

JOINT AGI/GSA SOCIETIES MEETING

Monday, October 20, 2014
Grouse Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Business Meeting

A G E N D A

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|------------|-----|---|------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | 1. | Joint Meeting Call to Order | Nick Tew & Hap McSween |
| | 2. | Approval of Agenda | Nick Tew & Hap McSween |
| | 3. | Approval of AGI Council Minutes of April 7, 2014 | Dorian Kuper |
| | 4. | Call for 2015 AGI Nominations | Sharon Mosher |
| | 5. | Welcome to AGI Member Societies | Nick Tew |
| | 6. | Welcome to GSA Associated Societies | Hap McSween |
| 8:45 a.m. | 7. | November Critical Issues Forum | Maeve Boland |
| | 8. | Summary of Leadership Forum on Disabilities | Heather Houlton |
| | 9. | International Geological Congress 35 | Jack Hess |
| 9:45 a.m. | | BREAK | |
| 10:00 a.m. | 10. | Overview of GeoLEAD | Billy Williams |
| | 11. | New Geoscience Policy & Critical Issues Web Site | Maeve Boland |
| | 12. | Ethics Report and Next Steps | Dave Mogk |
| | 13. | Cutting Edge Program | Cathy Manduca |
| 11:00 a.m. | 14. | Results of the Education Summit | Sharon Mosher |
| 11:30 a.m. | 15. | Next Meetings | |
| | | AGI: June 1, 2015, at AAPG in Denver, Colorado | |
| | | GSA: March 28-29, 2015, Boulder, Colorado | |
| | 16. | Wrap up and Adjourn | Nick Tew & Hap McSween |

Contents (Agenda Book also available at <<http://www.americangeosciences.org/events>>)

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| 9 Call for 2015 AGI Nominations | |

AGI / GSA Representatives at the October 20, 2014, Meeting

AASP - The Palynological Society (AGI/GSA)	
American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AGI/GSA)	
American Geophysical Union (AGI/GSA)	Billy Williams
American Institute of Hydrology (AGI)	
American Institute of Professional Geologists (AGI/GSA)	Ray Talkington
American Quaternary Association (GSA)	Chris Hill
American Rock Mechanics Association (AGI/GSA)	Paul La Pointe
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (AGI/GSA)	
American Water Resources Association (GSA)	
Asociación Geológica Argentina (GSA)	
Association for Women Geoscientists (AGI/GSA)	
Association of American Geographers (AGI)	
Association of American State Geologists (AGI/GSA)	
Association of Earth Science Editors (AGI/GSA)	Carole L. Ziegler
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AGI/GSA)	Ken Ferguson
Association of Geoscientists for International Development (GSA)	
Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AGI)	
Blueprint Earth (GSA)	
Board on Earth Sciences and Resources (AGI)	James Robertson
Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (AGI)	
The Clay Minerals Society (AGI/GSA)	Warren D. Huff
Colorado Scientific Society (GSA)	
Consortium for Ocean Leadership (AGI)	
Council on Undergraduate Research Geosciences Division (AGI/GSA)	Lee Phillips
Cushman Foundation (GSA)	
Energistics (AGI)	
Environmental & Engineering Geophysical Society (AGI/GSA)	
European Geosciences Union (GSA)	Philippe Courtial
Friends of Mineralogy (AGI)	
Geochemical Society (AGI/GSA)	S. Davis, B. Sherwood Lollar, & W. Hart
Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (AGI)	
Geologica Belgica (GSA)	
Geological Association of Canada (AGI/GSA)	
Geological Society of Africa (AGI/GSA)	
Geological Society of Australia (GSA)	
Geological Society of China (GSA)	
Geological Society of London (AGI/GSA)	Edmund Nickless
Geological Society of South Africa (GSA)	
Geologische Vereinigung (GSA)	
Geoscience Information Society (AGI/GSA)	
Geoscience Society of New Zealand (GSA)	
Geothermal Technologies Office of U.S. Department of Energy (AGI)	Douglas Hollett
Groundwater Resources Association of California (GSA)	
History of Earth Sciences Society (AGI/GSA)	John Diemer
International Association for Geoscience Diversity (GSA)	Chris Atchison
International Association for Promoting Geoethics (AGI)	
International Association of Emergency Managers (GSA)	
International Association of GeoChemistry (GSA)	
International Association of Hydrogeologists (AGI/GSA)	D. Kreamer & J. LaMoreaux
International Medical Geology Association (AGI/GSA)	Robert Finkelman
International Society for Aeolian Research (GSA)	
Israel Geological Society (GSA)	
Karst Waters Institute (AGI/GSA)	
Microanalysis Society (GSA)	

