



## OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 14, 2014

Dear international and internationally-oriented colleagues:

This year, the GSA International Section (IS) is undergoing a major change. Those of you travelling to the 2014 Annual Meeting in Vancouver next week will find out more about it at the *GSA International Section Reception and Awards ceremony*, and while visiting our new *International booth in the Exhibit Hall (booth #1221)*. Updates will also appear on the GSA International website. With the help of GSA leadership, the International Section management board members reshaped the International Section into “**GSA International**” to better serve our society’s strategic goals, and to better serve the needs of all its international members. We hope that you will continue to contribute to, and benefit from, GSA’s International activities by joining the proposed *International Interdisciplinary Interest Group* once it will have been launched. When the *GSA International Committee* will have been formed on a more formal level, you will hear more about the new structure and the opportunities to get involved. Stay tuned, updates will be posted on the GSA International website.

Aside from restructuring tasks, GSA IS hosted several key events including the welcoming of overseas participants in a jam-packed ceremony at the GSA’s 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting held in Denver (October 28, 2013). Nazrul Khandaker published a blog titled “*A Memorable Gathering of Geoscientists hosted by the GSA International Section*” archived some of the high-profile lectures, presentations, and feedback provided by the participants attending the reception. The reception truly reflected [Dr. Burchfiel’s](#) long-standing collaboration with overseas geoscientists and was honored by the presence of many highly-acclaimed and well-established geologists including [Dr. A. M. Celal ŞENGÖR](#), [Dr. Roland Oberhänsli](#), President, International Union of Geological Sciences, and [Dr. Shuwen Dong](#), Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences. All of them brought prestige to this reception and greatly appreciated GSA International Section’s efforts to cement the professional relationships among the attending participants. [Dr. Marjorie Chan](#) from the University of Utah, the 2014 GSA Distinguished Lecturer, carried out a very successful tour covering a wide geographic region from Korea to India to New Zealand to China. Margie’s up-to-the minute blog postings on [the GSA International Section’s](#) webpage are really colorful, full of warmth, rich in cultural details, and certainly consolidating GSA’s globalization theme and bringing geoscience

and society together. With the participation of [Dr. Victor Baker](#) (inaugural lecturer touring Europe) and [Dr. Marjorie Chan](#), the tour already has become a strong and viable instrument to promote GSA's science on a global scale. We wish to thank the initial donor of this Lecture Tour, [Robbie Gries](#).

With the upcoming launching of *GSA International* as a new and effective platform for international excellence, exchange, and collaboration, we may look forward to an increasingly diverse participation of more and more individuals to not only lead various committees, but foremost, to be directly involved in shaping and defining international geologic themes of global importance. On behalf of the GSA International Section's Management Board, I would therefore like to invite you to stop by at our new booth called **PANGAEA**, which will be located in the EXHIBIT area (booth #1221) in Vancouver to share your ideas and provide feedback on the restructuring of the GSA International Section and to foster the new global theme embodying GSA's strategic vision, mission, and future outlook.

Owing to the many events and strategic opportunities this year, we will append the complete annual report recently submitted to GSA Council. In this report, we provide a more detailed overview over the International Section's various activities. Foremost, we would like to congratulate the 2014 award winners, Professor Shige Maruyama of Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan (GSA International Honorary Fellow) and Professor Farouk El-Baz (2014 International Section Career Award), as well as the recipients of the international travel grants.

This newsletter will be the last one to be sent out by the GSA International Section. The last business meeting of the IS will be conducted during this GSA annual meeting in Vancouver. From November onward, the GSA International Committee will continue and expand the work of the International Section through the means of the International Interdisciplinary Interest group. I would hereby like to thank all of the International Section management board members who have done all of the work needed to reshape GSA's International face.

We wish you a successful annual meeting in Vancouver, and a scientifically productive year.

Respectfully Yours,

**Nazrul I. Khandaker**  
(GSA International Section Secretary)

October 14, 2014

## Appendix

### GSA International Section 2014 Annual Report

IS management board met several times this year via emails and teleconference and had a very productive year. In addition to the regular annual business activities, this past year was dominated by the need to restructure the Section into a more effectively functioning unit. Therefore, we divide this report in three parts. In the first part (A), we summarize the restructuring activities and include the most important documents produced as a result. In the second part (B), we list, mostly in, chronological order our usual annual business, and in the third part (C), we summarize our upcoming activities at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

#### **A International Strategic Activities**

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[GSA International Section](#)'s activities during the 2013-2014 were strategic and transformative in helping the society to promote its globalization theme. Upon recommendation provided by Council and Executive Committee (Excom) at GSA's leadership retreat last September in Boulder, the International Section management board members, and several Executive Committee (Excom) representatives, met at a strategic retreat in New York City in January 2014, to propose the new structural design of the GSA's International Section (GSA IS), combining the previously successful elements of both Division and Section character; The retreat participants proposed to establish a new structure, called GSA International with a committee to carry on the new tasks in a more effective way. Council approved the proposal in April. In a next step, the rules and guidelines for the new structure were formulated and in turn presented to Excom. In its modified version, Council approved the document on September 4th. In a last step, as recommended by Council, the GSA IS board members proposed the establishment of an International Interdisciplinary Interest group. It appears that the *GSA International* Committee may assemble for the first time later this year.

