



The Hydrogeologist

Spring 2026 Issue 119

Newsletter of the GSA Hydrogeology Division

GSA Connects 2025 – By the Numbers

We again want to thank the Hydrogeology Division Management Board and all the Division members who helped make GSA Connects 2025 a success. A full summary of the Division events at the meeting is available in the [previous edition of The Hydrogeologist](#). Below are GSA's attendance statistics for the meeting, which was held last October in San Antonio, Texas.

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Source: [GSA Today, 36\(1\)](#), p. 17.

Thank You for Making GSA Connects 2025 a Success!

Thank you to all attendees, presenters, volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors, mentors, and program leaders who made GSA Connects 2025 outstanding.

Special thanks to all short course and field trip leaders; Joint Technical Program Committee; Annual Program Committee; and GSA 2025 Organizing Committee:

General Chair: Saugata Datta

Technical Program Chair: Dave Bush

Vice Technical Program Chair: Ginny Peterson

Field Trip Co-Chairs: Matt Cannon and Zachariah Fleming

Sponsorship Chair: John Casian

Connects 2025 By the Numbers

- **Total Attendees:** 4,217
- **Professionals:** 1,543
- **Early Career Professionals:** 637
- **Students:** 1,906
- **K-12 Teachers:** 41
- **International Attendees:** 297
- **Countries Represented:** 50
- **Abstracts:** 3,211
- **Short Courses:** 408 Participants attended
18 Short Courses
- **Field Trips:** 547 Participants attended
27 Field Trips

Chair's Corner



Richelle Allen-King
Chair,

GSA Hydrogeology Division

Spring is creeping in slowly this year in Buffalo. Today began sunny and clear with frost on the daffodils and by this afternoon it will warm and many will pop open. 'Tis the season for section meetings. Thanks so much to all the volunteers who contributed and presenters who have/will share ideas at the section meetings. Your involvement is what makes our community successful!

The Hydrogeology Division Management Board (HMB) has been busy preparing for Connects '26 in Denver. Thanks to the many Division members who submitted technical sessions and to the Division's Joint Technical Program Committee (JTPC) Chair Yipeng Zhang for leading coordination. Thanks also to our international representative Prosun Bhattacharya and colleagues for submitting a Pardee Session and to HMB member Marcia Schulmeister and colleague Randy Stoller for organizing a hydro-oriented mountain field trip. The latter is described later in this newsletter. The HMB will continue planning Connects '26 over the next several months. Before we know it, the summer deadline to submit abstracts will be upon us!

In preparation for writing this edition of the Chair's corner, I took a trip down memory lane by looking through a random selection prior issues of *The Hydrogeologist*. I couldn't help smiling as I found pictures and words from classmates, colleagues, and mentors. I'm thankful for the work done by past HMB members and volunteers who contributed valuable time and energy to shape our division into its current form. I can't help but smile because I have so many excellent memories of renewing connections with longtime friends, making new connections, and learning about innovative approaches to solving hydrogeologic problems. I enjoy bringing students to GSA meetings because of our community's welcoming culture and development opportunities for the next generation of hydrogeologic professionals. I encourage you to decide how you'd like to get involved with the Division.

- Plan to attend Connects '26 and to contribute an abstract to share your science in one of the technical sessions.
- Remember to renew your GSA and Hydrogeology Division memberships.
- Consider supporting our education and student initiatives by volunteering at Connects '26 (email me richelle@buffalo.edu) or through contributions to our student research scholarships, BDL lecture, or division funds (secretary Tara Root, troot1@gmail.com would be happy to help).

I'll sign off with wise words written by Frank Schwartz, Chair, Hydro Division, 1993: "*The spirit and health of our Division are really a reflection of the interest and support of the membership.*" Please help in 2026!

