

2018–2019 GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow Announced



Caitlin Keating-Bitonti

GSA and the U.S. Geological Survey are pleased to announce that Caitlin Keating-Bitonti will serve as the 2018–2019 GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow. She will spend a year working in the office of Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)

Keating-Bitonti is an earth scientist with expertise in paleontology. As a native of southeast Michigan, she grew up collecting ancient marine fossils, developing a strong interest in the planet’s history and concern for its future. Pursuing this passion in graduate school, Keating-Bitonti reconstructed ancient climate and ocean conditions, studying microfossil assemblages and their isotopic compositions’ as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. Her research integrates paleontology, geology, oceanography, physiology, and statistical models to examine how ancient marine organisms responded to past environmental perturbations and how these climate shifts shaped their evolutionary history.

Recognizing that the geosciences are a vital public concern but are rarely included in a typical high school curriculum, Keating-Bitonti became committed to geoscience education and outreach. During her graduate career, she mentored more than 10 high school students and teamed with two other graduate students to develop and teach a climate change science course at a preparatory school in Palo Alto, California, USA. After receiving her Ph.D. from Stanford University, Keating-Bitonti joined the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History as a Peter Buck Postdoctoral Fellow, where she continued her research and also participated in museum outreach. Her time in Washington, D.C., solidified her desire to be involved in the policy-making process and to advocate that our practices and policies be informed by scientific knowledge. She is excited to have the opportunity to serve as the 2018–2019 GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow.

Keating-Bitonti earned her B.S. in geology from Syracuse University, her M.S in geology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and her Ph.D. in geological and environmental sciences from Stanford University.

GSA Division Milestones

GSA acknowledges and congratulates the Geology and Society Scientific Division for meeting this milestone:



GSA’s **Geology and Society Scientific Division** turns 15 years old this year. Established in 2003, this Division seeks to advance the concept of “geology working for society” by providing GSA members with opportunities to bring together multiple fields of geoscience to address important societal issues. This Division actively hosts interdisciplinary symposia at national and regional meetings, provides forums to help its members effectively communicate with decision makers and the public, encourages student achievement in helping to inform public policy by sponsoring a Best Student Presentation Award at the annual meeting, and honors professional achievement in enhancing public policy by presenting a distinguished lecture at the annual meeting. The Division also works closely with the Geology and Public Policy Committee to develop and distribute GSA position statements. Learn more at community.geosociety.org/gsocdivision/home.

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