##### **1. GSA Executive Committee Meeting in Boulder (September 13-15, 2013).**

Anke Friedrich (IS Chair) and Nazrul Khandaker (Secretary) attended GSA leadership retreat in Boulder (September 13-15, 2013) to help initiate change in the structure of its International Section to better serve current and future needs of the society. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, a lengthy discussion focused on whether the International Section could be strengthened internally, or whether a new structure would be more appropriate. The following recommendations were made by the participants of the GSA leadership retreat:

- To report on recommendations for proceeding with GSA global affairs;
- To create a separate international program at Division and Section level: the proposed new name: *GSA International*
- To move the International Honorary Fellow Award back to society level with the previous criteria to emphasize the importance of this award.

## **2. Business Meeting of the GSA International Section (Denver, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013).**

During our business meeting, several key issues were discussed and voted on, including approval of the new name for the Section as “GSA International”. Among the attendees were Anke Friedrich, Farouk El-Baz, Nazrul Khandaker, An Yin, Ric Terman, Wesley Hill, Gary Lewis, and one member-at-large from Belgium.

## **3. International Strategic Retreat (New York City, January 21-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014) and Proposal to establish GSA International Committee (by Section Chair Anke Friedrich, April 2014)**

The International Section Management Board was charged by GSA leadership to define GSA’s international goals in line with GSA’s Strategic Plan and to identify an internal structure that best helps to reach these goals. The new structure, called *GSA International*, could help more effectively by being a forum, platform or catalyser of particularly interesting, particularly international strategic research themes.

- There is a need for natural growth and evolution of the current structure to support GSA’s most important strategic goals.
- GSA International is to be shaped into a strong, modern, and actively operating unit that serves the needs of both the domestic and internationally-based GSA membership.
- The proposed name for the new structure is *GSA International*, combining the most useful elements of Divisions and Sections.
- GSA International is to provide a flexible and strategic tool accessible to the entire GSA membership.

To evaluate GSA’s international strategic tools, the International Section Management Board members organized a strategic retreat, which was held on 21/22 January 2014 in the rooms of the German University Alliance in New York City.

### **Retreat Participants:**

Jack Hess (GSA Executive Director), Suzanne M. Kay (GSA President), George Davis (GSA Past-President), Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary of the Geological Society of London), and the board members of the International Section, Anke Friedrich (Chair), I-Ming Chou (Second Vice Chair), Nazrul Khandaker (IS Secretary and Treasurer), Wesley Hill (GSA liaison). An Yin (Past Chair) participated via SKYPE call-in for part of the meeting. First Vice Chair Farouk El-Baz was in Saudi Arabia at the time attending to international matters.

### Strategic and conceptual recommendations

- *GSA International* should be outward facing, linking to and working collaboratively with others. At the same time, *GSA International* should act as a resource available to any member of the international geo-scientific community.
- We identified four strategic themes as particularly relevant for *the international community*. At the present time these are:
  - i. *global scientific understanding of large-scale geo-processes;*
  - ii. *international public policy stewardship of natural resources and climate change of the Earth, especially as related to societal sustainability and quality of life;*
  - iii. *mitigation of loss of life and property in relation to natural hazards;*
  - iv. *collaborative archiving of Earth's special geological field localities and geological history contained therein.*
- We recommend *GSA International* to promote these four strategic science themes by working with GSA's Divisions and Sections and other equal-minded organizations to increase visibility of GSA internationally and at Annual Meetings.
- We recommend the building of collaborative relationships with Associated Societies, individuals and other similarly minded international organizations. Meetings and scientific theme sessions should be developed jointly with other societies and organizations to address topical fundamental geoscience questions of global significance.
- We recommend there to be a balance between domestic and international activities.

## **4. GSA International Committee Rules and Guidelines (proposed by the Ad-hoc committee and approved by Council)<sup>1</sup>**

### Summary of Charge

Serve as GSA's coordination and communication resource seeking to promote, create, and enhance opportunities for international cooperation related to the scientific, educational, and outreach missions shared by GSA and like-minded professional societies, educational institutions, and government agencies. Build collaborative relationships with Divisions and Associated Societies in International issues and serve as channel for member generated proposals for international themes.

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been originally created by the Ad Hoc Committee to form the GSA International Committee on July 9<sup>th</sup>, but for simplicity we include only the final version, which has been slightly modified by GSA Excom. The current version has been approved by Council on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2014.

### Members and Terms

The Committee will consist of 12 voting members, each serving 4-year terms and will be chaired by an International Secretary responsible to Council. The Committee can have up to two non-voting headquarters members including a GSA staff liaison person and the Executive Director.

