

January 2013 Newsletter of the AGU Near-Surface Focus Group

1. Message from George Tsoflias, incoming NSFG President
2. New Newsletter Editor: Stephen Moysey
3. AGU membership renewal and contributions to NS
4. Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines
 - 4.1 AGU Meeting of the Americas: Abstracts Due Feb.6
 - 4.2 EGU General Assembly: Abstracts Due Jan.9
 - 4.3 SAGEEP: Student Travel Scholarships Deadline Feb.1
 - 4.4 Cutting Edge Workshops (Students & Early Career): Application Deadline March 8
5. EEGS Update
6. Article: Engage with EarthCube

Recent announcements of interest to the NS community (conferences, academic positions, graduate student opportunities etc.) can be found at the AGU NS-Focus Group Web Page: <http://sites.agu.org/nsg/>

=====

1. Near Surface Geophysics Focus Group 2013-2014 (from George Tsoflias, incoming President)

As a new term begins for NSFG, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the many NS members that have dedicated time and effort to support Near Surface Geophysics at AGU (OPSA judges, conference session organizers, committee members, donors, ...).

Under the leadership of Louise Pellerin (past Chair) the Focus Group actively engaged in the new governance of AGU and held its first elections. NS continued to engage its student members, formed a new committee for early career members, lead collaborations with the SEG and the EEGS including joint conference sessions and workshops, and expanded fundraising efforts for the benefit of student members, just to list a few of Lu's many contributions to NSFG.

A special acknowledgement and thanks goes to two outgoing committee members that have supported critical functions of the focus group:

Chet Weiss has served as the NSFG Fall Meeting Program Representative since 2007! Chet has done an outstanding job of handling numerous session proposals and abstract submissions every year, managing scheduling conflicts and negotiating the best possible times for our sessions and presentations. Hundreds of Fall AGU presenters and thousands of attendees have benefited by Chet's work over the last six meetings.

Xavier Comas has been responsible for getting the newsletter out to NSFG members (about 3,500 primary and secondary) since January of 2010. As the NS Letter editor he produced 36 monthly newsletters keeping us up to date with upcoming events, conferences, sessions and other critical communication to the community. Xavier did exceptional work making sure the newsletter was ready to go by the first of each month, regardless of holiday or travel, or even the addition of a new family member!

Last but not least, a special thanks goes to Lee Slater (outgoing past Chair) and Rhett Herman (outgoing secretary) for years of support to NSFG.

I look forward to serving the NSFG community for the next couple of years and working with continuing and new NSFG Officers and many of our members. In the upcoming months we will be looking for volunteers to join us in the various functions of the focus group. If you are interested in participating

please contact me or any of the executive committee members, or look for calls for volunteers in the newsletter.

2013-14 NSFG Continuing and New Executive Committee members

-
- George Tsoflias, The University of Kansas – President
 - Fred Day-Lewis, USGS – President Elect
 - Stephen Moysey, Clemson University – Secretary & Newsletter Editor
 - Louise Pellerin, Green Engineering – Past Chair
 - Xavier Comas, Florida Atlantic University – Fall Meeting Program representative
 - Juan Lorenzo, Louisiana State University – Webmaster & South American representative
 - Seth Hanes, USGS – EoS Representative
 - Nedra Bonal, Sandia National Laboratories – Early Career Scientist Subcommittee Chair
 - Seth Campbell, University of Maine – Student Representative

2013-14 NSFG Liaisons

-
- Kamini Singha, Colorado School of Mines - AGU Hydrogeophysics Technical Committee representative
 - Bruce Smith, USGS – Environmental & Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS) representative
 - John Bradford, Boise State University – Near Surface Geophysics Section of SEG President
 - European Liaison EAGE, EGU – Vacant (volunteering opportunity)
 - Asian Liaison – Vacant (volunteering opportunity)

=====

2. New Newsletter Editor, Stephen Moysey

The incoming NSFG secretary Stephen Moysey will also serve as the NS Letter Editor for the 2013-14 term. Please send content for the newsletter to Stephen (smoysey@clemson.edu) at least two business days prior to the first of each month.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS: All members are welcome to submit content of interest to the NS community. Please keep messages brief and provide contact information and (if available) a web address for additional information. AGU requests formatting of e-mail messages to be as simple as possible (no bold characters - use ALL CAPS instead, no color font, or other special formatting of text or paragraphs). E-mail attachments cannot be distributed.

=====

3. AGU membership renewal and contributions to NS (from George Tsoflias)

Dear NSFG members:

If you have not renewed your AGU membership yet, this is the time to do it. Please make sure that Near Surface remains as one of your AGU affiliations (either primary or secondary) in order to continue receiving the newsletter.

Also, this year consider making a donation to NSFG, any amount is appreciated. NS funds have been used to support student activities (subsidize the luncheon cost at the annual meeting; give monetary awards to Outstanding Student Presenters OSPA). We would like to expand benefits to students, such as travel grants to attend the fall meeting and small student research grants. Our focus has been on supporting students and we envision that remaining a priority, however other activities could also be supported. Your suggestions are always welcome.

