supplement so anyone can recreate their work and see their reasoning. They also do not gloss over problematic results, but present the range of data and discuss issues with their dataset.

The result is 16 robust dates for Cascadia earthquakes from the last 6,700 years, with revised recurrence intervals and strong support for limited-extent Mw 8 as well as larger Mw 9 earthquakes. Their conclusions are critical for accurately estimating the Cascadia slip budget and their work has become a key study for the National Seismic Hazard Model.

Cascadia has benefited from a generation of researchers at dozens of field sites, resulting in one of the world’s most detailed paleoseismic histories. The large author list, extensive bibliography, the shocking number of radiocarbon dates used, and the many field sites all reflect a culmination of decades of work. As a researcher working on other subduction zones, reading Nelson et al. (2021) is like a dream of what could be achieved elsewhere to understand subduction zone behavior globally. It exemplifies the next-level

synthesis possible once enough foundational data exist—and shows the value of carefully re-evaluating legacy data using modern techniques.

Finally, this paper represents Alan Nelson’s long career, collaborations, and mentorship, the latter of which is embodied in the diverse author list spanning a wide range of expertise and career stages. Congratulations to Alan and his colleagues for the well-deserved Kirk Bryan Award.

Response from Alan Nelson

As the ringleader of our research team, I am more than honored to accept the 2025 Kirk Bryan Award for our 2021 paper in *Quaternary Science Reviews*. Thank you so much, Bre, for your kind, humbling, and—in the QG&G tradition—appropriately brief citation. Many thanks also to those who wrote letters supporting her nomination, and to the QG&G Division awards panel for recognizing, for the third time, the work of Cascadia’s paleoseismology community. To quote Ellen Wohl, the 2009 winner of this award, “It is particularly gratifying when people who are always busy go out of their way to recognize the work of others.” Having made and supported previous nominations for this award, I understand its place in the history of North American Quaternary and geomorphology studies. For this reason, you can imagine my utter amazement on learning that our paper had been selected for this year’s award.

As Bre notes in her citation, in our analysis of the earthquake history of the central and southern parts of the Cascadia subduction zone we had the benefit of hundreds of radiocarbon ages collected over 34 years. Little of this dating would have happened without three decades of support from the USGS Earthquake Program, the National Science Foundation, and in the early years, from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to several USGS scientists. Craig Weaver with USGS in Seattle, aided for many years

by his chief lieutenant Brian Sherrod, was a tireless supporter of coastal paleoseismology studies at Cascadia, even during years when uninvolved self-appointed experts pronounced the major questions about Cascadia earthquake history to have been answered. During the first decades of this research, Brian Atwater's indefatigable enthusiasm for coastal earthquake studies inspired many of us. Most recently, we thank USGS researcher Kate Scharer for her earlier paper about the San Andreas fault, which provided us with a maximum-rupture-model framework to follow in our paper.

Personally, I gratefully acknowledge the example of excellent science set by my PhD advisors, John Andrews, who received this same award when he was less than half my age, and Giff Miller, the second author of the paper honored with the award last year. I also thank my Masters advisor, Dave Mickelson, for showing me what field research is all about. Coastwise, I have learned even more over almost three decades from working with coauthors Harvey Kelsey and his former PhD student, Rob Witter. My Cascadia studies also benefited from interacting with and scrutinizing the work of scientists studying Holocene sea level in northwest Europe, particularly Ian Shennan, Michael Tooley, and Orson Van de Plassche. This led to my unbelievably fortunate and productive collaboration at Cascadia with co-author Ben Horton and his many top-notch, fun-loving students, two of whom are also coauthors. Many USGS scientists also furthered my four-decade paleoseismology career at USGS, a few include Lee-Ann Bradley, Steve Personius, Tony Crone, Mike Machette, Bob Bucknam, Rich Briggs, and coauthor Chris DuRoss.

On behalf of all Cascadia paleoseismologists, our team thanks the QG&G Division of GSA for recognizing the scientific and societal importance of our work.