### Committee Members (appointed by Council through the Nominations committee)

1. International Secretary /Chair (at least a 4 year term)
2. Secretary (newsletter coordinator and other duties)
3. Chair of International Interdisciplinary Interest Group
4. Chair of Subcommittee for Proposals for International Meetings
5. Chair of International Awards Subcommittee
6. Chair of International Distinguished Lectureship Subcommittee (former lecturer or member-at-large)
7. Coordinator of International Travel Grants and Awards Program
8. International Technical Program Representative to serve on JTTC
9. Representative of an International Associated Society
10. Member-at-large (North American)
11. Member-at-large (outside North America)
12. GSA Council Liaison (sitting council member)
13. GSA Executive Director (non-voting)
14. GSA Staff Liaison (non-voting)

### Committee Governance

The Committee is chaired by an International Secretary, who is responsible to and appointed by GSA Council. The Chair recommends strategic and tactical opportunities to Council.

The Committee organizes activities by forming task-oriented teams, sub-committees and ad-hoc committees, the member of which may include individuals who are not members of the Committee. A Vice Chair can be selected by the Committee from amongst the voting members.

The Chair will submit a budget proposal to the GSA Executive Director and Executive Committee regarding strategic initiatives and activities that align with the GSA Strategic Plan. The annual work plan and Committee activities will be dependent upon the ability to secure support and funding from various sources.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

The Committee will meet in-person during the Annual Meeting and additional phone conference and email discussions relating to activities and work plan. The Chair may call for a face-to-face meeting in the spring if required to undertake Committee business. Most Committee business will be conducted through email correspondence and conference calls. No

specific travel support will be granted from Committee funds for the Committee meeting during the Annual Meeting.

### Report to Council

The Committee Chair and Secretary will jointly organize and prepare a report to GSA Council for the April/May Council meeting and for the Annual Meeting Council meeting.

### Current GSA Staff Liaison

Wesley Hill, GSA Sections, Divisions, Associated Societies, International Geological Society of America

## **B International Section-Sponsored Activities (2013-2014)**

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### **5. International Section Reception & Award Ceremony at GSA's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting**

GSA International Section Management members, including Dr. Anke Friedrich, Dr. An Yin, Dr. Ric Terman and Nazrul I. Khandaker coordinated this event with the help of Wesley Hill (GSA staff). The GSA International Section-hosted reception drew a large number of participants (100 plus) and provided a common ground where GSA's global mission was quite apparent and everyone seemed to enjoy, chat, and share experiences with each other over drinks and food. Society president Suzanne Kay honored the recipients of the Travel Grant Awards. An Yin presented the *Distinguished Career Award to Dr. Clark Burchfiel*. Thank you very much to Nazrul Khandaker and Wesley Hill for organizing this well-planned event.

Dr. Suzanne Kay (GSA President), Dr. Jack Hess (Executive Director, GSA), Dr. Victor Baker (GSA IS Inaugural Distinguished Lecturer), Dr. Greg Davis (USC), Dr. Ric Terman (GSA IS Treasurer and recipient of ISMB Distinguished Service Award), Dr. Juhn Liou (past GSA ISMB member and Chair of the Roof of the World meeting), Dr. Gerhard Wörner, and Dr. Paul Robinson (past GSA IS Chair) all attended this reception and mingled with the students awardees and encouraged them to get involved with collaborative research projects. Dr. Suzanne Kay informed the participants about the new initiatives and strategic plans the GSA is undertaking to make GSA International a highly visible entity within the GSA, thus allowing it to take additional responsibility and become quite prominent in the international geoscience arena.

### *Participant's feedback*

"It was an incredible experience to see so many geologists from all over the world (USA-Madagascar-China) coming to Denver to present their research and celebrate GSA's 125th anniversary. At this meeting was the first time I learned about the global role that the GSA is playing. I would especially like to thank the GSA International Section for offering me a travel



award for this meeting and allowing me to have my dream come true. I am going back to Madagascar with a rich scientific flavor of the meeting and surely I am going to spread the word around to my friends in geology about this society, which many of us are not fully aware of it. The International reception was very cordial and welcoming and gave me a chance to meet my fellow travel grant recipients and share information. I felt I was a part of the connected global community where political boundaries have no meaning and made me believe that geology is global.”

The remarks above from Ramihangihajason, Tolotra N (GSA International Section’s 2013 travel award recipient) were echoed by Dr. Burchfiel, the GSA International Section (IS) 2013 Distinguished Career Award recipient who spent well-over five decades overseas conducting research on the origin of mountain belts in relation to their structure and plate-tectonic configuration. Dr. Burchfiel emphasized the need for allowing American geologists to get involved with research investigations overseas and in unfamiliar territory, and to work in close conjunction with a local counterpart in order to achieve optimum results. Dr. Burchfiel felt very concerned about a recent drastic reduction in research allocations and limited U.S. collaboration or involvement with foreign nations. He reminded all of us about the U.S. role in reaching out to overseas geologists in greater numbers, and encouraged such collaboration as part of the GSA’s global mission. Finally his remark “Geology is global and one cannot be separated from the other” left many participants talking about the new frontiers of the geosciences and how we can proceed to create a new generation of geologists to meet the demands of the global society.

## **6. Dr. Ric Terman Received Distinguished Service Award from the GSA IS**

Praising Dr. Ric Terman’s outstanding contributions to the GSA International Section, Dr. An Yin made these appropriate remarks, “As someone who has worked in Asia in the past three decades, I greatly appreciate the central role Ric has played in our current understanding of Asian geology. Ric has been my hero, who was so far ahead of everyone in the West in the early days of exploring Asian geology. His insightful compilations of several influential regional geologic maps (most of them are out of prints!) were the only guides for westerners studying Asia geology until the very recent years.”

