



Geoscience Education Division May/June 2022 Newsletter

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Students working in a paleoseismic trench along Utah Lake as part of an undergraduate research project at Utah Valley University. Photo by Doug Czajka.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear GSA Geoscience Education Division members,

I hope that everyone is doing well and that your summers are off to a great start! Mine began by joining some undergraduate researchers working on a paleoseismic trenching project (see photo above) at West Mountain along Utah Lake in Utah County (lots of creative names here). We are hoping to better understand the timing and displacement of large earthquakes along this fault segment. Undergraduate research experiences are known to aid in retention of majors, but I've also been thinking about ways that these experiences can be leveraged in my teaching. I've been co-mentoring another undergraduate student who is working on a project collecting nutrient data from various inputs to Utah Lake. As part of that project, we are working to use the data she is collecting to build a classroom lesson on nutrient inputs and harmful algal blooms. This lesson will allow students in an introductory class to use real-world data connected to an issue of local concern that was collected by a student peer. This has gotten me curious about ways to extend research experiences beyond the students directly involved, and I'd love to chat with others who have done similar things to learn more.

In more division related news, hopefully everyone has had a chance to see the [Letter to the Editors](#) written by the NAGT leadership published in the May issue of GSA Today. Thanks to concern from NAGT, the GED, and others, the GSA Executive Committee has agreed that geoscience education and related manuscripts should be acceptable for publication as cover pieces in GSA Today. There should be more information forthcoming regarding this decision, but this is great news for our community.

In news related to GSA Connects 2022 (the annual meeting), the meeting will be fully hybrid but the GED is working to restore our in-person presence at the meeting. We are excited to be bringing back the GED Educators' Reception this year at the annual meeting. We are working to book an off-site location that will allow for indoor and outdoor seating, and we are asking members to complete [this survey](#) about your plan to attend GSA Connects and the GED Reception to aid our planning. We are also planning to have a GED table in the exhibition hall this year. We hope this will be a great opportunity for our members to connect with each other and with the GED management board. More details on this will be forthcoming.

Thank you again for all of your support of your support, and we hope you are finding value in GED membership. If there is any way that we can serve you better or if you have suggestions for the GED (like content you'd like to see in future newsletters!), please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for reading, and I and the entire GED board are excited to see many of you in Denver this October!

Your 2022 GED Chair,



Doug Czajka
Department of Earth Science
Utah Valley University

DIVISION AWARDS

Congratulations to our 2022 Division Awardee (yes, we only had one)!

The Biggs Earth Science Teaching Award will be awarded to Dr. Christy Visaggi. To quote her nominator Dr. Katherine Hankins, “Dr. Visaggi, who is a Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Geosciences at Georgia State University *and* the Senior Faculty Associate for Signature Experiences for the university, is a departmental and campus leader in experiential learning with particular emphasis on active, collaborative, and place-based experiences. She has brought her expertise to her own classrooms in Geosciences, to our department’s introductory lab-science courses through our Lab Innovation Plan, and to the university through her leadership in the university’s Office of Special Programs. She has demonstrated her thoughtful pedagogy by guiding numerous students in research and demonstrates a robust publishing record that reflect her expertise in Geosciences Education and in paleontology. Furthermore, she has expanded her influence to area schools with her active engagement in K12 programming for science teachers and in her community-focused Earth Science activities.”

The GED did not award an ***Iris Moreno Totten Geoscience Education Research Award*** at the 2021 GSA Connects meeting in Portland Oregon. However, we have decided that moving forward, we will chair an Iris Moreno Totten Research in Geoscience Education session at all future GSA annual meetings to assist in the award recruitment and evaluation processes. All students and early career presenters in the session will be eligible for the Totten award. Having a dedicated session for the Totten award should significantly improve the efficiency of judging and awarding eligible talks, and we are excited to have a new session that will showcase research being done in geoscience education by students and early career professionals. If you or your students are conducting geoscience education research, consider submitting an abstract to session T162. And if you are interested in serving on the award committee as a judge during the session, please reach out to the GED board.

MANAGEMENT BOARD NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year when the GED management board is seeking to fill our upcoming vacancies, and this is a great opportunity for members to get involved in the work that we do! If you would like to apply to be included on the upcoming election ballot, please submit your [form of interest](#) for one of the following positions:

1. **SECOND VICE CHAIR** *will serve for one year, then rotate into the First Vice Chair position for one year, and then rotate into the Chair position for one year. The Chair will serve as Past Chair for a final year. **This is a four-year commitment!** The second vice chair serves as the chair of the Awards Committee, leads planning for the Educators Reception at the GSA annual meeting, and Facilitates the awarding of student travel grants. The Second Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair whenever the Chair and First Vice Chair are not available.*
2. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** *shall serve on the Iris Moreno Totten Education Research Award Committee under the direction of the Totten Committee Chair. Student reps shall represent GED on the GSA Student Advisory Council (SAC) and, to the best of their knowledge and abilities, represent the interests and concerns of GED student members to the management board.*

Nominations will remain open through the end of July, and voting will occur in August. If you have any questions about serving on the GED, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the current [board members](#).

