



SAPROLITE

**NEWSLETTER of the SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**
Winter 2018-2019

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The science of geology is studied by fieldwork, laboratory, or modeling. Geology has something for everyone. For the outdoor loving – fieldwork can take you anywhere from the heights of the Himalayas to the rock and icy continent of Antarctica. Those who are enamored by laboratory studies, mass spectrometers can provide answers to many a geochemical riddle. The long-term climate and hydrology questions can be answered by use of models that involve many an hour in front of a keyboard. Geology extends from the deepest depths of the ocean to the peak of the tallest mountains... atmospheric sciences to volcanology... liquid water, vapor and ice. Every living soul on this planet experiences geology in some fashion or other – something that binds our work to society.

Saprolite is the newsletter of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America – this is your newsletter. Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter as you see fit and reach your colleagues across the US Southeast – Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Puerto Rico. Share this with those who may not have knowledge about it – people who have moved to the region or students who have begun studies in this wonderful field. Please do not hesitate to send newsworthy items to us for publication in future newsletters. Also, you can propose sessions for future meetings or suggest and host future Southeastern Geological Society of America meetings in your hometown. As someone who organized a meeting (Columbia, 2017), it is my experience that you will have a lot of help (if you need and ask for it) and the end product (meeting) is worth the effort.

This year the SE GSA will have its 2019 meeting in Charleston, SC during March 28-29. I hope you can attend this meeting and listen to the advances in the field presented by your colleagues. The meeting is a good place in particular for students who make up a third of all membership of the southeastern section. In the past few years, I have witnessed students make connections that will serve them for the rest of their lives. So, please encourage students to attend this and future meetings. Details of this meeting are available on the [Charleston 2019 website](#).

There are many to thank for the success of our section. The chairs of past meetings, the slate of current section officers and the GSA headquarters have done a great job in ensuring success of our

section. It is due to their hard work that our section is in very good financial health. In particular, I would like to thank Blair Tormey, the Secretary-Treasurer of our section who handles all the financial and day-to-day business. Finally, this is your section and your enthusiastic participation makes our success possible.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the Chair of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Sciences of America.

I hope to see you in Charleston in the next few weeks and best wishes for a great year ahead.

Venkataraman Lakshmi, Chair, Southeastern Section
Professor, University of Virginia
vlakshmi@virginia.edu

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Management Board, 2018-2019

Chair:	Venkat Lakshmi	University of Virginia
Chair-Elect:	David Spears	VA Dept. of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Past Chair:	Jonathan Mies	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Vice Chair:	Scott Harris	College of Charleston
Past Vice-Chair:	Colin Sumrall	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Secretary-Treasurer:	Blair Tormey	Western Carolina University
Student Rep	Allie Nagurney	Virginia Tech University

GSA Councilors:	Chuck Bailey	College of William and Mary
	Mark Little	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Membership

At the end of December 2018, SE Section membership stood at 2,725 total members, including 876 Professionals, 464 Seniors, 1 Honorary Fellow, 345 Early Careers, 936 Students, 63 K-12 Teachers, and 40 Affiliates.

Financial Status of the Section

At the end of the fiscal year, 30 June 2018, the section had \$169,548 in its accounts. The total interest realized during FY18 was \$3,301. This interest, together with a reported surplus of \$42,483 from the section meeting in Knoxville, TN, and section members' dues, is used to fund the Section's Student Research Grants, Student Travel Grants, and general operations of the section.

Future Section Meetings	Dates	Local Chair(s)
Charleston, SC	March 28-29, 2019	Scott Harris and Katie Luciano
Reston, VA (joint NE)	March 20-22, 2020	Arthur Merschat and Patrick Burkhart
Auburn, AL	April 1-2, 2021	Bill Hames and Mark Steltenpohl
Cincinnati, OH (joint NC)	2022	Lewis Owen (NC chair), TBD (SE chair)
Harrisonburg, VA	2023	Steve Leslie and Steve Whitmeyer

Student Research Grants

The Section has two research grant programs, one for undergraduates and another for graduate students. The graduate grant competition in the spring of 2018 resulted in the expenditure of \$5,550 from remaining FY18 funds to support the research of 5 graduate students from a pool of 10 applicants. In the late spring of 2018, we awarded 2 undergraduate research grants, from a pool of 2 applicants, resulting in an expenditure of \$1,000 from the \$15,000 allocated for FY19.