2025 Board Meeting notes

Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division Summary of 2025 Annual Board Meeting

Sunday, October 19 | 7:00 – 9:00pm
GSA Connects 2025 San Antonio, Texas
Grand Hyatt Bonham E

1. Introductions:

- a. Attending in person: Sunil De (IAG), Josh Galster, Brad Johnson, Scott Burns, Anne MacDonald, Olivia Stanley, Lisa Ely, Jen Pierce, Karen Gran, Mark Sweeney, Lee Corbett, Jason Rech
- b. On Zoom: Veronica Sosa Gonzalez, Janet Slate, Rachel Atkins, Jane Willenbring, Sarah Schanz

2. QG&G Collaborations:

- a. International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) –Sunil De
 - i. Memorandum of Understanding was signed by IAG, GSA, and QG&G in 2020
 1. Karen recommended a term length for our representative.
 - i. 4 years, which is the time period between meetings.
 - ii. 2 years, less work, there is a lot of email, serving on student award committees, etc.
 - b. **Motion** to appoint Anne MacDonald as our IAG representative for 2 years, seconded. Passed.
 - ii. IAG Collaborative activities: QG&G coordination of North American presentations in International Geomorphology Week webinar; collaborative sessions at meetings.
 1. IAG funds 2-3 scholarships to young geomorphologists to attend GSA; they ask that QGG fund scholarships to attend IAG. Different countries will fund 16 international students to attend the international meeting in New Zealand.
 - a. IAG has 40 working groups; 71 countries are members
 - b. proposals by groups who want to organize a future meeting can be submitted to IAG;
 - c. Main international conference is every 4 years; next is 2-6 Feb 2026 New Zealand; regional (but still with international attendees) meetings in the interim, every 2 years.
 - i. Following IAG meeting will be in Italy in September, 2030
 - ii. Sunil asked if US could host a regional international meeting before the 2030 conference; we should start asking for volunteers

b. INQUA (Mark Sweeney, past chair)

- i. INQUA (USNC has been disbanded, so the past QG&G chair no longer has that means to serve ex officio on the USNC-INQUA).
 1. Mark will ask how the past QGG chair can maintain communication with INQUA
 2. INQUA wants to do something for their 75th anniversary, which coincides with the Portland GSA meeting in 2028. They are interested in proposing sessions and possibly field trip for that GSA meeting.

3. Division budget and financial report: Scott Burns

- a. We have \$19,800 in our account. Goes to awards ceremony, board meeting, Kirk Bryan field trip for students, Distinguished Career Award. We spend about \$20,000 per year. Scott will email copies of budget.
- b. New fund in the QG&G Foundation Account to support travel expenses for lodging, transportation and registration to QG&G student awardees to attend GSA meeting. We gave out about \$10,000 per year in the last few years.
 - i. All or almost all of the 2025 QG&G student awardees are attending the 2025 GSA Connects meeting.

4. Division Chairs' Meeting: Jen Pierce
 - a. GSA membership has increased overall, 19% student membership increase; field trip and short course participation is up. QG&G membership has decreased.
 - b. GSA is encouraging divisions to give out "credentials". Could be a certificate of completion from a short course or attendance at a series of meeting sessions and activities. Some other divisions have started the process. QG&G board did not choose to move forward with a certificate at this time.
 - c. Emily Orzechowski at GSA is collecting emails about the effects of the government shut-down on our science.
 - i. Brad Johnson is collecting names and addresses of federal government employees to whom we can send postcards saying that we miss them.
5. Updates, requests and announcements for the 2025 meeting:
 - a. Happy 70th Birthday QG&G!
 - i. Birthday cake at our division booth 1 PM on Tuesday.
 - b. Do we want to sell t-shirts at the Awards Ceremony? No.
6. Request for help to support new GSA Geohazards Initiative. GSA is looking for a home for it. How can QGG be involved?
 - a. Should be an umbrella involving multiple divisions.
 - b. Late-breaking sessions organized by GSA organizing body with invited talks
 - c. Joint sessions sponsored by relevant divisions
 - d. There could be a Geohazards tag that you add to your session
 - e. Short courses on risk management, etc.
 - f. Student-focused career programs
7. GSA has asked for marketing plan from each division.
 - a. Karen will send the questionnaire to Board Members and will forward responses to GSA
8. Communications Committee:
 - a. State of the communications network:
 - i. Newsletters: 2 published this year, GSA's marketing team is helping with newsletter design now.
 - ii. Instagram/Facebook/LinkedIn: Patrick Chmil (GSA) and Allison Pfeiffer have been leading LI, Jenn Aldred leading IG/FB. We keep getting new followers, so these outlets are getting looked at. Mostly reposting other content.
 - b. NEEDS!
 - i. LinkedIn manager/volunteer.
 1. Anne MacDonald volunteered to join the Communications Committee in this role.
 2. Discussion about putting a concerted effort into LinkedIn.
 - ii. Circulated sign-up sheet for volunteers to help QG&G Communications Committee
 1. Committee currently consists of Sarah Schanz, Jenn Aldred, Anne MacDonald.
 - iii. Instagram/Facebook volunteer(s): We need content 2-3 times a week to grow/sustain our presence. If we had another couple of volunteers, we could have a more sustainable rotation. Now that newsletter design is also outsourced, Sarah will also be able to do more with IG.
 1. Olivia suggest a student take-over day when a student posts about what they are doing
 - iv. Need more content for newsletter and social media
 - v. Content. Request that the board and panel members send a photo and caption to post on Instagram. Could be of anything QGG - field work, talks, outreach work, etc. Encourage others to send content on Instagram via direct message to @qgg_gsa.
 1. Reaching out to award winners has had mixed luck. We got 1 response last year. We received more responses for newsletter content, mostly from students who received