=====

4. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

4.1 AGU MEETING OF THE AMERICAS (Cancun, Mexico)

Abstract Deadline: Feb.6
Meeting Date: May 14-17, 2013
Meeting Website: <http://moa.agu.org/2013/>

NSFG Sponsored Sessions:

NS01: Near Surface Geophysics General Contributions
Convener: Rolan Martin (CNRS)

NS02: Mining Geophysics in the Americas – New Developments and Perspectives
Conveners: Jaime Fucugauchi (UNAM) and Israel Hernandez-Perez (Servicio Geologico Mexicano)

NS03: Geophysical Imaging of Increasingly Complex Geologic Media – Recent Advances
Conveners: Roland Martin (CNRS) and Jose Carlos Ortiz Aleman (Instituto Mexicano del Petroleo)

4.2 EGU GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Vienna, Austria)

Abstract Deadline: Jan. 9
Meeting Date: April 7-12, 2013
Meeting Website: <http://www.egu2013.eu/>

Sessions that might be of interest to NSFG members include:

GI3.1 Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar

GI3.4 From Artifact to Historical Site: Geoscience and Non-Invasive Methods for the Study and Conservation of Cultural Heritage

GI3.5 Electromagnetic Sensing Techniques and Geophysical Methods for Critical and Transport Infrastructures Monitoring and Diagnostics

GI3.7 Integrated Geophysical Examination of Karst Phenomenon in Complex Environments

4.3 SAGEEP 2013 (Denver, USA)

Abstract Deadline: Abstract Submissions Closed

Meeting Date: March 17-21, 2013
Meeting Website: <http://www.eegs.org/AnnualMeetingSAGEEP/SAGEEP2013.aspx>

Meeting registration to open in January.

Student Travel Scholarships:
APPLICATION DEADLINE FEB. 1, 2013

Geometrics has announced a limited number of \$500 student scholarships to offset the cost of attending SAGEEP 2013. As SAGEEP provides an ideal opportunity to listen to current research, applications and to meet people doing engineering geophysics, students who qualify are encouraged to apply by the deadline: February 1, 2013. Students must be in good standing at an educational institution and provide an application letter signed by a faculty member. Application letters are due by Feb. 1, 2013 and should include: areas of interest in geophysics; graduation date; dissertation/thesis/senior project topic; thoughts on employment after graduation. If you are an interested student, please send your letter (email only please) to linda@geometrics.com.

4.4 CUTTING EDGE WORKSHOPS (APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 8)

The workshops below are an excellent opportunity for students interested in academia and early career faculty to get a quick start in their careers. These workshops are highly recommended!

Preparing for an Academic Career in the Geosciences (Grad Students and Post-docs)
July 7-10, 2013 - University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
Conveners: Heather Macdonald, David Budd, and Rachel O'Brien
Application deadline: March 8, 2013
Website: <http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/careerprep2013/index.html>

Early Career Geoscience Faculty: Teaching, Research, and Managing Your Career (Pre-tenure Faculty)
July 28-August 1, 2013, with an optional visit to NSF August 2 – AGU Headquarters, Washington DC
Conveners: Rachel Beane, Michael Wyession, and Richard Yuretich
Application deadline: March 8, 2013
Website: <http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/earlycareer2013/index.html>

=====

5. EEGS Update (from Bruce Smith)

The joint session on Airborne geophysics at AGU was a great success with a full oral and poster session. The oral session was selected to be the last of the AGU meeting on Friday. Submission of abstracts for SAGEEP has closed with over 260 submissions. The preliminary program and registration should open late in January. One new plenary session features speakers from past early Career Awards: Kamini Singha , Adam Pidlisecky , Niklas Linde, James Irving, and Greg Baker. Check the SAGEEP web site (eegs.org) for more information on workshops and sessions. The EEGS and SEG web sites also has information on frequently asked questions concerning the EEGS – SEG discussions on formation of a new near surface geophysical society.

=====

6. Article: EARTHCUBE (from Roelof Versteeg)

Engage with EarthCube: A call to arms to develop cyberinfrastructure for the near surface geophysics community

Effective data management and overall cyberinfrastructure have traditionally been low on the priority list for the near surface geophysics community. Where other communities (e.g. hydrologists (CUAHSI) and seismologists (IRIS)) have community supported approaches in place and underway, the near surface geophysics community relies on local, ad hoc solutions (i.e. keep all the data in one folder and give the datasets descriptive names and use excel for data management and processing).

With increases in data volumes and increasing complexity of data analysis such solutions are becoming limiting (and recognized) factors on research and education (see e.g. different sessions at the 2012 Fall AGU meeting). However, implementing and maintaining a well-designed solution which takes advantage of advances in cyberinfrastructure developments is a substantial effort (especially for a community with many different types of data and associated instruments).

One opportunity to develop such a solution is through EarthCube (<http://earthcube.ning.com/>), a NSF funded initiative which has as objective to transform geosciences research for the 21st century. EarthCube is a collaboration between the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and geo, atmosphere, ocean, computer, information, and social scientists. EarthCube aims to transform the conduct of research through the development of community-guided cyberinfrastructure to integrate information and data across the geosciences. This will be done (among others) through NSF grants .

The target group of EarthCube is all of geosciences, and many of the software components which will be developed will benefit the broad geoscience community. However, those communities which get actively engaged will benefit most, and efforts which have broad community support seem to be the most likely to get funded. The objective of this newsletter item is to encourage the NS community to become aware of and get engaged in EarthCube. The form of such engagement is open: we can create a NS interest group within EarthCube, or join with other groups, but the important thing is to be aware and engaged with this opportunity. - if only so that in a few years from now there will not be yet another dvd with data dumped on your desk when the next generation of PhD students leaves.

People who are interested in getting engaged with EarthCube can contact Roelof Versteeg (roelof.versteeg@subsurfaceinsights.com) for more information.

=====

To contribute material to the NS-letter send an e-mail to:

Stephen Moysey (smoysey@clemsun.edu)

DEADLINE: Material must be received 2 full business days prior to the first of each month.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS: All members are welcome to submit content of interest to the NS community. Please keep messages brief and provide contact information and (if available) a web address for additional information. AGU requests formatting of e-mail messages to be as simple as possible (no

bold characters - use ALL CAPS instead, no color font, or other special formatting of text or paragraphs).
E-mail attachments cannot be distributed.