Student Travel Grants

The Student Travel Grant program continues to be very popular. In the fall of 2017, the Section expended \$5650 to support the travel of 85 students presenting papers at the annual meeting. In the spring of 2018, the section expended \$4554 in support of 22 students presenting papers at section meeting. The Section appreciates the matching funds provided by the GSA Foundation and the contributions from members. Total student expenditures for 2017-2018 was \$10,204.

67th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 67th annual meeting of the section was held in April, 2017, in Knoxville, TN. Colin Sumrall chaired the meeting. There were 2 symposia, 19 theme sessions and 13 discipline sessions. 7 field trips were run successfully, and a field trip guidebook was produced. The meeting was well planned and very well attended (826 attendees).

68th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 68th annual meeting of the section will be held in the spring of 2019 in Charleston, SC. Scott Harris, at the College of Charleston, and Katie Luciano at the SC Geological Survey will be the General co-Chairs. The Technical Program Co-Chairs are Erin Beutel and Chris Hein, and the Field Trip Co-Chairs are John Chadwick and Steven Jaumé. The Sponsorship Chair is Amber Onufer, and Blair Tormey will be Exhibits Chair. The Student Volunteer Chair is Cynthia Hall, and Adem Ali is the Treasurer. The meeting should be successful both scientifically and financially.

Respectfully submitted,
Blair Tormey
Secretary-Treasurer, Southeastern Section

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SECTION

Important Dates in 2018:

February 1, 2019: Session Submission Deadline, GSA Annual Meeting

February 1, 2019: Graduate Student Research Grant Deadline

February 19, 2019: Charleston Early Registration Deadline

March 28-29, 2019: Southeast Section Meeting, Charleston, SC

April 1, 2019: Undergraduate Student Research Grant Deadline

September 11-12, 2019: Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (GEO-CVD)

September 22-25, 2019: GSA Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AR

Charleston Meeting Tips for Students!

Poster Sessions versus Talks

If this is your first conference, SEGSA (and most conferences) are broken down into poster sessions and talks. For every time slot (morning and afternoon) there will be both poster sessions and talks occurring. Talks are 15-20 minutes in length with time for questions at the end. Poster sessions are normally 2 hours long, and offer time to interact with the poster presenters during their presentations.

Take Advantage of the Poster Session

Poster sessions are a great opportunity to network. Don't be afraid to walk up to a poster, and say "Hi, I'd like to hear about your poster!" That is all you need to break the ice and hear about some interesting science! Conferences are busy and it can be tough to talk to people right after their talks, so if you want to talk to someone who you heard talk earlier in the day, the poster session is a great chance to do that.

Read the Conference Program Beforehand and Download the Conference App

There are lots of exciting talks and events occurring at SEGSA and it can be hard to keep track of everything. I find it helpful, a week or so before the conference, to look up the schedule of sessions and talks and mark the ones that I want to attend. You can even download the app for the conference, which lets you star any presentations you don't want to miss and create your own personal program!

Make Sure You Account for Time

Between talks, poster sessions, and other events, SEGSA can be hectic. Make sure you leave enough time to get to the conference center in the mornings, and account for time if you are moving between talks and poster sessions.

Take the Opportunity to Learn Something New

One of the cool things about SEGSA is the diversity of geoscience research- from coastal storms to igneous rocks to geoscience education there is something interesting for everyone! It is always fun to attend a session in an area that you are unfamiliar with- you will definitely learn something new!

Attend A Career Workshop

SEGSA offers an opportunity to explore different careers as a geoscientist! There are four different events:

1. Career Planning and Informational Interviewing
2. Geoscience Career Exploration
3. Cover Letters, Resumes, and CVs
4. Professional Geologist Licensure

Each of these 1 hour workshops (spread out over Thursday and Friday) will give different insights on job searches, career options, and what employers are looking for! I highly recommend attending at least one of these. These do not require pre-registration.

Free Lunch!

Now that I got your attention, there are two mentoring lunches. On Thursday, the Roy J. Schlemmon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience Luncheon and on Friday, the John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program Luncheon, are both opportunities to talk about careers in the geosciences with professionals. Don't miss out! There is no required pre-registration, but lunch is served on a first come, first served basis.

Attend A Special Event

In addition to poster sessions and talks, SEGSA offers some awesome events to connect with your friends and make new ones! One of the great things about attending a Section Meeting is the community that exists between geoscientists, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of the Opening Mixer Wednesday night, special lectures, and the mentoring program.

Need Help Getting There? Apply for a Travel Grant!