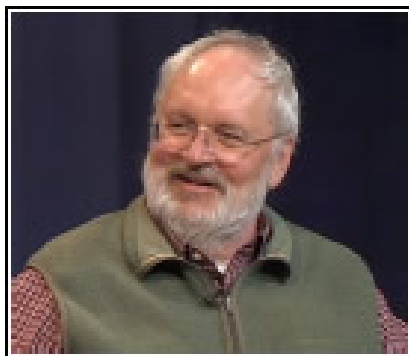
## **7. 2013 GSA IS Honorary Fellow award to Dr. Shuwen Dong**

The GSA International Section presented Honorary Fellow award to Dr. Shuwen Dong who played a key role hosting Roof of the World Meeting in Chengdu. Dr. Shuwen Dong in his speech spoke about SinoProbe and a plethora of geological opportunities emerging including deep seismic profiling of the lower crust and associated high pressure-temperature conditions and new research scope dealing with ultra-high pressure metamorphism along the lower crust-mantle transition. SinoProbe, a mega geotectonic project undertaken by the Chinese Government, already showing great potentials to understand Himalayan tectonics and evolution of the Tibetan Plateau. He also reiterated the need to engage geoscientists in order to understand globally complex geotectonic phenomena as they pertain to the Indo-China orogen. As part of the reciprocal arrangement, Chinese geologists will attend the 2015 Baltimore meeting and presently



details are being worked out between the Geological Society of China and GSA International Section.

### **8. GSA International Section's Distinguished Inaugural Lecturer: Dr. Vic Baker**



Dr. Victor Baker was recognized by the International Section for his superb role promoting GSA's mission and vision through his tour to many European countries where he presented his well-established research on Martian geomorphology. It was a successful tour, and Dr. Baker set the bar to a very high level. The GSA IS Distinguished Lecturer tour was made possible from a generous grant made by Robbie Gries. Details regarding the GSA IS Inaugural Lecture Tour can be found in October 2013 Newsletter.

GSA International Section already launched the *second Distinguished Lecture Tour* with Dr. Marjorie Chan (University of Utah) as the speaker. Dr. Marjorie Chan has outstanding record involving sedimentology and geomorphology of Martian debris. She visited China, Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand in 2014. Proposals were also suggested to bring an overseas lecturer to the United States and promote international collaboration as part of bilateral exchanges.

### **9. Student Travel Awards 2013**

Six out of the nine student travel grant awardees were present including Ramihangihajason, Tolotra N (Universite d'Antananarivo, Madagascar), Charlotte Brassey (University of Manchester, United Kingdom), Mohammed Hossain (Bangladesh, currently at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden), Meryem Elmoulat (Faculté des Sciences de Rabat, Morocco), Rocio Vargas (Universidad de Chile), and Michal Ben (Edmond Safra Campus, Jerusalem, Israel), and expressed great appreciation for the GSA International Section's support that enabled them to attend GSA's 125th Anniversary Meeting in Denver. Rocio (Chile) was extremely delighted to notice enthusiasm and professionalism among the attendees and promised to assist the GSA International Section in realizing its global role. Rocio Vargas is currently conducting her economic geology research on sulfide mineralization in the Chilean Andes and landed her support to promote international collaboration between the two societies.

### **10. Reciprocal Meeting in Baltimore 2015**

As part of the bilateral agreement between the GSA and the Geological Society of China (GSC), a reciprocal meeting will take place in 2015 prior to the GSA Annual Meeting and Chinese geologists will resume their US journey by attending a pre-meeting field trip starting from the western Cordillera and culminating on the east coast. Tentative trip leader for this conference will be Dr. An Yin (UCLA and GSA IS Past-Chair). Dr. Jingsui Yang (State Key Laboratory for

Continental Tectonics and Dynamics, Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (GSC). Dr. An Yin and Nazrul Khandaker (GSA International Section Secretary) will coordinate logistical matters connected with Baltimore 2015 meeting.

### **11. GSA International Honorary Fellow (2014): Professor Shige Maruyama of Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan**



According to citationist, Dr. Juhn Liou (past GSA ISMB member and Chair of the Roof of the World meeting), “Prof. Maruyama is a data generator, and a master interpreter of global geological processes, from minerals through mountain ranges to the origin of life and planet. He has received many honors in Japan including the Japan medal in 2002 and the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon from the Japanese Emperor in 2006. He has trained many graduate students and is well respected by international scientists.”

