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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Trustees:

The Foundation has been very busy during the past few months and the spring promises to be a busy time as well. The Foundation Executive Committee had its quarterly meeting in late October and discussed a wide array of topics from fundraising to membership. Andrey and/or I made several trips to visit with individuals and corporations relative to support for AGI Programs through the Center for Geoscience and Society. Two of these visits have resulted in proposals for funding for the Center. In addition, the AGIF Executive Committee met in person just prior to the annual trustees meeting and discussed among other items, the solid financial health of the Foundation as well as introducing the Schlumberger fundraising fellow who will help Andrey especially with new foundations and a broader corporate base. I also want to thank all trustees for your generosity to AGIF in 2016.

We are looking forward to a successful Trustees' meeting at AAPG in Houston on Tuesday, April 4. We are also planning a brief meeting of

the development committee following the trustees' meeting. The goals of the meeting are to discuss committee goals, approaches, and to develop a better communication strategy. This spring and summer will be a quite active fundraising time with our major focus on reaching the \$500,000 challenge grant. I look forward to seeing as many trustees as possible while in Houston. Please contact me with any ideas you may have to improve our meetings or any other activities of AGI Foundation. Finally, let me remind all trustees of the AGIF website. This is the best and most timely way to keep up on AGI and AGIF activities and accomplishments. See you next month and safe travels.



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Pat Leahy
Executive Director

AGIF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On January 26, AGIF held its regular meeting at the Schlumberger office in Houston. Following his opening remarks, Dan Domeracki, the AGIF Chair, encouraged the AGIF Executive Committee and the Board to think of new ways to further expand AGIF's outreach in bringing new partners and funders to support AGI's mission.

Allyson Anderson Book, the new AGI Executive Director, delivered an inspiring speech to present AGI's new vision to become an innovation hub and a collaborative thought leader for the geosciences. "AGI is the nexus for all of the geosciences," said Anderson Book. "It is essential for AGI and AGIF to mentor staff and solicit their ideas for the betterment of the organization." She also noted that AGI needs to significantly improve its storytelling to attract prospective funders and partners. She pointed out that AGI offers a wide range of options to provide for the AGI mission, including in-kind donations, planned giving opportunities, and employee matching programs.

To achieve its ambitious goals, AGI needs to ensure the safety and well-being of its employees. Anderson Book presented AGI's building



Allyson Anderson Book sharing AGI's updates at the AGIF Meeting in Houston.

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renovation plan to the Board and answered numerous questions on the status of this important project. She noted that AGI intends to launch a capital campaign to raise extra funds to support the renovation. While \$1.5 million in funding has already been secured, AGI still needs to raise an additional \$1.5 million to complete the renovation.

Following Anderson Book's report, AGIF trustees enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Lisa Danielson, Manager of Basic and Applied Research at Jacobs Technology, who was the special guest speaker at the event. Danielson delivered a fascinating presentation on collaborative opportunities with NASA in astromaterials research and exploration science. She highlighted NASA's various outreach activities, and discussed the ways NASA can collaborate with AGI on STEM outreach projects.

Pat Leahy, AGIF Executive Director, and Andrey Gidaspov, AGIF Development Director, presented the Center's fundraising campaign updates. Leahy pointed out that the silent stage of the campaign has reached an important milestone - \$1.5M. He thanked all the trustees and other donors for their generous contributions to the campaign. He also noted that thanks to the most recent challenge grant from an anonymous donor who offered to match all new campaign gifts to up to \$500,000, AGIF was able to raise over \$150,000 in just two months! Leahy asked the trustees to take advantage of this exciting opportunity, and spread the word among their business networks.

Mark Shuster, AGIF Vice Chair, shared the latest updates from the AGIF Membership Committee, and emphasized that the Board needs to continue its efforts in bringing more diversity and cross industry connections. Ralph Hopkins, a new AGIF trustee, was unanimously accepted to the Foundation.

AGIF LEGACY SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO SHARE THE LEGACY OF GEOSCIENCE

Join like-minded colleagues and friends and make plans to support the case of geoscience for future generations. If you'd like to receive more information about planned giving, please contact Andrey Gidaspov at agidaspov@agiweb.org.