The Southeast Section offers some support to GSA Student Members to help defray the cost of travel to the meeting. Funds are limited, but every bit helps! Deadline to apply: February 19. Visit the meeting website to apply.

Last Thoughts:

1. Wear comfortable shoes!
2. Make sure your name badge is facing out.
3. If you have a free hour or two, go out and explore Charleston!

Allie Nagurney

Student Representative, Southeastern Section

Congressional Visits Day Report

I was excited to be chosen to represent the Southeastern Section at the Geoscience Congressional Visit Days (GEO-CVD) in Washington, DC in September 2018. While I am attending graduate school in New Hampshire, I live and work in West Virginia. At GEO-CVD, you have an afternoon of training followed by a day of meeting with science staffers for various legislatures.

I was part of the Ohio/West Virginia team with another graduate student from Ohio. Our team was led by a science policy staffer with the Soil Science Society of America. At each appointment, we discussed our research interests and how they intersect with proposed or

existing policies. My research is in environmental issues, while my partner was a seismologist, so we brought a lot of different policies and issues to the table.

We had appointments with staffers from the following offices: Senator Capito (WV), Senator Manchin (WV), Representative Jenkins (WV), Senator Portman (OH), Senator Brown (OH), Representative Davidson (OH), and Representative Lucas (OK). As you can see, we had an extremely busy and productive day.

It was really a great learning experience. I would recommend it to anyone interested in science policy and it has added another dimension in my research. My participation also actually led to me being the West Virginia team lead for the American Geophysical Union's science visiting day in December! So mostly, I want to say thank you to the Southeastern Section for selecting me to participate in GEO-CVD.

Jennifer Phillippe, LPG
PhD student, Antioch University New England
Instructor, Concord University

****Note:** The Southeastern Section was proud to support Jennifer as our representative in the Geo-CVD. Each year, the Southeastern Section provides funding for a graduate student to participate in the Geo-CVD program. If you would like information on how to participate, please visit the [Geo-CVD webpage](#).

Do you have news to share with the Southeastern Section?

Email the Section Secretary-Treasurer (Blair Tormey, btormey@wcu.edu) to include it in the next issue of Saproliite!

Vote for Section Officers

A copy of the ballot for officer elections is included at the end of this newsletter. The ballot will also be made available electronically through GSA this spring.

IN MEMORIUM

The following are members of the Southeastern Section that we lost between March 2017 and March 2018. If you know of any members that we have lost this year, please notify GSA Membership. Also, if you wish to share any remembrances in the next issue of Saproliite (2020), please contact the Section Secretary-Treasurer, Blair Tormey (btormey@wcu.edu).

Irene B. Boland	Rock Hill, SC	Notified: 23 January 2018
Don U. Deere	Gainesville, FL	Notified: 06 March 2018
Robert N. Ginsburg	Miami, FL	01 July 2017
Colin C. McAneny	Vicksburg, MS	Notified: 31 May 2017
Georges Pardo	Naples, FL	Notified: 15 March 2017
Charles L. Rice	Elon, NC	19 August 2017
Luther F. Rogers, Jr.	New Orleans, LA	24 November 2016
Lorin R. Stieff	Sarasota, FL	29 December 2017



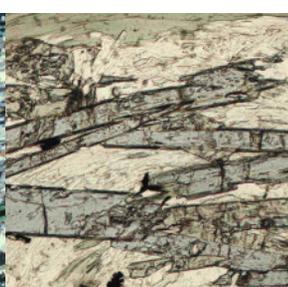
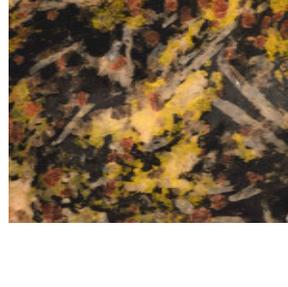
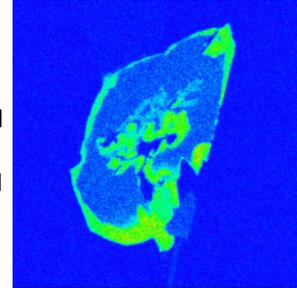
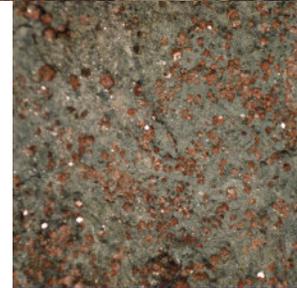
Few could argue to have lived the life of a petrologist better than Robert James (Bob) Tracy. Bob died on January 6, 2019, at his home in Blacksburg, Virginia, and is survived by his precious wife of 50 years, Patricia. Bob was born in Washington, D.C., on October 2, 1944, and obtained an A.B. degree from Amherst College in 1967 followed by a M.S. from Brown University in 1970. Bob's Ph.D. (1975) was from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst under the supervision of Peter Robinson. He then moved to Harvard as a Research Fellow under supervision of J.B. Thompson. Bob moved to Yale in 1978 as an Assistant and then Associate Professor, and moved to Virginia Tech in 1986 as Professor. Bob served as Department Chair from 2005 to 2008 and as Associate Chair from 2012 to 2018, the Director of the Virginia Tech Mineral Museum, and the Virginia Tech electron microprobe facility. Bob co-authored the landmark text "Petrology: Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic". Bob was also a dedicated member of the Geological Society of America. He co-convened a Penrose Conference in 1986, served as associate editor of GSA Bulletin from 1989-1995, was elected GSA Fellow in 2011, and served on Council from 2011-2014. Bob also co-chaired two successful SEGSA meetings in Blacksburg, in 1994 and 2014, and held several positions on the SE Section Board from 2013-2018, including Chair. He was on several GSA committees, including GSA's Geology and Public Policy Committee since 2016.

