



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA

Cordilleran Section

PLATES 2010 (Issue no. 11): **Cordilleran Section Newsletter**

Thanks to members for their continued support of the Section, which continues to be the largest (by far), and to remain financially healthy. With a ~40% increase in membership, our income from member dues has increased from ~\$6,000 to >\$10,000. These funds help to support student travel to meetings and provide cash awards for student presentations. Please read on to find out what's happening in the Section!

Message from the Chair

It is a pleasure and an honor to be the first Mexican geologist to serve as Chair of the Cordilleran Section. Mexico, the United States, and Canada share the same plate and several geological provinces, and face similar resource and environmental issues. The Cordilleran Section can provide a vehicle for more active communication among geologists from the three countries. It is my goal to motivate Mexican geologists to be more involved in the GSA, and also to make the geoscience communities in the U.S. and Canadian more aware of advances in our understanding of Mexican geology and the opportunities for joint research. As part of this effort, the 2012 Section meeting will be held in the colonial city of Querétaro in central Mexico. We will have a booth with the leading Mexican geological journals at the next Annual Meeting in Denver. The Cordilleran Section is also seeking to collaborate more with other GSA sections. In a synergic effort with the Rocky Mountain section, our next meeting will be held jointly in Logan, Utah. Our current Vice-Chair is Calvin Barnes, a long-time active member of the Cordilleran Section who lives in the South-Central Section. Help us in joining the geology of North America. See you in Logan in May 2011 and in Mexico in 2012!

Section Officers and Nominations

We are soliciting names for the next Vice-Chair (a 1-year term, followed by 1-year Chair and Past-Chair terms). Nominations can be sent to Nominating Committee Chair Calvin Barnes by email (cal.barnes@ttu.edu).

Current Management Board members:

Chair: Luca Ferrari (luca@geociencias.unam.mx)

Vice-Chair: Calvin Barnes (cal.barnes@ttu.edu)

Secretary-Treasurer: Rod Metcalf
(rod.metcalf@unlv.edu)

Past-Chair: Karen Grove (kgrove@sfsu.edu)

Paleontological Society Representative:

Stephen Schellenberg (schellenberg@geology.sdsu.edu)

Karen Grove compiled this newsletter.

2010 Section Meeting Report (106th) **Anaheim, California, 27–29 May 2010**

“From Mountains to Main Street”—the Cordilleran Section meeting in Anaheim this past spring—was a roaring success. Hosted by the Department of Geological Sciences at the California State University, Fullerton, and held at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, the meeting provided 1013 registrants with exposure to exciting new research (423 presentations in 59 sessions), hands-on field trips (7), and several workshops. The meeting was joint with Pacific Section AAPG, who were largely responsible for attracting a large number of exhibitors (34), and who added diversity to the technical program.

On behalf of the Section, the Management Board sends a huge THANK YOU to Phil Armstrong (Meeting Chair) and his colleagues (Jeff Knott—Technical Program Chair; Brady Rhodes—Field Trip Chair; Diane Clemons-Knott and Galen Carlson—Short Course/Workshop Co-chairs) for their fabulous job organizing the meeting! Not only was there excellent science, but the meeting also brought ~\$42k into the section's coffers.

Because of the section's financial health, we were able to support a large number of students who attended the meeting. Students who are Section members, first authors, and presenters

can apply for travel grants to help defray incurred costs of attending the meeting. In Spring 2010, 23 students were awarded a total of \$14,030; awards averaged ~\$600/student. The section also funded field trip fees for 17 student participants for a total of \$3,575 (~\$220/student). Nearly a third of the meeting participants were students, and many of them presented results of their research. Management Board members organized judging of student talks and posters; we were extremely impressed by their quality and found it difficult to choose the “best” ones. Many students were worthy, but judges selected the following award winners, who won cash prizes (\$2,200 in total awards). The Outstanding Poster (graduate and undergraduate) will receive free registration from GSA to attend the Annual Meeting and hang their posters. Look for them in Denver in a few weeks!

Grad Oral

Jeanette Arkle, California State University, Fullerton, Outstanding Graduate Oral Presentation—*Focused exhumation in the Southern Alaska Syntaxis*

Sarah Nagorsen, Central Washington University, Honorable Mention, Graduate Oral Presentation—*Fault kinematics in the Western Mina Deflection: field studies in the Adobe Hills, California*

Grad Poster

Pamela Clay, San Jose State University, Outstanding Graduate Poster Presentation—*Tectonic implications of ductile shear zones in the Jurassic Keiths Dome Pluton, Northern Sierra Nevada Batholith, California*

Chris Kohel, San Diego State University, Honorable Mention, Graduate Poster Presentation—*Forearc basin evolution of the Late Jurassic–Early Cretaceous Eugenia Formation: new mapping in the Vizcaino Peninsula, Baja California*

Undergrad Oral

Nathan Evenson, Carleton College, Outstanding Undergraduate Oral Presentation—*U-Pb zircon geochronology and provenance of the Paleogene–Neogene Kootznahoo Formation, southeast Alaska*

Undergrad Poster

Tyanna Schlom, California State University, Fullerton, Outstanding Undergraduate Poster Presentation—*Earthquake magnitude and recurrence from scarp morphology, Eureka Valley Fault Zone, Eastern California*

Michael Prior, California State University, Fullerton, Honorable Mention, Undergraduate Poster Presentation—*Constraining the exhumation history along inferred faults in the Western Chugach Mountains, Alaska*

2011 Section Meeting 18–20 May, Logan, Utah

Please mark your calendar for the 2011 meeting, which will be joint with the Rocky Mountain Section and hosted by Utah State University. An exciting lineup of theme sessions and field trips has already been organized. For more information, stop by Central Washington’s booth in the exhibit area at the Annual Meeting in Denver and look for the first announcement in the November issue of GSA Today. Abstract deadline is 15 Feb. 2011. Thanks to Central Washington University’s Department of Geological Sciences for organizing the Cordilleran part of the program:

Meeting Co-Chair: Wendy Bohrsen
(bohrson@geology.cwu.edu)

Technical Program Chair: Lisa Ely (ely@cwu.edu)

Field Trip Chair: Jeff Lee (jeff@geology.cwu.edu)

Meeting Co-Chair (Rocky Mountain Section):
John Shervais (john.shervais@usu.edu)

2012 Section Meeting Querétero, Mexico

Luca Ferrari (current Section Chair) will be Meeting Chair in 2012, which will be hosted by the Centro de Geociencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Campus Juriquilla, and held at the beautiful Hotel Misión Juriquilla. Contact Luca for more information.

If you are interested in hosting a future meeting, contact one of the Management Board members!