



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Cordilleran Section

PLATES

Newsletter of The Cordilleran Section

The Geological Society of America

No. 9, January 2009

**Join Us in Kelowna, British Columbia, for the 105th
Cordilleran Section Meeting, May 7-9, 2009 !!**

Abstracts Due February 3, 2009!

Don't Forget Your Passports!

Meeting Website: www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/09mtg/index.htm

- 1) **Abstract Submissions:** <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009CD/index.epl>
- 2) **Five Exciting Field Trips!** See meeting website
- 3) **Three Short Courses:** See meeting website – Ground Penetrating Radar; Helping K-12 Teachers Explore GSA Geoscience Resources; Effective Geoscience Education Using Innovative Models in Google Earth
- 4) **Lodging:** See meeting website for hotels, but best bargain is staying in the UBC dorms for \$50!
- 5) **Students:**
 - a) Awards for best oral and best poster presentations (undergrad and graduate): \$1200 in prizes
 - b) Travel Grants to the meeting (up to \$15,000 is reserved for these); register at <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/09mtg/students.htm> ; applications due April 6, 2009
 - c) Grants for Field Trips: Grants that pay up to 50% of a field trip are available (\$3000 in the pot); register <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/09mtg/students.htm>
 - d) Roy Shlemon Mentor in Applied Geosciences Lunch on Thursday – free
 - e) John Mann Mentor in Applied Geohydrology Lunch on Friday – free
 - f) Drinking Age in British Columbia is 19

- 6) **Events:** Wednesday is the Icebreaker; Friday night is a social night; there is a big weekend festival in Kelowna that weekend called “Life and Arts Weekend”
 - 7) **Co-Chairs:** Rob Young Robert.Young@ubc.ca, 1-250-807-9523; and Craig Nichol Craig.Nichol@ubc.ca – Both at the University of British Columbia, Kelowna
 - 8) **Registration:** <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/09mtg/registration.htm> (early registration deadline is April 6, 2009)
 - 9) **Theme Sessions:**
 - a) Paleozoic Paleogeography of Cordilleran Terranes
 - b) Mid- and High-Latitude Quaternary Paleolimnological Research in Western North America
 - c) Assessing and Developing the Water Resources of Inter Basin Valleys
 - d) Subglacial Environments and Landforms
 - e) Extensional Tectonics in the Cordillera
 - f) Recent Developments in Paleontology
 - g) Terroir, Wine and Geology
 - h) Geoscience Framework for Metallogeny in the Southern Cordillera
 - i) Pulling Apart the Cordilleran Orogen: Tectonic and Magmatic Processes Revealed with Extensional Terranes
 - j) Rivers, Humans and Fish: River Morphology and Ecohydraulics
-

Report on the 104th Meeting in Las Vegas, March 19-21, 2008 – With the Rocky Mountain Section

We had a super meeting on the University of Nevada at Las Vegas campus. We combined with the Rocky Mountain Section, but the majority of the participants were from our section. Rod Metcalf did a great job as our chair! He organized 35 sessions with 417 papers, and there were 700 participants! There were many successful field trips!

Many, many thanks to Rod and his committee for a job well done!

We gave out two student awards for posters at the meeting to our section (two were also given to the Rocky Mountain Section students). The winners were:

Undergraduate Poster Award: *Steven Giovannoni* and Laura Rademacher: University of the Pacific, “Impact of landuse on water quality in the Lower Calaveras River Watershed”

Graduate Poster Award: *Heather Green Lackey*, John Caskey, Elmira Wan, David Wahl, Andrei Sarna-Wocicki, San Francisco State University, “New insights on the pluvial history of Lake Manly and tectonic development of Southern Death Valley recorded in Pliocene-to-Recent Lacustrine Stratigraphy”

Officers of the Section:

- 1) **Chair:** Andrew Meigs, Oregon State University, meigsa@geo.oregonstate.edu
 - 2) **Vice-Chair:** Karen Grove, San Francisco State University, kgrove@sfsu.edu
 - 3) **Secretary/Treasurer:** Joan Fryxell, California State University, San Bernardino; jfryxell@csusb.edu
 - 4) **Past Chair:** Scott Burns, Portland State University, burnss@pdx.edu
-

2010 Cordilleran Meeting: Anaheim, California

We are excited about our next meeting, which will be hosted by California State University at Fullerton. Phil Armstrong is the chair of the meeting. There will be a call for field trips and theme sessions on the Cordilleran Section website soon!

2009 GSA Annual Meeting is in our section area: Portland Oregon (October 18-21, 2009).

For details, see <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/>

News from the Cordilleran Board:

- 1) **Who are We?** The Cordilleran Section of GSA is the oldest of all of the regional sections, and our meeting this year will be our 105th! We comprise the western states of the United States, western provinces and territories of Canada, and the western states and federal district of Mexico (see Chairs Message). We have over 5,200 members.
- 2) **Elections for New Officers:** We are looking for nominations for vice-chair and for secretary-treasurer. Nominations from the membership are welcomed. Send nominations right away to Karen Grove, Chair of the Nominations Committee, at kgrove@sfsu.edu. Elections will be held at our annual meeting in Kelowna in May.
- 3) **Bylaws Changes:** This past year we voted on some changes to the Bylaws. First, there were changes in the language describing our states and provinces, including the states in western Mexico. Second, others from other sections can now join the Cordilleran Section. Thirdly, we changed our fiscal year to match that of GSA – starting on July 1, not January 1. You can read the Cordilleran Section bylaws at <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/index.htm>.