-Richelle M. Allen-King

Stay current on developments in the Hydrogeology Division by joining our Facebook group, following us on Instagram, LinkedIn, and tweeting us @GSAHydrogeology!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/93897080123/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/gsa_hydrogeology/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GSAHydrogeology>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gsa-hydrogeology-division-4981b2263/>

Secretary's Corner

By Tara Root

It's springtime, which means the Division's awards committees are busy reviewing nominations. A big thanks goes out to all of those who serve on our awards committees. Also, thank you to all who submitted a nomination. Although the 2026 nomination period has ended, it's not too early to start thinking about nominations for 2027! The nomination period is December 15th – February 15th each year. We have noticed a decline in the number of nominations over the past few years. The awards are one of the many ways the Division promotes the field of Hydrogeology and recognizes outstanding contributions to the field. So, I encourage our members to review the information about awards on the [Division's webpage](#) and start thinking about nominations for 2027.

It's hard to believe that planning is already beginning for the 2026 Connects meeting. The Division's JTPC reps are busy reviewing session proposals, and starting in May, I will be putting in space requests for Division events at the meeting. As plans for the meeting solidify, we will keep you all updated through future newsletters and social media posts.

GSA Section News – Calling new Section Reps!

Marcia Schulmeister

Greetings Division members! We are in the midst of Section Meeting season. By the time this newsletter comes out, there will be one excellent meeting remaining – The Cordilleran meeting in Lorato Baja California, Sur, Mexico. See GSA's meetings webpage at: https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/current.aspx for registration and other meeting details.

And now is the time to identify a new team of Hydrogeology Division Section Representatives. Locations and tentative dates for several of the 2027 Section Meetings have been announced and are listed below. The Division is seeking member-representatives who are interested in helping the 2027 Section Meeting Chairs establish hydrogeology-themed technical and theme sessions, short courses, field trips, and other relevant activities at the meetings. As a Hydrogeology Division Section Representative, you would serve a 2-year term that begins this spring as you help to shape the hydrogeology content of next year's Section Meetings, and ends when, as an outgoing Section Rep, you share your planning and meeting experience with an incoming Section Representative. For more information, or if you are interested in filling one of the Section Representative positions, please contact me, your Section Representative Coordinator, Marcia Schulmeister, or our current Division Chair, Richelle Allen King. To connect with members of our current Section Representative team, please visit the Division's web site: <https://community.geosociety.org/hydrodivision/home>.

Section	Location	Date
• Rocky Mountain	TBD	TBD
• North-Central and South-Central	TBD	TBD
• Southeastern	Savannah, GA	April 24-29
• Cordilleran	Pasadena, California	April 15-18
• Northeastern	Saratoga Springs, NY	March 21-24

It's now easier to donate to the GSA Hydrogeology Division than ever!

Check out the **Donate!** button at the top of the division's [webpage](#).



GSA Hydrogeology Division

2026 Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished and LaMoreaux International Lecture Tour



Dr. Michael Sukop

Michael Sukop is professor of hydrogeology in the Department of Earth and Environment and the Institute of Environment at Florida International University in Miami, where he has taught and conducted research since 2003. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, a licensed professional geologist, and a certified hydrogeologist in California.

He principally works on groundwater issues in Southeast Florida, including saltwater intrusion, septic systems, injection wells, and groundwater inundation. He has expertise in groundwater and solute transport modeling especially as they apply to seawater intrusion and the physics of the Biscayne Aquifer. He co-authored Version 4 of the popular SEAWAT model for seawater intrusion. He is author and co-author of 2 books on Lattice Boltzmann computational fluid dynamics modeling. Publications are listed here: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=xFIZLe4AAAAJ&hl=en>

He and his students have leveraged the United States Geological Survey's Urban Miami-Dade Surface-Groundwater Model in a number of studies, including for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Building Commission, and for the estimation of septic discharge fate. They are building applications to estimate flooding from short-term groundwater rises in response to rainfall events and evaluating the potential impacts of widespread use of injection wells for stormwater disposal. His team is currently implementing the coastal subsurface monitoring network for Southeast Florida (<https://coastal-subsurface.fiu.edu/>).

For additional information, please visit the hydrogeology division [splash page](#).

Dr. Sukop will be offering two talks during his lecture tour:

Dr. Sukop's lectures are:

1. A Bellwether for Change: Groundwater and Sea Level Rise in Southeast Florida, and
2. The Enigmatic Biscayne Aquifer: Field, Laboratory, and Computational Approaches.