Dr. Juhn Liou also highlighted Professor Maruyama’s stalwart contributions concerning experimental petrology and listed the following salient points in his endorsement letter:

- Shige is simply the best Japanese Geologist as he is the only Earth Scientist in Japan who has received “Medal with Purple Ribbon” by the Japanese Emperor in 2006 and many other honors including the latest “Japan Geoscience Union Fellow” by the Japan Geoscience Union.
- His research accomplishment ranges from Experimental Petrology, Field-Structures through Plate Tectonics to Origin of Life and Planets and has been one of very few most productive scientists in the world evidenced from his long list of scientific publications.
- I have nominated him as GSA Honorary Fellow in 2007-8 with strong supporting letters from Gary Ernst, Akio Miyashiro, Doug Rumble, Ichiro Karato, David Yuan and Brian Windley; somehow, the GSA did not continue for such Honorary Fellowship that year. Shige would have gotten the honor even that time with his extraordinary accomplishment.
- I have been working with him since he was my post-doc and research associate in 1978-1984 including one-year Alan Cox visiting Professor at Stanford and have published more than 50 scientific papers and supervised more than 20 PhD students in Japan and at Stanford. He is the most dynamic and hard-working scientist that I have ever known.

The section’s Honorary Fellowship is presented to an international geoscientist who has distinguished him-or herself in geoscience investigations, promoting environmental awareness, linking science and society, providing notable service to implementing public policy in natural resource managements, or otherwise making outstanding contributions to science.

## 12. Distinguished Career Award (2014): Dr. Farouk El-Baz

The following press release was circulated:

(Boston) – The Geological Society of America (GSA) has announced the selection of Boston University Prof. Farouk El-Baz for its International Section’s 2014 “Distinguished Career Award.”



The prestigious award recognizes worldwide scientific standing and the promotion of international geologic cooperation and his selection to receive this award was no surprise to the geoscience communities considering Farouk’s several decade-long stalwart contribution to promote globalization and bring awareness in terms of natural resource management, particularly in conflict and war-stricken regions such as Darfur and other sub-Saharan countries. It will be presented during the GSA Annual Meeting to be held on 19-22 October 2014 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Currently, Farouk El-Baz is serving as a first vice chair of the GSA’s International Section. In 1986 Professor Farouk El-Baz established, and continues to direct, the Boston University Center for Remote Sensing (CRS). Under his leadership, the CRS was selected by NASA in 1997 as a “Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing.” Dr. El-Baz also serves as Research Professor in the Departments of Archaeology and Electrical and Computer Engineering of Boston University.

El-Baz is a veteran of NASA’s Apollo program of lunar exploration. He served as secretary of the Apollo lunar landing site selection committee as well as chairman of astronaut training in orbital observations and photography. He is a pioneer in applying space images to the study of the origin and evolution of desert landforms, and is particularly noted for research on the location of groundwater resources in arid lands.

He served as Science Advisor to the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and was elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. In 1999, the GSA established the “Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Studies” to reward excellence in the field. It was followed by the “Farouk El-Baz Student Award” to encourage students (one male and one female) to engage in the study of arid lands.

The *Distinguished Career Award* will be given to a geologist who has made numerous, distinguished, and significant contributions that have clearly advanced the international geological sciences through service and or scientific activities. The award will consist of a plaque inscribed with the name of the recipient, the name of the award, the name of the Section, and the emblem of The Geological Society of America.

### **13. GSA IS First Vice Chair Bringing His Earth Science and Remote Sensing Expertise to Egypt.**



By **Egypt Editor** 30/09/2014 08:28:00  
(autotranslated by google?):

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi met Boston University's professor for Remote Sensing and Egypt native Dr. Farouk El-Baz this morning at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis. They examined a number of proposals that contribute to the increase of food production and with the topography of Egypt whole and to maximize the benefit from them and that in the framework of the project corridor development.

The ambassador "Alaa Youssef," the spokesman for the Presidency of the Republic said that the meeting had also dealt with ways to post the Egyptian institutions and Arab and foreign countries in the implementation of development projects for the advancement of the Egyptian national economy.

Radar images can be very useful in detecting the soil quality, which helps to find the best places for agricultural development especially those in the West Nile region where future developments are most likely.

### **14. The 2014 GSA Distinguished International Lecturer: Marjorie A. Chan**

The Geological Society of America is proud to introduce the 2014 International Distinguished Lecture Tour, arranged under the auspices of the GSA International Section. GSA seeks to be a leader in promoting programs that actively involve the global community in geoscience activities, in fulfillment of our strategic goals. This tour is another step forward in communicating the importance and relevance of the geosciences in a global context.



Dr. Marjorie A. Chan is GSA's 2014 Distinguished International Lecturer and is a Professor of Geology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah. She received a B.S. in Geology from the University of California – Davis in 1977 and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1982. Her research topics have spanned the geologic time scale from the Precambrian to the Pleistocene. Her recent projects connect geology and planetary science to better understand and interpret the red planet Mars.

*Recent blog posting by Dr. Marjorie A. Chan: 06 June: Departing Beijing – 2014 GSA Distinguished International Lecture Tour.* “Before leaving Changping (the north outskirts of Beijing) we were able to visit the Ming Tombs arriving early to beat the crowds and long lines of traffic. I got a tour of impressive facilities at China University of Geosciences closer to the central city of Beijing. Nearby we visited the Summer Palace vacation home for the Ming and Qing emperors. At the Old Summer Palace Yuanmingyuan it was sad to see how it had been looted and destroyed in the 1860s. In a country of 1.35 billion, in a city of 21 million, a familiar face says hi to me at the hotel breakfast bar. It is colleague Dr. Lisa Pratt from Indiana who has been doing field work in China. Ok, we were both staying at the hotel on the China University of Geosciences campus, but still what are the chances of that??!”