GSA CONNECTS 2022 (i.e. The Annual Meeting)

The [GSA Connects 2022](#) abstract submission is currently open and the submission deadline is rapidly approaching! Connects 2022 will take place in Denver, Colorado from the 9th-12th of October, and **the abstract deadline is July 19th**. The meeting will also be fully hybrid for those who cannot attend in person. Registration and housing will open in June. A list of Topical Sessions endorsed by the GED and those in the Geoscience Education Discipline can be found below, online at the GSA Connects [program website](#), and in the [latest issue of GSA Today](#).

Important information for students! The [GSA On To the Future program](#) provides travel funding for students from diverse communities, and **the deadline is June 3rd**! The student volunteer program will open in late July, so keep your eyes peeled for that. And finally, the GED also awards travel funding to our student members. You can [apply here](#), and the deadline is **August 24th**.

The Following topical sessions have been endorsed by the GED:

- T65. Integrated Drought Science and Technology
- T97. Planetary Exploration and Education: How We Learn about Our Solar System and Beyond

- T135. Making Groundwater Knowledge Accessible through Visual and Experiential Learning
- T149. Geoscience and the Sustainable Development Goals: Contributions from Students and Early Career Professionals
- T151. The American Geosciences Institute at 75: Implementing a Vision of Sustainability as a Unifying Geoscience Framework
- T152. Bringing Inquiry into Geoscience Labs for Students, Teaching Assistants, and Faculty
- T153. Career Paths and Licensure: Program Strategies to Help Students Explore Career Pathways in the Earth Sciences
- T154. Connecting High School and Undergraduate Students to the Geosciences through Multidisciplinary Approaches to Geologic Issues (Posters)
- T155. Gatebreaking: Passing along Your Biggest Lessons Learned in the Geosciences
- T157: Hands-On Teaching Demonstrations that Combine Geoscience and Societal Issues: Audience Participation Requested!
- T161. Institutional and Grassroots Efforts Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Scientific Workplace
- T162. Iris Moreno Totten Research in Geoscience Education Session
- T163. Leveraging Virtual Spaces for Geoscience Education: Exploration and Learning through Augmented and Virtual Reality
- T164. Making Sense of Methodologies and Theoretical Frameworks in Geoscience Education Research
- T166. Showcase of Undergraduate Research Posters by 2YC and 4YCU Geoscience Students (Posters)
- T168. What in Your Data? Mining Existing Databases to Plot the Course of K-16 Geoscience Education
- T173. Giving Voice to Geosciences beyond the Science World
- T174. Case Studies in the History and Philosophy of the Geosciences: People, Places, & Things

Below is a list of other sessions in the Geoscience Education discipline. While these sessions did not request endorsement of the GED, they are still great sessions that we would encourage you to submit an abstract to if your work aligns with these topics.

- T156. G-IRL: Collaborations and Conversations on Practicing Geoscience and In-Real-Life Applications for Dismantling Scientific Siloes
- T158. Harnessing Social Media, Crowd Source, and Other Modern Open Media to Advance Geoscience Research and Enhance Outreach and Education
- T159. Improving Student Learning Outcomes Using Cognitive Science-Informed Strategies in Geoscience Teaching and Practice
- T160. Innovations in Holistic Student Training and Development
- T167. The Role of Geoethics, Equity, and Environmental/Ecological Justice Education in STEM: The Geosciences Story

We hope to see many of you at GSA Connects 2022 in Denver, and if you are at the meeting in-person, please stop by the GED booth in the exhibitor hall and say hello!

GSA SECTIONAL MEETINGS

While everyone is probably focused on the annual meeting, we want to remind you about the Sectional Meetings, and encourage you to consider submitting topical session proposals for these meetings. Click the section name to access each meeting's webpage. We will do our best to endorse and promote any geoscience education related sessions that occur at these meetings.

SECTION	MEETING LOCATION AND DATES	TOPICAL SESSION PROPOSAL DEADLINE
Cordilleran	Reno, NV - 17-19 May 2023	1 August 2022
North-Central	Grand Rapids, MI – 4-5 May 2023	1 August 2022
Northeastern	Reston, VA – 17-18 March 2023 -joint with Southeastern	15 June 2022
Rocky Mountain	Fort Collins, CO – 23-25 May 2023	1 August 2022
South-Central	Stillwater, OK - 13-14 March 2023	1 June 2022 (<i>deadline passed</i>)
Southeastern	Reston, VA – 17-18 March 2023 -joint with Northeastern	15 June 2022