From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of *The Hydrogeologist*. This edition is filled with a ton of information and updates for multiple facets relevant to the hydrogeology division, including section meetings and the early stages of preparation for Connects 2026.

After one year of serving as your newsletter editor, I can firmly say that I have been learning a ton, but I still have much to go. I appreciate everybody's feedback as I continue to tackle this vital role to the division, which I hope to continue long into the future.

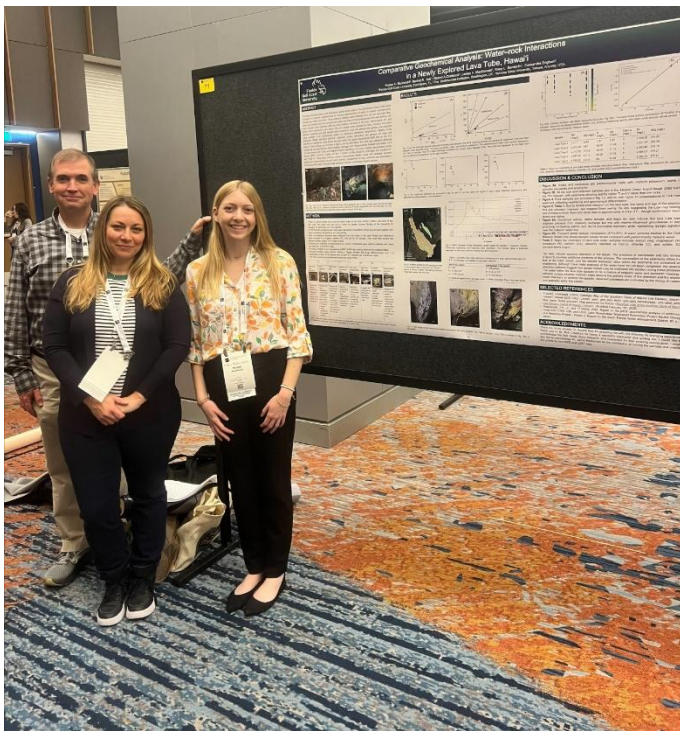
As always, if you have anything to contribute to the next newsletter, send it my way!

Jason M. Drews

Jasondrews99@gmail.com

Updates from 2026 GSA Triple Joint Southeastern, North-Central, and South-Central Section Meeting

The Hydrogeology Division had a strong presence at the 2026 GSA Triple Joint Southeastern, North-Central, and South-Central Section Meeting held in Memphis. At the division booth, Reza Soltanian, Rachel Rotz, and several of her students engaged with a wide range of attendees, including students and professionals, fostering valuable discussions on hydrogeology research, education, and career pathways. The booth served as an active hub for networking and community building throughout the meeting. In addition to the booth activities, the hydrogeology-related technical sessions and presentations were highly engaging and showcased the breadth of ongoing research in areas such as water resources, near-surface geophysics, and environmental processes. These sessions provided insightful perspectives and highlighted the continued growth and relevance of hydrogeology across disciplines. Overall, the meeting offered an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues, support student engagement, and exchange ideas within the hydrogeology community. Below are photos of Hydrogeology Division members at the 2026 GSA Triple Joint Southeastern, North-Central, and South-Central Section Meeting.



Where in the World is This?

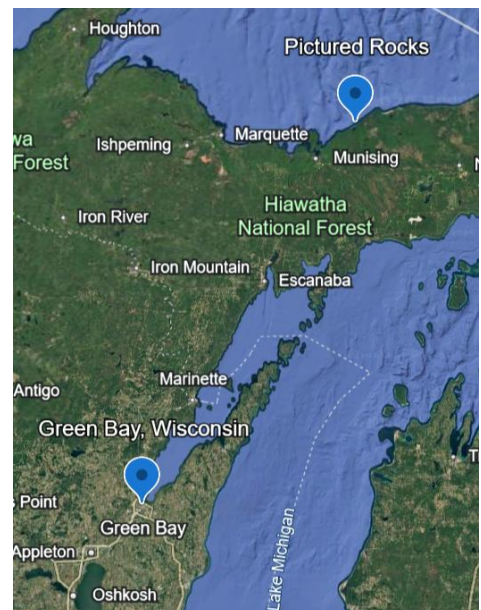


Photo courtesy
of kevmrc.com

*Think you know where this is?
Email your guess to jasondrews99@gmail.com*

Where in the World was That?