For details please refer to this article: GSA’s Distinguished International Lecture Series: Global Impact GSA Today, Volume 24, Issue 8, Page 22 (August 2014).

### **15. GSA International Section Chair is Playing a Key Role**



Anke Friedrich, GSA IS Chair and newly elected GSA Councillor (2014-2018) played an active role in organizing the strategic meeting pertaining to restructuring of the GSA International Section (now known as GSA International) and attended EGU Meeting in Vienna and a Latin America Meeting in Heidelberg.

She wishes to thank her fellow IS management board members, in particular Farouk El-Baz, Nazrul Khandaker, Wesley Hill, and I-Ming for their help and support throughout the year. In addition, we wish to acknowledge the contributions of GSA Past-President George Davis, who provided essential insights and leading contributions to the GSA’s strategic international activities.

### **16. GSA Associated Society Meeting & Reception at the European Union of Geosciences Meeting, Vienna, Austria on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2014**

The *Geological Society of America* hosted a brief meeting and well attended reception on Monday 28 April 2014 for its partners and Associated Societies during the *European Union of Geosciences (EGU)* Meeting in Vienna’s Austria Center. The EGU meeting is Europe’s largest geosciences meeting and in the last 10 years, it has doubled its attendance to 12,500 scientists from 106 countries. 855 US scientists have attended this year’s meeting, which is among the top 5 nations attending the meeting.

At *GSA’s Partners and Associated Society’s meeting*, President Suzanne Kay gave an overview of GSA’s international business, in particular the history of the International Section, and the need for restructuring of GSA’s international face. She also introduced some of the upcoming activities at the Vancouver meeting, and summarized GSA’s recent involvement in planning international meetings. This report was followed by an update of the 2016 IGC in Capetown, given by the



South African organization committee, and a brief discussion, led by Jack Hess, with representatives from Associated Societies and partners. Among the 20 guests were the presidents African Geological Association (Professor Aberra Mogessie) and the Soil Science Society of America (Jan Hopmans), as well as several representatives of the Geological Society of London, including their executive secretary Edmund Nickless. We had hoped to hear more of the ideas and concerns of our guests, but time was limited. During the reception, we experienced a friendly and stimulating environment, with lots of encouraging remarks emphasizing the need for global interaction of geological societies. It appeared well received by our guests that GSA's goals are oriented towards international partnerships. For next year's reception, we are hoping to spend more time in a structured discussion to hear the voices of our partners and Associated Societies. We thank Wesley Hill for organizing this nice event.



Suzanne Kay, Wesley Hill, Jack Hess and representatives of GSA's Associated Societies engaged in discussion during the GSA Associated Society Meeting & Reception in April.



Wesley Hill organized the reception in Vienna on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2014. Below: Event host promotes the upcoming 2016 IGC in Capetown, South Africa (photos by A. Friedrich)





**17. GSA International Section Reception at 23<sup>rd</sup> Latin American Colloquium in Geosciences, Heidelberg, Germany, on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2014**

The *Geological Society of America* hosted a special international reception to honor Dr. Gerhard Wörner, from the University of Göttingen (see photo panel next page). He is the first international scientist, who received one of GSA's *Distinguished Career Awards at the Division level (The MGPV Division's Distinguished Geologic Career Award in 2013)*. The International Section management board members choose the biannual Latin American Colloquium (LAC) to host this reception, because Gerhard Wörner's work is largely based in southern and Latin America, and to promote awareness of truly international collaboration across the Americas and beyond.

This year's Latin American Colloquium was held in Heidelberg. IS board members choose to organize the reception on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 right after the end of the digital poster session, to which Gerhard Wörner had submitted his digital poster. The poster displayed a new compilation of chemical and physical parameters of volcanism for Andean volcanoes, and showed a number of highly attractive images and analytical results of his and his students' work. About 50 LAC participants from Europe, Latin-, and South America attended the reception. IS Section chair Anke Friedrich welcomed the reception participants, congratulated Gerhard Wörner, and explained the significance of this award for international research and cultural exchange. Gerhard Wörner happily expressed his thanks, gratitude and explained how he accidentally slid into this research. He pointed to the significance of friendship, collaboration, and local support, without which he would have not been able to carry out this work. He then opened the buffet, and reception participants enjoyed selected local drinks, bread, and sausages until late in the evening.

A reception at a smaller, focused international meeting may be a very effective way to raise awareness of GSA's international face in communities who may not have expected such options. The Latin American Colloquium in Geosciences, in particular, has a long tradition, and perhaps may provide an opportunity for new partnerships in the future.

*Further Information:*

<http://www.geosociety.org/awards/13speeches/mgpv.htm>

<http://www.geow.uni-heidelberg.de/tagung/lak2014/>

Photo panel on next page: Honoring Dr. Gerhard Wörner as the first international recipient of one of GSA's Division-level awards at the Latinamerican colloquium in Heidelberg, March 2014.