AGI / GSA Representatives at the October 28, 2013, Meeting (continued)

Mineralogical Association of Canada (GSA)	Lee Groat
Mineralogical Society of America (AGI/GSA)	J. Alex Speer
Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (GSA)	
Minnesota Ground Water Association (GSA)	
National Association of Black Geoscientists (AGI/GSA)	
National Association of Geoscience Teachers (AGI/GSA)	A. Awad, C. Manduca, & J. Myers
National Association of State Boards of Geology (AGI/GSA)	
National Cave and Karst Research Institute (AGI/GSA)	G. Veni & R. Brinkman
National Earth Science Teachers Association (AGI/GSA)	Michael Passow
National Ground Water Association (GSA)	
National Speleological Society (AGI)	
Nepal Geological Society (GSA)	
North American Commission of Stratigraphic Nomenclature (AGI)	Norman P. Lasca
Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America (AGI)	
Paleontological Research Institution (AGI/GSA)	
Paleontological Society (AGI/GSA)	S. Holland & M. Wilson
Petroleum History Institute (AGI)	
Seismological Society of America (AGI/GSA)	Susan Newman
SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) (AGI/GSA)	
Sigma Gamma Epsilon (GSA)	Erika Elswick
Sociedad Geológica Mexicana, A.C. (GSA)	
Società Geologica Italiana (GSA)	
Society for American Archaeology (GSA)	
Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (GSA)	
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc. (AGI/GSA)	Harvey Thorleifson
The Society for Organic Petrology (AGI)	
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (GSA)	
Society of Economic Geologists (AGI/GSA)	
Society of Exploration Geophysicists (AGI/GSA)	Rhonda Jacobs
Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (AGI)	
Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (AGI)	
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (AGI/GSA)	
Soil Science Society of America (AGI/GSA)	S. Chapman, D. Lindo & C. Olson
U.S. Geological Survey (AGI)	
United States Permafrost Association (AGI)	
Western Interior Paleontological Society (GSA)	
YES Network (AGI)	

American Geosciences Institute Representatives

Executive Committee

Berry (Nick) H. Tew Jr., President; Eric M. Riggs, President Elect; Dorian E. Kuper, Secretary; Richard J. Lambert, Treasurer; K. Lee Avary, Member at Large; Jacqueline E. Huntoon, Member at Large; John G. Parrish, Member at Large; Sharon Mosher, Past President; Richard M. Powers, Chair of AGI Foundation; P. Patrick Leahy, AGI Executive Director; Scott Tinker, Incoming President Elect; Paul Bertsch, Incoming Member at Large

AGI Staff

Maeve A. Boland, Director of Geoscience Policy; Christopher M. Keane, Director of Technology and Communications; Edward C. Robeck, Director of Education and Outreach; Walter R. Sisson, Director of Finance and Administration; Sharon N. Tahirkheli, Director of Information Services; Heather R. Houlton, Workforce Specialist; Maureen Moses, Member Society Services Manager; Leigh Sutherland, Executive Assistant

Geological Society of America Representatives

Societies Liaison and GSA Past President	Suzanne Mahlburg Kay
GSA Staff	
Executive Director	Jack Hess
President	Harry Y. McSween Jr.
Director, Sections, Divisions & Associated Societies	Wesley Hill