UPDATES FROM THE GEOREF INFORMATION SERVICES

Have you ever pulled out an old CD or flash drive to look at information from a past geoscience meeting and found that your software is no longer compatible with that on the CD? Or tried to visit the web site for an older meeting that no longer exists? At GeoRef, the primary international bibliographic service for the geosciences, the chorus of concerns from users experiencing these problems had been getting louder and louder. In an effort to prevent some of the more valuable meeting abstracts from disappearing, GeoRef staff began offering conference organizers the opportunity to include meeting abstracts in GeoRef as a means of archiving them for the future – with the added plus that they remain discoverable by scientists at the more than 2000 organizations that access GeoRef.

Of particular concern to GeoRef's user community were the abstracts from the International Geological Congress. This congress occurs every four years and moves from country to country – changing its Local Organizing Committee each time. The abstracts from these meetings often represent the key to finding further information on the geology

of remote or poorly explored areas. The CDs from earlier congresses were becoming difficult to use and websites were not being maintained in perpetuity.

Working closely with the organizers of the International Geological Congress in Oslo and Brisbane, GeoRef staff had already incorporated the abstracts from those meetings into the database. In addition, portions of the data for the Congress in Rio de Janeiro had been incorporated. For the 2016 meeting in Cape Town, the process was taken a step further and a web site hosting the complete set of abstracts from the meeting was recently deployed by AGI: <https://www.americangeosciences.org/information/igc>.

By developing a web site for the conference abstracts, AGI is able to provide the materials in their original form, preserving illustrations and references. The abstracts can be browsed by session or searched using keywords. This collection of abstracts is accessible as part of other openly accessible collections on the AGI web site at <https://www.americangeosciences.org/information/collections>.

UPDATES FROM AGI'S CRITICAL ISSUES PROGRAM

AGI WEBINARS ATTRACT A NEW, WIDER AUDIENCE

AGI's Critical Issues Program has been hosting regular webinars since April 2015. The webinars are a major component in the drive by AGI's Center for Geoscience and Society to build greater awareness of the importance of the geosciences to society and, in this case, to develop improved communications with state and local decision makers. The webinars focus on current issues at the interface of geoscience and society, with topics ranging from induced seismicity, produced water, offshore energy, and critical minerals, to ocean acidification, surface-groundwater interactions, desalination, and Cascadia's earthquake risk.

The webinars produced by AGI's Critical Issues Program are introducing AGI to new audiences and fostering new connections in the geoscience community. The program has built a reputation for engaging, accessible, and professionally produced webinars that provide useful information for the general public, in addition to resources and ideas for state and local decision makers working on geoscience issues.

The latest Critical Issues webinar, "Assessing, Mitigating, and Communicating Flood Risk" was held on February 8th. A particularly



Critical Issues Flooding Webinar team.

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CRITICAL ISSUES WEBINAR

Co-Sponsors: AAG | AIPG | AMS | ASFPM | FEMA | IAH-USNC | NOAA | NHMA | USGS

Assessing, Mitigating, and Communicating Flood Risk

Held February 8, 2017



Video available at:
<http://bit.ly/flood-webinar-2017>

Image Credit: FEMA

successful collaboration with the Association of State Floodplain Managers, along with eight other co-sponsors and a targeted advertising campaign, attracted 800 registrants and over 500 live attendees. With a focus on flood mitigation efforts at both national and local levels, the webinar reached people in all fifty states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, and 21 countries around the world.

The webinar featured three speakers talking about various aspects of mitigating flood risk. Marie Pepler from the U.S. Geological Survey gave an overview of USGS flood inundation mapping activities and introduced the audience to tools that they could use to better assess and mitigate flood risk in their state or community. Maria Cox Lamm from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources explained how interagency co-ordination during Hurricane Matthew helped improve evacuation and risk reduction efforts. Iain Hyde from the Colorado Resiliency & Recovery Office described the state- and community-level mitigation and communication actions they have taken

to improve flood resiliency since the major floods of 2013, which were particularly devastating in the Foothills and northeastern Colorado.

A panel discussion session at the end of the webinar brought the speakers' collective experience together and provided what many attendees find most valuable: tools, resources, and strategies that state and local decision makers have successfully applied in their area, and that others around the country might learn from.