The Where in the World in the Winter 2026 edition of *The Hydrogeologist* was Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, located in the upper peninsula (UP) of Michigan. Although accessible via several hiking trails in the area, the extent of the beautiful Picture Rocks National Lakeshore can be viewed from one of several tour boat companies in the area.



Upcoming Field Trip and Preparation for Connects 2026

As we gear up for Connects 2026 in Denver, Colorado, below is an upcoming field trip; please check it out!

1. Fourmile Creek: Exploring Mountain Watershed Dynamics from Pikes Peak to Canon City – Leaders: Marcia Schulmeister and Randy Stotler.

Water resources in the mountain west are stressed, with reduced snowfall, increasing population, and persistent water quality issues. The Fourmile Creek watershed stretches from the top of Colorado's front range to arid canyons before it exits to the plains, and provides an excellent opportunity to examine these issues. The field trip will explore the evolution of Fourmile Creek, from its Pike's Peak headwaters, to its confluence with the Arkansas River. We will investigate headwater dynamics along part of the Gold Belt Scenic Byway in the Cripple Creek and Victor mining district and explore the legacy of historic underground and modern open pit/heap leach mining. Where Cripple Creek joins Fourmile Creek and enters canyon country, we will assess neutral mine drainage effects on water quality and quantity. We'll travel along the historic and steep Shelf Road wagon supply route and visit exotic streams, phreatophytes, irrigation, and examine the fate of mining-derived and geogenic chemical constituents in surface water and groundwater. Downstream stops will feature academic, cultural, and historic points of interest, such as the University of Kansas Harrison Field Station, markers of early explorers, and the Garden Park fossil area, which is known for the classic bone wars of the late 19th century. The trip ends at the Arkansas River in Canon City, with an optional dinner stop at a local Canon City brew pub.

Professionals Please Participate! Evaluate Hydrogeology Field Camp

Evaluating How Well Hydrogeology Field Camps Address the Current and Evolving Needs of North American Geoscience Employers

A group of faculty members and professionals, based in the USA and Canada, is conducting Hydrogeology Field Camp Survey to evaluate how well hydrogeology field camps address the current and evolving needs of North American geoscience employers. If you have completed a Hydrogeology Field Camp, or a field-module dedicated to hydrogeology, either in USA or Canada, you are strongly invited to share your experience and expectations. Your voluntary participation in this online survey is invaluable in identifying gaps that will be helpful to improve the concept of Hydrogeology Field Camp. We encourage you to share this invitation with your employer and with your colleagues who have completed a Hydrogeology Field Camp. This online survey will take approximately **10 minutes** to complete and will remain confidential. Thank you for your time and your valuable contribution. To participate, please click on the following link: [Questionnaire - Hydrogeology Field Camp – Fill out form](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Prof. Lamine Boumaiza at lamine.boumaiza@wayne.edu

Involvement institutions for this education project: Wayne State University; University of Massachusetts Boston; University of Quebec; University of Waterloo; Dalhousie University; Western Michigan University; University of Missouri; University of Minnesota; Clemson University; University of Texas at Austin; Indiana University; University of South Florida; University of Kansas; Stantec.

DEI: Inclusivity for Neurodiversity

I'm writing this on the spring equinox – the first day of astronomical spring here in northern hemisphere. With spring's arrival, many geoscientists start thinking about upcoming field trips or field work – which got me thinking about DEI and neurodiversity. For those who work in higher education, addressing the needs of neurodivergent students can be challenging, especially in field-based coursework.

The challenges of neurodiverse students in the geosciences seem to have received more attention in the international community. The article "Empowering autistic learners in the geosciences (<https://blog.geographydirections.com/2025/10/30/empowering-autistic-learners-in-geosciences/>) provides helpful insights and practical suggestions to help accommodate the needs of neurodiverse geoscience students. The following suggestions are taken directly from that article. In addition, I strongly recommend following the above link to read the original (relatively short and very informative) article.