- 4) **Treasury:** We have had surpluses at many of our last meetings, and we are doing well financially. We have decided to spend some of that money on more student support.
 - 5) **Judges for Student Awards for Kelowna Meeting:** We are looking for volunteers to help judge the talks and posters. If you are interested, please contact Rob Young, chair of the meeting Robert.Young@ubc.ca.
 - 6) **Concern:** Students are not using up the funds each year for field trip support. Money is being left on the table. Advisors – get your students to apply!
 - 7) **Check out our Website:** www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/
-

State of the Cordilleran Section: Message from the Chair

Greetings from Corvallis, where it is a cool, clear winter's day. I am in the second half of my one-year term as Chair of the Cordilleran Section and am writing the first 'Message from the Chair' in some time. Our past Chair, the irrepressible Scott Burns of Portland State University, has graciously taken on the CPR of the Newsletter. The challenge for Scott and me has been to produce the thing in time to promote the 2009 Cordilleran Section Meeting in Kelowna, British Columbia. Thanks to Scott, we'll get it done at the wire!

I was happy to discover, when I ascended to the Chairship, and pleased to report that the Section is very healthy. We are the oldest and the largest section (5200+ members), have a healthy endowment in the GSA Foundation, and host the largest meetings (the combined Rocky Mountain/Cordilleran 2008 meeting in Las Vegas had more than 700 attendees). One of the hallmarks of our Section is the endowment, and we are using it to promote student involvement in Section meetings. The Section generously supports travel and field trip fees and you, as members, ought to encourage students to participate in our meeting and the associated field trips. I know I am!

Current officers, new officers

Your current officers for the Section are me, Andrew Meigs of Oregon State University (Chair), Karen Grove of San Francisco State University (Vice Chair), Joan Fryxell of California State University, San Bernardino (Secretary-Treasurer), and Scott Burns (Past Chair). Joan is stepping down as of this year's meeting in Kelowna and will be replaced whoever we elect to succeed her. We are actively soliciting names for the next Secretary/Treasurer (a 4-year term) and the next Vice-Chair (a 1-year term). Nominations can be forwarded to Karen Grove right away at kgrove@sfsu.edu, Chair of the nominating committee. In May, Karen will move to the Chair position for a 1-year term.

After working not so quietly behind the scenes for the past 8 years, Joan Fryxell is termed out from the Secretary-Treasurer position. Joan works tirelessly for the Section and has championed our section with GSA on a number of issues. Of the many contributions that Joan has made during her 2 terms, she spearheaded the revision of the section's Bylaws, watched our budget day and night, administered the student travel, meeting, and field trip awards, and attended countless meetings at GSA HQ on our behalf. The next time you see Joan wandering around a poster session, please give her a hearty handshake and thanks for her selfless volunteerism on behalf of the Cordilleran Section.

Meeting

Section meetings continue to be the life-blood of the Section. I attended the Las Vegas meeting last spring, for the first time in a number of years. What I saw was a vibrant scientific meeting! The presentations and sessions I attended were excellent. One of the most striking things about the Section meeting was the size. There weren't so many sessions that I spent all my time scurrying around trying to make it from one room to the next and the session format in many cases departed from the standard 15-minute presentation. I found the interactions with speakers to be more meaningful and the discussions to be more inclusive because of the size of the meeting. It was a refreshing change from the mega-meetings of the various societies to which I belong. I was reminded that the section meetings are a particularly good place for students to make presentations and to interact with professionals and other students. On the down side, I lost ten bucks to a slot machine.

The newly established branch campus of the University of British Columbia in Kelowna is hosting the 2009 meeting from May 7 to 9. Rob Young is the General Chair of the meeting and has worked hard to develop a rich program of Technical sessions and field trips. The Okanagan Valley is a lovely place to visit in the spring and has something for everybody in Earth Sciences.

Changes in the Section

A number of changes have occurred in the Section over the past couple of years. Mexico has been formally incorporated into the Geological Society of America. The Cordilleran Section led the way in part by enlarging the geographic regions included in the section to including the Distrito Federal and the states of Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chiapas, Colima, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico State, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tlaxcala, and Zacatecas. The work to expand our section is the template by which other sections are now expanding to include our Mexican colleagues. Our bylaws now formally recognize those states. In honor of our new colleagues, we are actively seeking nominations for the Vice-Chair position to be filled at the Spring meeting. Please forward your suggestions to Karen Grove kgrove@sfsu.edu, the current Vice-Chair and head of the nominations committee.

Future meetings

Looking to the future, our section meeting in 2010 will be hosted by California State University – Fullerton (Phil Armstrong is the General Chair), and the location of the 2011 meeting has yet

to be determined. If you are interested in hosting the meeting or have a recommendation of a location, please send your ideas to me at meigsa@geo.oregonstate.edu.

I look forward to seeing you at the section meeting this spring. GSA is undergoing a lot of change and introspection these days, and they are relying on the sections, as well as the divisions and membership at large, to help steer their course for the next 10 years. Volunteerism makes the sections and divisions work, and I encourage you to rededicate yourself to the section by participation in our meeting and in our governance.

I hope that 2009 is a prosperous and productive year for you.

Andrew Meigs, Chair

Note from the Newsletter Editor

We have brought back the “Plates” Newsletter of our section! We have not had a section newsletter since the winter of 2001-2002, as Section information had shifted to an online presence. The board wanted to have better communication with the members and decided to do this again. Our hope is that it will come out twice a year to let you know what is happening in the section! We had a great meeting in Las Vegas and hope to have another wonderful one this year in Kelowna.

Scott Burns, Past Chair and Newsletter Editor