## **18. GSA IS Second Vice Chair I-Ming Chou Making Headlines**



Dr. I-Ming Chou, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of GSA IS attended the strategic retreat, which was held on 21/22 January 2014 in the rooms of the German University Alliance in New York City. He also helped to organize (1) the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Current Research on Fluid Inclusions, Xi'an, China, and gave a plenary lecture (May 16, 2014); (2) the 11<sup>th</sup> International GeoRaman Conference on Geology, Planetary and Archeological Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA (June 15-17, 2014), and also chaired a session and presented a paper as well. I-Ming attended 2014 Goldschmidt Conference, held in Sacramento, California and presented a paper.

I-Ming was quite busy with various international symposiums and conferences and gave invited lectures at:

Universita di Napoli Federico II, Naples, Italy (April 4, 2014), Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Sanya, China (May 9, 2014), Northwest University, Xi'an, China (May 15, 2014), China University of Petroleum, Qingdao, China (May 22, 2014), Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology, Qingdao, China (May 22, 2014), Institute of Mineral Resources, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing, China (May 26, 2014), and the 14<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial International Association of the Genesis of Ore Deposits Symposium (IAGOD), Kunming, China (August 19, 2014; a keynote presentation).

Dr. I-Ming Chou is actively involved in organizing the 8<sup>th</sup> World Chinese Geological Congress (WCGC), which will be held in Academia Sinica in Taiwan, May 13-19, 2015, including a two-day meeting and post meeting field trips. He will serve as one of the three chairmen of the meeting; the other two chairmen are Mr. Xianlai Meng<sup>2</sup> of GSC and Professor Lou-Chuang Lee, Director of Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica.

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<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> World Chinese Conference on Geological Sciences was held at Chengdu, Sichuan Province in June of 2013 right before the First Joint Scientific Meeting of Geological Society of China (GSC) and GSA, which was hosted by Mr. Xianlai Meng of GSC .



## 19. Jose Pedro Calvo Sorando elected as new IUGS Secretary General

Prof. Jose P. Calvo was born in Valencia, Spain, in 1952. He graduated at the University Complutense of Madrid (UCM) in 1974 and conducted a PhD thesis on Miocene carbonate deposits of the Prebetic Zone (SE Spain) from 1974 to 1978. After 8 years as Lecturer at the UCM and the Politechnical University of Madrid, he got a position as Associate Professor at the Department of Petrology and Geochemistry of the UCM.



His research has been mainly focused on the geology and sedimentology of continental sedimentary basins (e.g. fossil lake systems in the Iberian Peninsula, as well as in other Mediterranean regions like Greece and Italy). Carbonate and evaporite continental deposits have been main research topics during most of his career. Some of this research was focused on diatomite deposits and other sedimentary materials of economic interest (e.g. special clays, sulfate, magnesite, dolomite). Jose Calvo was involved in scientific international collaboration with research groups mainly from the US Geological Survey, Universita di Palermo, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, National University of Athens, and ETH in Zurich. He led and participated to both Spanish and international research projects (e.g. IUGS-IGCP projects) on fossil and recent lake systems from 1986 to 1998.

Jose Calvo was elected Head of the Department of Petrology and Geochemistry of the UCM in 1999, and he obtained a professor position there in 2001. He was Secretary General of the International Association of Sedimentologists from 2002 to 2010. At a national level, Jose Calvo participated actively in the Geological Society of Spain (SGE) and was Secretary and Editor-in-Chief of the Society in the nineties, and its President from 2000 to 2004. From 2004 to 2010, José Calvo moved to the Spanish Geological Survey (IGME) as Director General.

During this period, he was involved also in several managing tasks in EuroGeoSurveys acting as President of EGS in 2008. He was charged of the organization of the International Year of Planet Earth in Spain (2007–2009). Currently, José Calvo teaches as a professor of the Department of Petrology and Geochemistry of the UCM. He is happy to run graduate courses dealing with Principles of Geology and some other matters included in Engineering Geology courses, especially industrial rocks and their use as building materials. His research interest is still centered on the petrology and geochemistry of Cenozoic sediments and rocks.

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## 20. Preparations for the 35th International Geological Congress

The Scientific Program for the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC35) is progressing very well. A Committee of the Scientific Program, with Prof. Laurence Robb (Oxford University) as Chair, has been appointed. Core sectors underpinning the IGC35 scientific content are: Geoscience for Society, Fundamental Geoscience, and Geoscience in the Economy. During the combined 3rd YES Congress and CAG25 Meeting in Dar es Salaam, a new high-profile field trip was proposed at the IGC35 booth. It is preliminary entitled “Africa’s High and Low Superlatives” and would take a group of 35 delegates to the summit of Kilimanjaro and the Njwaneng gold mine near Carletonville, RSA, which are respectively the highest and lowest points that can be visited on the African continent. Together with the Great African Train Geosafari, a train trip between Cape Town and the Victoria Falls, this new field trip will form the flagship field trips for IGC35. More on 35<sup>th</sup> IGC Preparations:

[35<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS](#)  
[27 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2016 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA](#)

## C International Section-Sponsored Activities II (2013-2014): Activities at the Vancouver Annual Meeting, October 2014

### **21. Farouk El-Baz Student Research Award to Encourage and Support Desert Studies 2014**

IS has been charged with selecting two GSA student members to receive the Farouk El-Baz Student Research Award for 2014. An award of \$2500.00 was given to one male and one female applicant who are conducting desert research studies as part of an undergraduate, master’s or PhD program. The award checks and plaques will be presented at the Student Awards Ceremony at the GSA 2014 Annual Meeting.