- "Include more opportunities for short breaks in which autistic learners can gain critical opportunities to recharge. Allow learners to make use of aids such as noise cancelling headphones if this facilitates their engagement.
- Ensure that instructions are provided in timely fashion and do not allow unnecessary room for interpretation. Such measures can greatly enhance their accessibility to autistic learners.
- Provide students with complete information of field trip arrangements, including (where possible) photographs of the accommodation and nearby sources of food. Wherever possible, ensure appropriate breaks and opportunities for recharge.
- Improve autism training and awareness for staff and students."

As field season approaches, let's remember that an inclusive environment means addressing the needs of both neurotypical and neurodiverse students.

-Moe

Student Spotlight – Ifeanyi Emmanuel Anyanwu

Ph.D. Student, Coastal and Marine System Science

Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

Beyond the Surface: Understanding Groundwater Vulnerability in Flood-Prone Coastal Communities using Integrated Hydrogeophysics



In flood-prone coastal regions, extreme rainfall and tropical storms increasingly mobilize contaminants into shallow aquifers. Understanding how floodwaters infiltrate near-surface heterogeneous sediments is critical for protecting groundwater, particularly in coastal communities where groundwater is the main source of drinking water.

My doctoral research focuses on investigating how flood-driven recharge interacts with subsurface heterogeneity and its potential influence on groundwater flow and contaminant transport in these vulnerable coastal systems along the Texas Gulf Coast. My objective is to advance the understanding of the physical and geochemical processes that govern groundwater vulnerability following extreme wet events.

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A long-standing challenge in hydrogeology is characterizing subsurface properties at resolutions high enough to capture the complexity of natural aquifers. Conventional investigations often rely on sparse monitoring wells or bulk hydraulic measurements which can overlook fine-scale stratigraphic features that govern preferential flow and solute transport. To bridge this gap, I combine high-resolution hydrogeophysical imaging with water chemistry to reveal how subsurface structure control groundwater flow.

My work integrates Cone Penetration Testing (CPT), Hydraulic Profiling Tool (HPT), and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) logging using a Geoprobe® 7822DT direct-push rig. Each method provides unique, complementary insights: CPT captures continuous stratigraphic and mechanical information such as tip resistance, sleeve friction, and pore pressure; HPT generates depth-resolved hydraulic conductivity and fluid electrical conductivity; and NMR provides direct measurements of porosity, pore-size distribution, and moisture retention. Individually, these tools are powerful. Integrating them allows us to resolve vertical and lateral variability in sediment texture, compaction, and hydraulic properties at scales sensitive to groundwater flow. This approach improves the identification of preferential recharge pathways, low-permeability confining layers, and zones vulnerable to contaminant accumulation – features that are often poorly resolved or entirely bypassed by conventional well-based methods.

A central component of my research integrates these hydrogeophysical datasets with solute analyses, including bacteria, nitrate, trace metals, and emerging contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This integrated approach enables direct evaluation of how subsurface heterogeneity, and geochemical properties influence contaminant fate and persistence. Preliminary results indicate that intervals with high tip resistance and low electrical conductivity (indicative of coarse, permeable sediments) often correspond to zones of enhanced recharge; conversely, fine-grained, low-resistance units (indicative of clayey, impermeable lithologies) are associated with slower flow and greater retention. These findings highlight the importance of resolving subsurface heterogeneity when evaluating groundwater vulnerability after extreme wet events.

Beyond advancing integrated hydrogeophysical techniques, this study improves our understanding of recharge dynamics and contaminant transport. These insights can inform groundwater vulnerability assessments, strategic monitoring-well placement, and post-flood management decisions – critical for rural coastal areas where groundwater is the sole source of drinking water. Although grounded in the hydrogeologic settings of the Texas Gulf Coast, the integrated approach developed through this research is transferable to other flood-prone regions characterized by unconsolidated sediments and shallow water tables.

My engagement with the GSA Hydrogeology Division reflects a commitment to advancing groundwater science that bridges fundamental process understanding with applied relevance. The Division's emphasis on field-based investigation, interdisciplinary approach, and societally relevant hydrogeology aligns closely with my research goals. As extreme wet events intensify due to climate variability, high-resolution integrated hydrogeophysical techniques will be increasingly essential for developing sustainable, data-driven groundwater protection strategies for resilient coastal communities.

