
G&S Fall 2017 Newsletter

1 message

GSA Geology and Society Division <bartel@unavco.org> Mon, Oct 9, 2017 at 10:50 AM
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GSA Geology & Society Division 2017 Fall Newsletter - October 9, 2017

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Dave Szymanski, Bentley University

Welcome to the Fall 2017 Geology & Society Division Newsletter! Continuing with the new and (*much*) improved format introduced by G&S Communication and Engagement

Coordinator, **Beth Bartel**, this issue focuses on the upcoming meeting in Seattle. You'll see that your G&S Management Board and other division members have been hard at work planning an exciting set of events for the entire course of the meeting. Throughout the process, we've kept in mind the results of last year's *Communication and Engagement Survey*, aiming to provide G&S members with opportunities to advance our mission and more ways to stay connected. To that end, if you haven't yet, join our [GSA Geology & Society Division public Facebook group!](#)



You'll find all the details below, but as you plan for Seattle, there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved. In addition to attending signature events like Rocks & Hops, your division needs your help. **John Chermak** and **Susan Stover** have been reformatting our Best Student Paper Award competition to provide a more valuable experience for participants. Students must now opt-in for the competition and we need volunteer judges to ensure that each entrant is evaluated *and* receives constructive feedback. Likewise, Student Representative **Erin Barry** is assembling an *ad hoc* Student Advisory Committee to help shape the division. The group will assemble informally in Seattle and we need your suggestions for G&S-minded students to tap (see below or e-mail [Erin](#) with student nominations directly.)

Finally, we would be remiss as the G&S Division to not provide a space to discuss the disastrous hurricane season in the Gulf Coast and Caribbean. With the support of GSA HQ and the Geology & Public Policy Committee, **Jeff Rubin** and **Monica Gowan** are organizing a [late-breaking session on the 2017 hurricanes](#). The session will take place on Tuesday morning (10/24) in TCC, Tahoma 1. While there will be advertising on-site, we can use your help in spreading the word.

On a personal note, since this is my last message as G&S Chair, I want to sincerely thank our division leadership for their tenacious enthusiasm and work. While it can feel like the ignorance of science – or worse, the outright attack on science – is the new political normal, the solid work and tireless effort demonstrated by our colleagues is inspiring. Representing the voice of the geosciences in society remains as critical as ever. It's a privilege to continue serving our G&S Division – I hope you'll do the same.

[See You in Seattle](#)

The G&S Division offers a variety of ways to connect and to learn at the Annual Meeting in Seattle this month. We look forward to seeing you there!

Icebreaker

G&S will host a table at the meeting's Icebreaker reception on Saturday night, October 21, from 5-7pm. Stop by to meet current Division leadership, ask us questions, and share your ideas for the Division. Members are also most welcome to help staff the table.



Annual Business Meeting of the Membership and Board

All division members are welcome to join G&S leadership at the annual business meeting of the membership and board on Sunday, October 22, 2:30 - 5:00 PM at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in Ravenna A-B. All interested GSA members are also invited to observe the Geology and Public Policy Committee (GPPC) Meeting on Saturday, October 21, 12 – 4:30 PM

and Sunday, October 22, 8:00 – 11:30 AM at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in Leschi.

Rocks and Hops

Our annual Rocks and Hops Soiree is open to all and hosted in partnership with the Geology and Public Policy Committee, GeoCorps America and Geoscientists-in-the-Park, and GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellowship. This year, we will be meeting on Sunday, October 22, 7-9pm, at Pike Brewing. Join us to meet Division leadership and others interested in the intersection of geology and society, talk about the latest issues piquing your interest, and have a pint with friends new and old. (Pro tip: Stop by the G&S table at the Icebreaker reception for a free drink ticket!)

Best Student Paper Competition

Geology and Society members and "friends" will be evaluating student presentations in Seattle in forums associated with G&S. Eligible students will be contacted in the near future and will have to opt in via email (students, keep an eye on your inbox!). G&S is also looking for help with student evaluations; if interested please contact John Chermak at jchermak@vt.edu. This is a great opportunity for students to get constructive feedback, and a way for members to serve our community.