research awards this spring.

- vi. Sarah reached out to Elizabeth Long about GSA content.
- vii. Newsletter item about Jay Quade's death

9. **Motion** to add a second QGG student representative to the Management Board. Seconded. Nora Vaughn was nominated. Passed.

10. Student Awards Update:

- a. The Richard & Annette Wohl Award for Graduate Student Research--THANK YOU Ellen Wohl!
 - i. Administered through the QG&G (i.e., recipient chosen by the usual QG&G award panel) for a graduate student proposal that demonstrates an environmental sustainability connection to their proposed research.
- b. Update: Vic Baker Award: The Vic Baker award is still short of the amount necessary to distribute awards from the interest. Scott will find out how much it needs and will put out a call for donations at the QG&G Awards Ceremony.
- c. Procedure for selecting student award recipients
 - i. Reviewer rankings select top proposals, 2nd VC makes sure that the top proposals fit to an award and then figures out the others based on reviews and fit with award purposes, sometimes asking for additional reviews.
 - ii. Veronica suggested a rubric for the student award selection that keeps the process more transparent. Any rubric that we create should be aligned with the GSA Student Research Grant process because that is where we get the proposals.
- d. Travel awards: All student awardees are eligible for travel support for lodging, transportation and registration.
- e. 2024 and 2025 winners need to be added to website

11. Professional Awards update

- a. Farouk El-Baz: Karen contacted nominators to ask if they wanted to renew nominations that were expiring. Most did.

12. Membership update

- a. Uptick in membership last year
- b. Recruiting strategies. Raffle, activities to bring people to the awards ceremony.
- c. Project QR code link to membership form at Awards Ceremony and sessions
- d. Division video? Jen recorded one with Jason Elkins from GSA at 2025 Connects meeting

13. 5-year plan: where are we and how are we doing?

- a. Save for mid-year board meeting.

14. 2026 GSA Meeting: Denver

- a. Topical sessions & field trips
 - i. "Planning to propose sheet" was only modestly used
 - ii. EGU maintains a list of proposed sessions on their website and people can add their names if they are interested.
 - iii. Brad said that Colin (GSA IT staff) said that the new software being used by GSA can be modified at request, and they might be able to do something along these lines.
- b. Kirk Bryan Field Trip: There is already a possible trip proposal for Denver. Karen has the information.
- c. Ask someone to convene session at GSA 2026 in memory of Jay Quade.

15. IAG runs Geomorphology Week webinar in March. Two years ago Mark, Jen and Karen put together a list of North American speakers. Approximately 8 speakers.

- a. Anne MacDonald (as IAG rep) will find out from IAG when it's happening, who is the contact person at IAG,
- b. Suggestion that the QG&G panel put together a list of North American speakers.

16. Close of Meeting

Contact us for more information

+1-303-357-1000

The Geological Society of America

3300 Penrose Place

Boulder, CO 80301-1806

www.geosociety.com