The success of this webinar was evident from the number of new attendees: 500 of the registrants had never previously attended an AGI webinar, received an AGI mailing, or registered for an AGI event. This widening of AGI's audience is thanks in large part to strong collaborative relationships with AGI member societies – three of which (AAG, AIPG, and IAH-USNC) co-sponsored the webinar – and with other organizations outside our immediate geoscience community. The program has also developed

successful outreach strategies to target specific sectors, such as floodplain managers for the February webinar. This concerted effort to spotlight the fundamental role of the geosciences in many important societal issues is helping to promote both the geosciences and AGI to key decision makers and stakeholders throughout the country and the world.

Continuing with the theme of hazard mitigation, two more webinars will be held in the next couple of months: “State Responses to Induced Seismicity” and “Planning for Coastal Change Hazards”. Please visit our webinar website at <https://www.americangeosciences.org/policy-critical-issues/webinars> to find more information about upcoming webinars and to watch recordings of past webinars.

UPDATES FROM COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

AGI has recently published the results (<https://www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/reports>) of the 2015-2016 Geoscience Student Exit Survey. The survey measures the demographics, activities, and experiences of geoscience students that received their bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degrees during the 2015-2016 academic year. This is the fourth year of this survey, and though there is much consistency in the results over the years, this year saw some substantive changes in employment, and deepening of several trends, including deficits in advanced quantitative courses, constrained access to field courses and limited engagement in internships.

For the last four years, participation rates at all degree levels in quantitative courses beyond Calculus II have been consistently low and declining. Access to these courses is easier at R1 doctoral institutions than at liberal arts colleges, yet, the participation rates in these advanced courses: Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, and Computational Methods, does not dramatically increase by degree level. In fact, fewer than 65% of doctoral recipients have ever taken a statistics course. The deficit in these courses are reflected in reports from employers, not so much directly in the need for the actual mathematical techniques, but for the conceptual frameworks they define: Linear Algebra for working in complex multivariate systems, Differential Equations for understanding dynamic fluid systems, and Computational Methods for appropriate data analysis, management, and critique. During the recent slow down in the energy sector, recent graduates with advanced quantitative skills reported to have better resilience in the employment market.

Field experiences continue to be a cornerstone in the intellectual development of geoscientists, with those experiences especially building critical integrative, multidisciplinary habits of mind. Most graduates report having had at least one field experience or research experience during their education. However, access to comprehensive and intensive field experiences such as field camp remains a challenge, only 40% of bachelor recipients report attending such an experience, while 40% report deciding not to. Yet, the remaining

20% reporting intending to attend such a field experience, but not being able to secure a spot. Though the level of denied access has dropped slightly over the last couple years, a substantive proportion of geoscience majors continue to be impacted by the constrained capacity of available field experiences.

Internships continue to be an area where geosciences trail many other fields – such as engineering and business, where internship experiences are almost ubiquitous. This year, about half of all students had had an internship experience during their education, with it being most prevalent at the Master’s level. A curious trend is that about 40% of students report not applying for any internships. This indicates that approximately 20% of students applied for, but did not secure an internship. Why so many geoscience students do not apply for internships is unknown, whether it is driven by lack of awareness, lack of institutional support, or if cursory investigations into opportunities did not yield results. Internships are the best opportunities to learn the day-to-day experiences of a working geoscientist, as well as provide an important networking opportunity. While it may be difficult to create more internship opportunities, collaborations between workforce representatives, departments, and societies are needed to look at the skills development that comes from internship opportunities to find new ways to provide internship-like experiences for current students.

Finally, this year’s survey showed its first major change in the dynamics of employment. This year, no bachelor recipients report securing employment in the oil and gas industry. Hiring at the Master’s level, however, remains steady. Aggregate employment opportunities do not appear to have diminished with constraint in the energy sector as increased hiring in the environmental and engineering fields have offset those losses.

AGI recognizes the importance of continuing this research study annually and is excited about the prospect of future comparisons with other countries. Soon, AGI will be able to identify those trends that are specific to U.S. graduates compared to those that are of global concern.