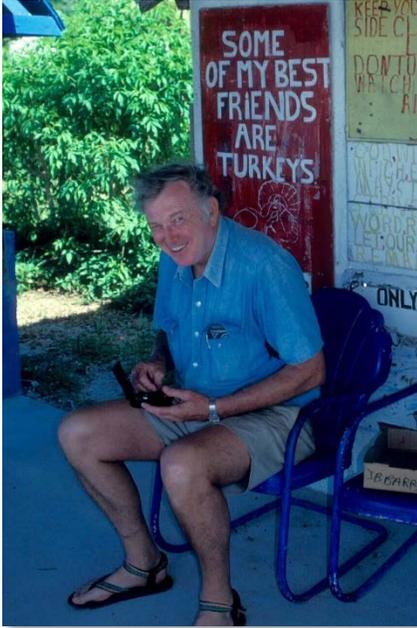
Bob's primary research field was metamorphic petrology. His work improved understanding of the measurement and significance of chemical zoning in metamorphic minerals, metamorphic phase equilibria, processes of crustal melting and the mineralogy of residual rocks, the behavior of sulfur during metamorphism, microprobe dating of monazite, and of the tectono-metamorphic evolution of New England and the Western Blue Ridge province. A day with Bob in the field, in front of an optical microscope, or on an electron microprobe was a day in the company of a true renaissance talent. Bob freely gave his time as a generous colleague, an enthusiastic teacher, and a fiercely loyal friend to the petrologic community.

Bob was a walking encyclopedia of mineralogy, petrology, optical and electron microscopy, sample preparation, wine, French cuisine, European and American political history, fishing, barbecue (partial listing). Bob liked nothing more than using this information to help people, and students in particular, generally espousing his wisdom with a carefully pointed wit. His generosity in terms of sharing his time, knowledge, ideas, data and opinion are difficult to equal.

"Mangia bene, ridi spesso, ama molto!"

Clockwise from upper left: Handsome Devil; Eclogite, SW Norway; And, NH; Crd Gneiss, Central MA; Gar-Sta Schist, Roxbury, CT; Eclogite, Tiburon, CA; Y in Monazite; Schist, Gassetts, VT; Tlc-Kya Granofels, eastern GA; Democrat; Ctd Schist, western MA; And, NH; Kya-Ort Gneiss, Lofoten, Norway; Gar-Sil schist with spinel, Cortlandt, CT; Tlc-Trm-Grs Schist, Franklin, NJ; Gneiss, Quabbin Reservoir, MA; Peridotite, San Carlos, NM; Ky-Chl-Alb 'logjam' schist, western CT. Samples from personal collections of RJT and his students.





“Water”

*I was born to water
on an Island in the sea.
The surf outside the window
each night put me to sleep.
Waves against the shore
rumbled to cobbles
on the stormy coast.
The tide murmured as it passed
the red nun in the channel.
The offshore boulders
sang to the surf.
All these sounds and sights of water
are a symphony to me —
a voice that still reminds me
I’m adrift without the sea.
- Conrad Neumann*



Conrad Neumann was a gentleman scholar and true renaissance man; an oceanographer, teacher, artist, and poet. A. Conrad Neumann died Monday, January 28, 2019, in Durham, N.C., of complications following a stroke. He is survived by his wife Jane, his sister Jane, daughter Jennifer, sons Cris and Jonathan, and six grandchildren.