Important Dates

[GSA Triple Joint](#) Southeastern North-Central South-Central Section Meeting – **March 8-11, 2026**

[GSA Northeastern Section Meeting](#) – **March 21-24, 2026**

[GSA Cordilleran Section Meeting](#) – **March 21-24, 2026**

[GSA Undergraduate Research Grants](#)
Application deadline – **April 10, 2026**

[GSA Rocky Mountain Section Meeting](#) – **May 17-20, 2026**

[GSA Thompson Field Forum](#) – **May 25 – June 2, 2026**

[GSA Penrose Conference](#) – **May 30 – June 6, 2026**

[E-an Zen Fund for Geoscience](#)
Outreach Grant – **June 30, 2026**

GSA's Hydrogeology Division Serves the Profession by

- bringing together scientists interested in hydrogeology to facilitate presentation and discussion of hydrogeologic problems,
- fostering, aiding, furthering, and promoting research in hydrogeology,
- supporting and mentoring students with interests in hydrogeology.

We hope you will consider contributing to the success of the Division by [volunteering](#) to help with the division's operations and encouraging your colleagues to join the Division.

MARCH 2026						
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Important Announcement!!!

If you paid for a lifetime membership, you still need to pay division dues to stay active in division spaces.

THE HYDROGEOLOGIST

The Hydrogeologist is a publication of the Hydrogeology Division of the Geological Society of America. It is published electronically four times a year to communicate news of interest to members of the Hydrogeology Division and can be accessed at: <https://community.geosociety.org/hydrodivision/home>. Members of the Hydrogeology Division who have electronic mail will receive notification of all new issues. Other members will receive paper copies.

Contributions and material are most welcome and should be directed to the Editor. The deadline for the summer issue is June 1st, 2026.

Jason M. Drews, Editor
The Hydrogeologist
 The Sigma Group, Inc.
 1300 West Canal Street
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
 Email: jasondrews99@gmail.com
 Phone: 262-309-9949

Hydrogeology Division Contacts

2025-2026 Management Board

- **Chair:** Richelle Allen-King (richelle@buffalo.edu)
- **First Vice-Chair:** Kallina Dunkle (dunklek@apsu.edu)
- **Second Vice-Chair:** Barret Kurylyk (barret.kurylyk@apsu.edu)
- **Secretary:** Tara Root (troot1@gmail.com)
- **Past-Chair:** Don Rosenberg (rosenber@usgs.gov)
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer:** Maureen Muldoon (muldoon@wisc.edu)
- **Section Representatives Coordinator:** Marcia Schulmeister (mschulme@ku.edu)
- **Councilor/Division Liaison Representative:** Brian Katz (bg_katz@hotmail.com)
- **Senior Student Representative:** Riliwan Damilola ("Dami") Abioye (rabioye@seoe.sc.edu)
- **Junior Student Representative:** Ayobami Oluwadunsin Oladapo (aoladap@purdue.edu)