The 2014 recipients of the El-Baz Student Research Award are:

- **Elizabeth J. Rozar**, Boise State University, Idaho, USA, MS in Geology
- **Abdel Mawgoud MM Mohammed**, Western Michigan University, Michigan, USA, PhD in Geology.

### **22. GSA IS Travel Grant Recipients for the 2014 Annual Meeting**

Quite a few overseas applicants sought travel grants from the IS and following persons were selected for receiving grants to attend GSA 2014 meeting. The awardees come from various countries and range from Ghana to China. Recent *additional funding from the GSA* enabled

International Section to give out few more additional awards to the applicants and ISMB greatly appreciate this timely contribution made available for distribution.

<b>Recipient Information</b>	<b>Country of Citizenship</b>
<b>Yang Li, li.</b> , Durham University	China
<b>Jamsran Erdenebayar</b> , Akita university	Mongolian
<b>Cristhian Nicolas Gómez Plata</b> , Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Colombia
<b>Anna Sanson Barrera</b> , Paleontological Institute - University of Zurich	Spain
<b>Al-Tamini Tapu</b> , Dept. of Geological Sciences, Jahangirnagar University	Bangladesh
<b>Muhammad Shahzad Sarfraz</b> , National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences	Pakistan
<b>Iftikhar Ahmad</b> , Aligarh Muslim University	India
<b>Esther Owusua Andam</b> , Calvary Methodist Church	Ghana

### **23. GSA IS will Host Reception at the 2014 GSA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada**

All international participants are cordially invited to attend a reception on **Oct. 21, 2014 (6 to 7.30 p.m.)**. Travel grants awardees will be recognized and pictures will be taken. Light refreshments will be provided. **Event Name:** GSA International Participant's Reception and GSA International Section Awards Ceremony; **Organization Name:** GSA International Section **Room:** Hyatt Regency, Plaza Ballroom A.

### **24. GSA International Booth (Pangaea) at the Vancouver Meeting**

There will be a booth for GSA International to promote international collaboration and welcome overseas participants to get involved with this new initiative and to allow greater knowledge-sharing for global partnerships. Several key members of GSA International will be manning the booth and ready to greet international members and keep them abreast of what's happening with geosciences pertaining to societal needs and global partnerships.

The booth is also a good location for networking in particular for students who are looking for international field trips and field camps or exchange programs. We therefore encourage our colleagues to bring their official flyers to advertise their international programs.

### **25. GSA IS Newsletter**

Several brief newsletters were mailed out to individual members (well-over 1800) to keep them abreast of GSA International Sections restructuring and GSA's 2014 Annual Meeting and other



notable international news items dealing with cutting edge frontier exploration activities, environmental issues, geoscience and public policy statements. International fellows were invited to become member of the GSA International management board and participate in the decision making process.

## **26. Officers and International Section management board members — 2013-2014**

<b>Officers</b>		
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Anke M. Friedrich</b> LMU Munich, Chair of Geology Dept of Earth and Environmental Sciences Luisenstrasse 37 80333 Munich, GERMANY	Tel: +49-89-21806512 Fax: +49-89-21806514 <a href="mailto:friedrich@lmu.de">friedrich@lmu.de</a>
<b>First Vice Chair</b>	<b>Farouk El-Baz</b> Boston University, Center Remote Sensing 725 Commonwealth Ave. Boston, MA 02215-1401, USA	Tel: +1-617-353-5081 Fax: +1-617-353-3200 <a href="mailto:farouk@bu.edu">farouk@bu.edu</a>
<b>Second Vice Chair</b>	<b>I-Ming Chou</b> 954 National Center U.S. Geological Survey Reston, VA 20192, USA	Tel: +1-703-648-6169 Fax: +1-703-648-6252 <a href="mailto:imchou@usgs.gov">imchou@usgs.gov</a>
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> (First year of a second 2-year term)	<b>Nazrul I. Khandaker</b> Dept. of Earth and Physical Sci. York College The City University of New York 94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11451, USA	Tel: +1-718-262-2079 (x 2654) Fax: +1-718-262-3751 <a href="mailto:nkhandaker@york.cuny.edu">nkhandaker@york.cuny.edu</a>
<b>Past Chair</b>	<b>An Yin</b> Univ. of California, Los Angeles Dept of Earth & Space Sciences Los Angeles, CA 90095-1567, USA	Tel: +1-310-825-8752 Fax: +1-310-825-2779 <a href="mailto:yin@ess.ucla.edu">yin@ess.ucla.edu</a>

### **Management Board**

The management board shall include the current International Section officers, the immediate past chair, and one voting affiliate of the Geological Society of America selected every three years by the GSA Council to serve as Council Liaison to the section. Meetings of the management board shall be held prior to the Section's annual business meeting. Business involving the entire management board shall normally be conducted by e-mail correspondence.

**Region** - Section includes all of the international Community outside of North America  
1,902 Voting members of the Section as of 31 December 2013.