Distinguished Lecture

This year we welcome Greg Estes to speak on "Darwin in the Galapagos: Then and Now," 12:15, Tuesday October 24, Room 602/603. For more on this lecture, see below, and mark your meeting calendar.

Sponsored Sessions

G&S is supporting the Society and our Division membership by sponsoring or co-sponsoring 14 Technical Sessions at the Annual Meeting, including the [late-breaking session on the 2017 hurricanes](#) mentioned above in the Message from the Chair.

You can download a detailed list of sponsored sessions, plus all other events noted here, at the [G&S Connected Communities page](#).

[G&S 2017 Distinguished Lecture: Islands in Evolution](#)

Darwin In Galapagos: Then and Now

Greg Estes

12:15 – 1:15, Room 602/603,
Convention Center

Charles Darwin's theory on the origin of species radically changed people's worldview of life and our place in it. Darwin's visit to the Galapagos Islands and the species diversity he found between the islands helped galvanize his thinking on how species transmuted through natural selection. Darwin also studied the geology of the young volcanic islands, which contributed to his intellectual framework on how species develop.



Greg Estes is an expert on the biology of Galapagos and on Darwin. Estes and Thalia Grant retraced Darwin's nineteen days on the islands and how it influenced his thinking (Darwin in Galapagos: Footsteps to a New World, Grant & Estes, 2009). Estes is a licensed naturalist guide of the Galapagos National Park Service. He's led expeditions for many universities, organizations such as National Geographic, World Wildlife Fund, and the Nature Conservancy, and notable scientists including Richard Leakey, Sylvia Earl and Craig Venter. He has worked with several film companies such as the BBC, NOVA, and the Discovery Channel. Estes and Grant, owners of Galapagos Natural History Tours, educate a wide range of people on the islands' role in Darwin's thinking, the islands' biological diversity, and challenges to protecting this unique archipelago.

GSA's Geology and Society Division is committed to "geology working for society," and is proud to sponsor a distinguished speaker that advances education and communication of science to the wider public and influences society's decisions.

[New G&S Board Members](#)

In July elections, **Beth Bartel** was elected Second Vice Chair and **Jim Heller** was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Both will start their terms at the conclusion of the 2017 Annual GSA Meeting in Seattle.



Beth brings a background in volcano geodesy and journalism, with particular emphasis on science communication; she is currently the Outreach Specialist at UNAVCO in Boulder, Colorado. More on Beth on her GSA [Connected Communities](#) page.

Jim is a hydrogeologist in the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's groundwater program with extensive GSA committee experience. With a background in paleontology, he also maintains a strong interest in environmental issues pertaining to groundwater resources, anthropogenic climate change, and public policy. More on Jim on his GSA [Connected Communities](#) page.



Please introduce yourselves to Beth and Jim, as well as the rest of the G&S leadership, in Seattle. We're here to serve you and can best do that with your input--perhaps over a pint at Rocks and Hops?

[To Our Student Members](#)

Erin Barry, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology

Help make G&S and GSA better by getting involved in G&S's ad-hoc Student Advisory Committee! Share your ideas and get breakfast on us!



Hey students! Whether you're new or just back to GSA for another year, I can't wait to see and meet you all at the annual meeting. We have a lot in store this year, from our annual Rocks & Hops Soirée (did I hear something about free beer?) to our new G&S Student Advisory Committee (G&S SAC) -- there are so many ways for G&S students to connect with each other and make a difference.