AGI SIGNS A NEW CONSENSUS DOCUMENT

AGI has signed a new consensus document, Geoscience Policy Recommendations for the New Administration and the 115th Congress. The document outlines strategies for achieving shared national interests in which geoscience plays a key role, offering recommendations around five high-level thematic areas:

- » Enhancing National and Homeland Security
- » Increasing Economic Prosperity
- » Securing Resources and Strengthening National Infrastructure
- » Supporting and Growing Strong and Resilient Communities
- » Growing a Dynamic Workforce

"AGI joins an intellectually diverse coalition to advocate on behalf of the geosciences in the federal policy process," said AGI Executive Director Allyson Anderson Book. "This consensus document demonstrates our community's willingness to work with members of both parties to advance science-based policies that make us safer, stronger, and more prosperous."

The signatory organizations include the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Association of American State Geologists, the American Geophysical Union, the American Geosciences Institute, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, the Geological Society of America, the National Ground Water Association, and the Soil Science Society of America.



Learn more about this document at: <https://www.americangeosciences.org/policy/2017-transition>.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE IRA ROLLOVER LEGISLATION: YOU CAN GIVE FAR MORE WITH LESS

There is good news for donors in their 70s — a recent law makes it possible to give individual retirement account (IRA) assets to charity, free from federal tax, annually. Prior to 2006, all lifetime distributions from IRAs were taxed — even those given to charity. As such, you can give far more with less! This may be an attractive giving option for you if you are:

- » Over 70½ and now receiving minimum IRA distributions — but do not need the extra income.
- » Interested in making a significant lifetime gift to impact your community.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 permitted individuals to roll over up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to a qualifying charity without being taxed. On December 18, 2015, Congress passed

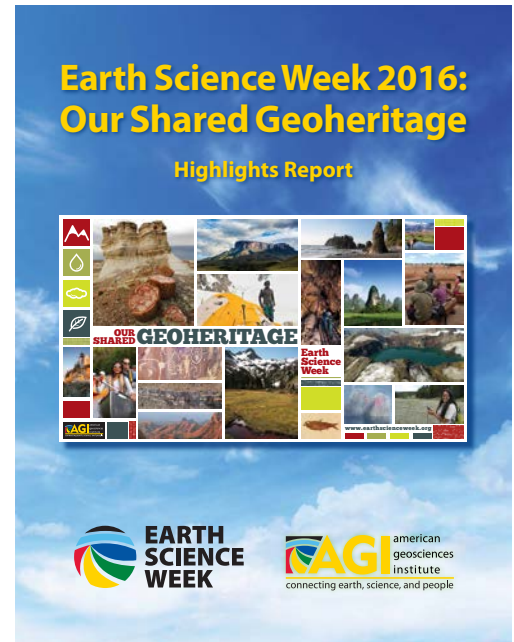
the PATH Act, making permanent this unique charitable giving opportunity. Single and married individuals 70½ and older are eligible to give in this way from their individual retirement accounts. Using IRA assets to make a gift during your lifetime, as opposed to giving via bequest in your will, enables you to experience the joy of making a major gift.

Example: Mr. Smith, age 75, has accumulated approximately \$2,000,000 in his IRA accounts. He has other sources of wealth and has plans to leave a sizable estate to his heirs and charity. Under this law, Mr. Smith can create a fund at the community foundation to address the causes he cares about most by transferring IRA funds tax free. Mr. Smith can transfer up to \$100,000 per year. In addition, if Mr. Smith is married, his wife can also make similar gifts from her IRA accounts, impacting the community in ways personal, unique and enduring.

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Learn more about this unique program in
"Earth Science Week 2016 Highlights"

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/highlights>



BE PART OF AGI'S FUTURE — SUPPORT THE GEOSCIENCES THROUGH PLANNED GIVING!

Your planned gift can support the vital work of AGI while helping you achieve your personal, financial and estate planning goals. Your planned gift — of any size — will help ensure AGI's ability to continue its work in supporting the geosciences. You can choose from many planned giving options on the AGIF website: www.agifoundation.org/planned-giving.

ABOUT THE AGI FOUNDATION

MISSION

**Established in 1984, the
AGI Foundation...**

Supports educational, scientific and charitable activities that benefit the geoscience community, member societies and associates of the American Geosciences Institute, the public at large and assists the Institute in seeking funding support for specific programs and endowments and in developing partnerships with corporations, private foundations and other funding organizations.

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