SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY DIVISION

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Sedimentary salutations for 2017, the Year of the Fire Rooster! In this issue we want to reflect on some of the 2016 accomplishments of GSA’s Sedimentary Geology Division (SGD) and alert you to what to look forward to in 2017. Our membership remains at an elevated level at ~1736, which is up a bit from 2015. We want to continue to grow, especially by adding new student members and to serve the membership better! So please pass along your suggestions for improvement directly to the division officers or better yet Get Involved (which is a trait of all Fire Roosters)!

2016 GSA ANNUAL MEETING IN MILE HIGH DENVER, COLORADO RECAP

The SGD had an excellent turnout at our many sponsored events at the 2016 Annual GSA Meeting in Denver, Colorado. The SGD sponsored a whopping 53 topical sessions covering a very diverse spectrum of sedimentary-related science. The SEPM/SGD sponsored student poster session “New Insights into the Dynamics of Stratigraphy and Sedimentation” featured 22 student poster presenters. The posters were judged for scientific and presentation quality and the top 4 winners were honored at the SGD Awards Ceremony.

2016 SGD POSTCARD

Several 1000 of this year’s SGD feature postcard “Namib Dune, Gale Crater, Mars” were handed out at the GSA booth at the annual meeting.

The newly combined SGD Awards Ceremony & Seds and Suds was held on Tuesday evening of the meeting and was highly attended. SGD honored Dr. Timothy (Tim) Lowenstein, of Binghampton University as the 17th recipient of the Laurence L. Sloss Award in recognition of his ground-breaking contributions to the understanding of the Earth’s history and processes from the sedimentary and geochemical study of chemical sediments/sedimentary rocks.

Dr. Tim Lowenstein (2nd from the left), 2016 Lawrence L. Sloss Award winner with citationists Kathleen Benison (left) and Robert Demicco, Sean Brennon (right).
Lauren Colliver was selected as our 2016 Student Research Award Recipient. She is a M.S. student at Purdue University. Her project is entitled “Regional Sediment Transport and Basin Development at the Crossroads of the Appalachian and Cordilleran Orogenies; Detrital Zircon Geochronology of the Big Bend Region, West Texas, U.S.A.”

Angela Norman of Texas Tech University for her poster “Investigating the provenance of black sand in Iceland: local vs. distal sources”

Nicholas David Risedorf of Fort Lewis College for his poster “Potential constraints on the timing of halokinetic megaflap deformation; biostratigraphy and paleoecology of Permian/Pennsylvanian carbonates, Big Gypsum salt anticline, SW Colorado”

Cody Stopka of New Mexico State University for his poster “U-Pb detrital zircon geochronology, modal composition, and paleoflow trends from Upper Cretaceous nonmarine strata in southern New Mexico”

SEPM-SGD Outstanding Student Poster winners - This year’s 2016 SEPM/SGD “New Insights into the Dynamics of Stratigraphy and Sedimentation” student poster winners (receiving $500 each) were:

Rachel Fliflet of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for her poster “Diagenetic history of Cambrian sandstone units in western Wisconsin”

Sebastian Cardona of Colorado School of Mines was selected for the 2016 Stephen E. Laubach Structural Diagenesis Research Award given by Structural Geology & Tectonics (SGT) division this year. His research project is “Assessing the seal capacity of mass-transport deposits: An outcrop-based study to investigate the spatial variations in microstructure and microfabric and implications for seal capacity.”

In Memoriam- The evening ended with a tribute to SGD members that we lost in 2016 that have been important leaders in the sedimentary community as well as friends: Curtis Elder, Beth Gierlowski-Kordesch, Paul Heller, Kenneth Johnson, Tom Laudon, Dan Livingstone, Robert Merrill, Richard Norris, Lloyd Pray, Weldon Rau, Roderick Tillman, John Whitmer, and Edward Winterer
WHAT’S NEW FOR 2017?

Plan on joining us for the 128th GSA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington in October 2017. SGD has sponsored a very diverse group of sessions this year, so be sure to get your abstracts in by August 1, 2017. We will also be running our annual SGD/SEPM sponsored poster session for student researchers. Students please consider submitting to this session where you’ll meet other dynamic student researchers and enjoy a fun networking opportunity all while competing for cash prizes!

We’ve Joined Social Media!
Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @GSA.SGD!
We will hold a competition every month for the best sedimentary geology photo posted on our Facebook page! The photo that receives the most ‘likes’ will be featured on our SGD postcard distributed at the Seattle meeting.

Get involved in 2017 with the Sedimentary Community!
We could use your help and ideas in making SGD a dynamic and vibrant research community. Consider proposing a Penrose Conference or a Thompson field Forum ([www.geosociety.org/penrose](http://www.geosociety.org/penrose) or [www.geosociety.org/fieldforums/](http://www.geosociety.org/fieldforums/)), nominating leaders in our community for the Sloss Award ([rock.geosociety.org/sed/SGD_Awards2.html#Sloss](http://rock.geosociety.org/sed/SGD_Awards2.html#Sloss)) or serve on a SGD committee.

This spring we will be looking for candidates to run for the Vice Chair of SGD position. We will also be looking for a new SGD student representative this fall. If you’re interested in either of these leadership roles in SGD please, contact Kate Giles or Gary Gianniny!

2017 SGD Officers:
Chair – Kate Giles ([kagiles@utep.edu](mailto:kagiles@utep.edu))
Vice Chair – Gary Gianniny ([gianniny_g@fortlewis.edu](mailto:gianniny_g@fortlewis.edu))
Secretary Treasurer – Linda Kah
Student Representative – Rachelle Kernen
Webmaster – Stefania Laronga

Wishing all the best to our former webmaster of 10 years, Kelly Dilliard. Thanks for all your hard work Kelly, we really appreciate your exceptional service to SGD!

A special “Thank you” to all those who served on our 2016 SGD Committees