MINUTES

AGI MEMBER SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 7, 2014

Lanier Grand Ballroom J, Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar Street, Houston, Texas

Synopsis

- For 2015 AGI officers, the Nominating Committee named Scott W. Tinker, Texas State Geologist, for President-Elect; William J. Siok, AIPG Executive Director, for Secretary; and Paul M. Bertsch, University of Kentucky, for Member-at-Large. Those present at the meeting approved but this will need to be followed up by a Member Society e-vote in order to become final as there was no quorum.
- The committee named the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for the 2014 William B. Heroy Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to AGI and David R. Wunsch, Delaware State Geologist, for the 2014 AGI Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of the Geosciences. Those present at the meeting approved but this will need to be followed up by a Member Society e-vote in order to become final as there was no quorum.
- The Ian Campbell nominating committee named James F. Davis, former California State Geology, for the 2014 award. Those present at the meeting approved but this will need to be followed up by a Member Society e-vote in order to become final as there was no quorum.
- A replacement for AGI's Director of Education and Outreach position should be on board by June 1 and will be announced once leave arrangements are completed with current employer.
- The AGI ad hoc classification committee completed its work and issued a report.
- The 2014 Earth Science Week theme is "Earth's Connected Systems" and will have a city focus of Denver with special local events.
- The Critical Issues Program will have one-day critical issue forum this fall.
- AGI is following up on the 2013 Leadership Forum topic Ethics in the Geosciences with a study committee that will develop a set of defining ethical values for the geosciences and what distinguishes the geosciences code versus other sciences.

Present

Member Society Council Representatives
American Association of Petroleum Geologists
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Professional Geologists
Clay Minerals Society
Geo-Institute of ASCE
Geological Society of America
Geological Society of London
Geoscience Information Society
National Association of Geoscience Teachers
National Association of State Boards of Geology
National Earth Science Teachers Association
SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)
Society of Exploration Geophysicists

(* indicates an Alternate)

Laura Zahm
Melanie Harrison
William Siok
Debora Berti
Roman Hryciw
Jack Hess *
Edmund Nickless
Jan Heagy
Bruce Herbert *
Darrel Schmitz
Patricia Reiff
Howard Harper
Steven H. Davis

The Society for Organic Petrology
Soil Science Society of America

Prasanta K. Mukhopadhyay
Larry Wilding *

AGI Executive Committee

President and Member Society Council Chair
President Elect
Past President
Secretary
Treasurer
Member at Large
Member at Large
AGI Foundation Chair

Berry H. (Nick) Tew, Jr.
Eric Riggs
Sharon Mosher
Dorian Kuper
Rick Lambert
Katherine Lee Avary
John Parrish
Richard M. Powers

AGI Staff

Assistant to the Executive Director
Director of Finance and Administration
Director of Geoscience Policy
Director of Information Services
Director of Communications and Technology
Executive Director

Leigh Sutherland
Walter R. Sisson
Maeve A. Boland
Sharon N. Tahirkheli
Christopher M. Keane
P. Patrick Leahy

Guests

Arizona Geological Survey
Society of Exploration Geophysicists
STEPPE – GSA

Lee Allison
Don Steeples
Dena Smith

1. **Call to Order**

Tew called meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

An addition to discuss STEPPE was made, and the agenda was subsequently approved.

3. **Approval of Joint AGI/GSA Societies Meeting Minutes**

There were no changes to the minutes of the October 28, 2013, meeting in Denver. It was moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. **2014 Nominations**

4.1 **Nominating Committee Report**

Mosher reported, for the AGI 2015 Officers, the committee named Scott W. Tinker, Texas State Geologist, for President-Elect; William J. Siok, AIPG Executive Director, for Secretary; and Paul M. Bertsch, University of Kentucky, for Member-at-Large. A motion was made to accept these candidates; the motion was seconded, and unanimously approved.