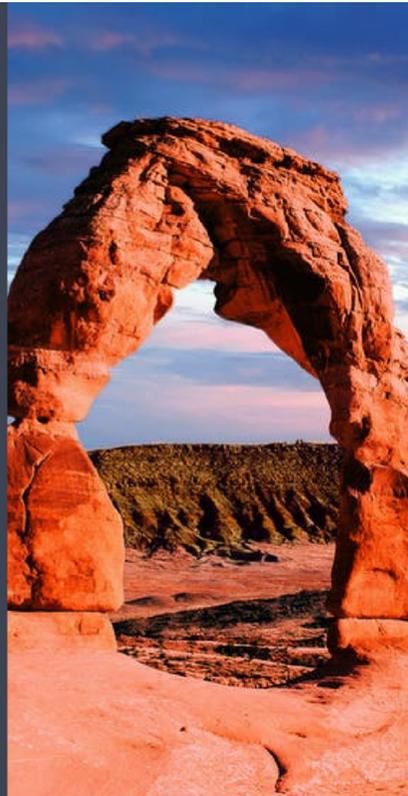
This year, I am especially excited to be chairing the G&S SAC because it is such an awesome opportunity for students to get together and discuss what we want out of our division. Don't feel like there are sufficient career resources? Wish you knew where to look regarding geoscience policy? Maybe you just don't understand what the heck GSA divisions do? This is a great way to get your voice heard so that G&S can provide you with the services YOU want. If you're interested, shoot me an email at eebarry1@gmail.com whether you're going to be at the annual meeting in Seattle or not and I'll keep you in the loop, or stop by our booth at the Saturday evening Ice Breaker event. No strings attached and no more commitment than you're interested in putting in. And for those of you who are going to be in Seattle, you'll get a free breakfast on us for your efforts!

What do you want
your division to be?

Join the Geology & Society
Division's ad-hoc Student
Advisory Committee and
make it a reality!

*Share
your
voice*

Interested? Email or text
G&S Student Rep
Erin Barry at
eebarry1@gmail.com or
608.843.9249



[GSA Announces New Fellows for Science Policy and Communication](#)

GSA has announced three 2017-2018 Fellows who will assist with efforts to increase efficacy in serving society through science. The **32nd GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow** (CSF), Melanie R. Thornton, will spend a year, beginning this fall, working in the office of Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on a range of science policy issues. **GSA Science Policy Fellow** Lindsay Davis will serve as the "in-house" fellow, working with GSA's Director for Geoscience Policy to bring science and scientists into the policy process. Inaugural **GSA Science Communications Fellow** Beth C. Geiger will use her literary journalism skills to create engaging stories around GSA member research for lay audiences and help GSA to more broadly disseminate new earth science research. More on these Fellows on the [GSA webpage](#).

[Updated GSA Position Statements](#)

GSA Council adopted minor revisions to seven position statements:

- Data Access

- Geoheritage
- Supporting Planetary Exploration
- Rewarding Professional Contributions in the Public Spheres
- Water Resources
- The Value of Geologic Mapping
- Teaching Evolution

GSA Council also endorsed the "Freedom of Scientific Expression" statement by the American Meteorological Society.

GSA members are encouraged to use position statements in their outreach activities. Full versions of these and other position statements are available on the [GSA Position Statements](#) webpage.

Stay Informed, Get Involved

We invite you to actively engage with your division leadership and fellow members through the following forums. We are constantly looking for more ways to connect with and support our division membership. Please let us know how we can better serve you, and how you would like to be involved.



- Join the discussion on our [G&S Facebook Group](#)
- Join the discussion on the GSA [G&S Member Community](#) forum
- Join us at Rocks and Hops in Seattle at the GSA Annual Meeting
- Volunteer to be the G&S web administrator (contact jeff.rubin@tvfr.com)
- Keep up on GSA's [News from the Hill](#)
- Write a brief piece for a future G&S newsletter (contact bartel@unavco.org)
- Students: Opt in to be considered for our 2017 Best Student Paper competition
- Non-students: Volunteer to serve as a judge for the 2017 Best Student Paper competition (contact jchermak@vt.edu)
- Students: Join or learn more about the G&S ad hoc Student Advisory Committee (contact eebarry1@gmail.com)

Your Geology & Society Division Leadership

Management Board

Board Chair David W. Szymanski, Bentley University

Board 1st Vice Chair Susan Stover, Kansas Geological Survey

Board 2nd Vice Chair John Alan Chermak, Virginia Tech

Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Rubin, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Past Chair Bruce R. Clark, The Leighton Group

Student Representative Erin E. Barry, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology

Supporting Positions

G&S Communication and Engagement Coordinator Beth Bartel, UNAVCO

GSA Councilor/Division Liaison Representative Mark Little, University of North Carolina

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