Standing Committees

- **Technical Program Committee:** Yipeng Zhang (2024-2026 JTPC Representative: yipeng.zhang@okstate.edu), Courtney Killian (2023-2025 JTPC Representative: ckillian@usgs.gov).
- **Nominating Committee:** Chair: Yu-Feng Lin (yflin@illinois.edu), Chris Gellasch (chris.gellasch@emich.edu), Christopher Carlson (christopher.carlson@usda.gov)
- **Meinzer Award Committee:** Douglas Kip Solomon (2024 – 2027, kip.solomon@utah.edu), Jimmy Jiao (2023 – 2026, jiao@hku.hk), Beth Parker (2023 – 2025, bparker@uoguelph.ca), Carl Mendoza (2023 – 2026, carl.mendoza@ualberta.ca), Holly Michael (2022 – 2025, hmichael@udel.edu)
- **Kohout Early Career Committee:** Julia Guimond (2024 – 2027, julia.guimond@whoi.edu), Margaret Zimmer (2023 – 2026, mzimmer@usgs.gov), Chen Zhu (2023 – 2026, chenzhu@indiana.edu), Sam Zipper (2022 – 2025, samzipper@ku.edu)
- **George Maxey Distinguished Service Award Committee:** Abhijit Mukherjee (2024 – 2027, amukh2@gmail.com), Clifford Voss (2023 – 2026, cvoss@hydrogeosys.net), Eric Peterson (2022 – 2025, ewpeter@ilstu.edu)
- **Birdsall-Dreiss Lecturer Committee:** Ben Rostron (2025 – 2028, benrostron123@gmail.com), Ken Belitz (2024 – 2027, kbelitz@usgs.gov), Yu-Feng Lin (2023 – 2026, yflin@illinois.edu), Abe Springer (2023 – 2026, Abe.Springer@nau.edu), Randy Stotler (2022 – 2025, randy.stotler@uwaterloo.edu), Barbara Bekins (2022 – 2025, babekins@usgs.gov)
- **Schwartz Award Committee:** Richard Parizek (2024-2027, rrp1@psu.edu), Ken Bradbury (2023-2025, ken.bradbury@wisc.edu), Alan Fryar (ala.fryar@uky.edu).
- **Early Career Liaison:** Rakesh Kumar (rakesh.hydrology@gmail.com)
- **Swag Sleuths:** Chair – Carrie Wisdom (cfwisdomgeo@gmail.com), Vice Chair – Tara Kneeshaw (kneeshta@qvsu.edu)

Section Representatives:

Section Representative Coordinator, Marcia Schulmeister (mschulme@ku.edu)

Cordilleran: Geoffery Cromwell (2024 – 2026, gcromwell@usgs.gov), Thomas Gunter Kretzschmar (2025 – 2027, tkretzsc@cicese.mx)

Northeastern: David West (2024 – 2026, dwest@middlbury.edu), Patrick Burkart (2025 – 2026, Patrick.burkart@sru.edu)

North-central: Eung Seok Lee (2024 – 2026, leee1@ohio.edu), Reza Soltanian (2025 – 2027, soltanma@ucmail.uc.edu)

South-central: Katherine Knierim (2024 – 2026, knierem@usgs.gov), Marcia Schulmeister (2024 – 2026, mschulme@ku.edu)

Rocky Mountain: Greg Carling (2024 – 2026, greg.carling@byu.edu), Mark Person (2025 – 2027, mark.person@nmt.edu)

Southeastern: Steve Baedke (2024 – 2026, baedkesj@jmu.edu), Rachel Rotz (2025 – 2027, baedkesj@jmu.edu)

International, Prosun Bhattacharya (prosun@kth.se)

Representatives to Other Societies:

American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), Chris Gellasch (chris.gellasch@emich.edu)

American Geophysical Union (AGU), Barbara Bekins (babekins@usgs.gov)

American Geosciences Institute (AGI), David Wunsch (dwunsch@udel.edu)

Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI), Holly Michael (hmichael@udel.edu)

National Groundwater Association (NGWA), Bill Alley (walley@ngwa.org)

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), Jack Sharp (jmsharp@mail.utexas.edu)

SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology), Gary Weissman (weissman@unm.edu)

Soil Science Society of America, Michael Young (Michael.young@beg.utexas.edu)

Communications:

Newsletter (*The Hydrogeologist*) Editor, Jason Drews (jasondrews99@gmail.com)

Newsletter Assistant, Riliwan Damilola ("Dami") Abioye (rabioye@seoe.sc.edu)

Newsletter Assistant, Rakesh Kumar (rakesh.hydrology@gmail.com)

Newsletter Assistant, Poulomee Coomar (rimpakoomar@gmail.com)

Website Administrator, Mike Sukop (sukopm@fiu.edu)

Website Administrator Assistant, Carrie Faucett Wisdom (cfwisdomgeo@gmail.com)

Website Administrator Assistant, Ifeanyi Emmanuel Anyanwu (ianyanwu1@islander.tamucc.edu)

Social Media Manager, Riliwan Damilola ("Dami") Abioye (rabioye@seoe.sc.edu)

Social Media Manager, Ayobami Oluwadunsin Oladapo (aoladap@purdue.edu)