Conrad was born on Martha’s Vineyard, MA in 1933, where he lived in Chilmark and attended the Menemsha School and Tisbury High School. After two years of high school on the Island, he transferred to Bayside High in New York so he could attend Queens College and later Brooklyn College, where he graduated with a bachelor of science in geology in 1955. He obtained a master’s degree in oceanography from Texas A&M in 1958.

After obtaining his master’s degree, he worked for three years at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and shipped out on the Atlantis I to the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, and the North and South Atlantic. He enrolled at Lehigh University for a Ph.D. in geology in 1963, and went on to do marine geological research at the University of Miami until 1970.

From 1970 to 1972 he served at the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C., after which he moved to the University of North Carolina where he taught oceanography and researched deep-sea deposits, coral reefs, sea-level, and climate change. He used the research submersible Alvin on 33 dives, some as deep as two miles.

Conrad’s pioneering work in the Bahamas and Bermuda on the ecological behavior of coral reefs under changing sea levels coined the oft-used phrase “catch up, keep up, give up.” He was also instrumental in recognizing the catastrophic events at the close of the last interglacial, recorded by reefs, dunes and bioerosional notches, christening it the climatic “madhouse” between the greenhouse and icehouse. His trailblazing work set the foundations for many of today’s discussions on rapid climate change. Conrad retired in 2003, and with Jane, divided their time between their home in Durham, and summers on Martha’s Vineyard.

In addition to his research, Conrad was renowned for his poetry and instructional drawings (original poem and Carbonate Environments course syllabus, above). He had a gift for taking complex systems and simplifying them into intricate and mesmerizing sketches that fostered a deeper understanding and passion for science in his students. His talents, humor, and affable charm will be deeply missed.

TO MEMBERS OF GSA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
Ballot for 2019 - 2020 Officers Southeastern Section

Please vote by completing the section at the bottom and mailing it to GSA postmarked no later than 1 March. Biographical information on the candidates is on the following pages.

You may vote online **by 1 March** at: <http://rock.geosociety.org/ballot/vote.asp?Name=SE>

Access the online e-ballot by using either your GSA member number or your e-mail address that is in your GSA member records. For membership assistance, please contact GSA at: gsaservice@geosociety.org or call (888) 443-4472. You may also submit your completed ballot by Fax: (303) 357-1074.

Section Chair (one-year term):

- () David Spears
- () Write-in _____

Chair Elect (one-year term):

- () Colin Sumrall
- () Write-in _____

Vice Chair (one-year term):

- () Arthur Merschat
- () Write-in _____

Secretary-Treasurer (one-year term):

- () Blair Tormey
- () Write-in _____

Mail Ballot To: Section Office, Geological Society of America
PO Box 9140, Boulder, CO, 80301-9140

Mailed ballots should be postmarked no later than 1 March.
You must complete the following section to validate your ballot:

Your Name (printed) _____

Your Signature (required) _____

Your GSA Member Number * (required) _____

* Your 7 digit GSA member number is on the top right corner on the external mailing label. If you need assistance with your member number, call: (888) 443-4472

Biographies of Candidates for 2019 - 2020 Section Officers

Section Chair (one year term)

DAVID SPEARS, Structural Geology, Public Policy. Education: Lafayette College, B.S., 1981; Virginia Tech, M.S., 1983. Professional Experience: Petroleum Geologist, Chevron USA 1983-1991; Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy 1991-present; STATE GEOLOGIST OF VIRGINIA, 2009-present; Member: GSA, AAPG, AGU, AASG, SEG.

Chair Elect (one year term)

COLIND. SUMRALL, Paleobiology. Education: Arizona State University, B.S. 1989; University of Texas at Austin, M.A. 1991; University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D., 1996. Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, 2012-present; Member: GSA.

Vice Chair (one year term)

ARTHUR MERSCHAT, Structural Geology, Geologic Mapping. Education: Appalachian State University, B.S. 2000, University of Tennessee, M.S. 2003; Ph.D., 2009. Professional Experience: Research Geologist, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 2006-present; Member: GSA.

Secretary-Treasurer (one year term)

BLAIR TORMEY, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy. Education: Pennsylvania State University, B.S., 1996; University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, M.S., 1999; University of Wisconsin, 1999-2002. Professional Experience: Coastal Research Scientist, WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, 2005-present; Member: GSA; AAPG; NAGT.