The committee named the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for the 2014 William B. Heroy Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to AGI and David R. Wunsch, Delaware State Geologist, for the 2014 AGI Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of the Geosciences. It was moved to accept these candidates; the motion was seconded, and unanimously approved.

Mosher explained that because there is no quorum at this meeting these nominations will need an e-vote from Member Societies before it can be finalized.

4.2 **Ian Campbell Report**

Leahy reported the committee named James F. Davis, former California State Geology, for the 2014 award. It was moved to support Jim Davis for the Ian Campbell medal. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Leahy also stated that because there is no quorum this will be followed by an e-vote to Member Societies before it is finalized.

4.3 **Call for 2015 Nominations**

Mosher stated, as chair of the 2015 Nominating Committee, she hopes to be overwhelmed with submitted nominations.

5. **Report of AGI Treasurer**

Lambert reported AGI finished last year with a \$92,000 surplus and that most of AGI's revenue is due to GeoRef royalties. Investments have been doing well. Currently there is \$3 million in the reserve fund and \$500,000 in the operating fund. It was moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as shown in the meeting handout.

6. **American Geosciences Institute Update**

Leahy reported AGI created a search committee for the Director of Education and Outreach position. The new Director should be on board by June 1 and will be announced once leave arrangements are completed with current employer.

The AGI ad hoc classification committee chaired by Wayne Pennington has completed its work and been disbanded. The subsequent report has been released; it does not have recommendations but rather observations.

New AGI products includes the 49th edition of the *Directory of Geoscience Departments*, a new *Travels in Geology* e-book, and, as of July 1, *EARTH* magazine becoming a monthly digital/bi-monthly print publication. AGI's *Geoscience Handbook* is almost depleted and rather than reprinting it will be revised with Rex Buchanan as editor.

The 2014 Earth Science Week theme is "Earth's Connected Systems." Last year's Earth Science Week had special Houston events and this year the focus will be on Denver with special local events. There was a handout to suggest partnership ideas. Harper asked the handout be emailed to him so that he can resend.

AGI will have an online teacher development course with the Illinois Institute of Technology and there will be scholarships for the 15 participants to pilot test the program.

STEPPE

Dena Smith was introduced as the Executive Director of STEPPE, which is a communication hub for paleontology. Smith said this is a new office designed to support sedimentary research. They are seeking additional members for their consortium. They also have graduate student internships. She asked that those present to spread the word about this new organization.

7. **EarthCube**

Allison explained that EarthCube is designed to be a collaboration among earth and atmospheric groups to create an interactive community. It is up to the geoscience community to decide what the new step is for EarthCube, which is trying to integrate software, big data, people, and hardware for a free sharing of data. The University of Arizona is part of the test enterprise governance project. Year One were stakeholder meetings to test ideas. They need to assemble all the feedback, in Year Two, to set up a governing body to determine how to deal with the standards that are out there. They want to establish a community backbone not a set of rigid standards and need Member Society involvement. They are now working to set up an advisory system. They have added social science evaluators and created a council for data facilities. The goal of EarthCube is to incubate into best practices that will be beneficial for the entire geoscience community.

8. **Center for Geoscience Education & Public Understanding**

Leahy gave a report on the status and goals of the Center. This year the Center will produce a K-5 status report to include state science standards, the scope of state and local standards, and a listing of state science supervisors. The database already lists 341 universities, 281 classrooms, 79 career resources, 24 virtual field trip and 28 teaching awards, and 33 presentations. The next project will be an Education Summit to be NSF-sponsored if the grant is approved that Member Societies will be asked to send representatives to. They will hold several teacher development workshops this summer.

AGI sent out a general survey to name critical issues to over 12,000 and received 890 usable responses with most responses from academics. While it may be updated to get more varied responses, some of the findings are that geoscientists consider geologic issues, such as climate change, water, energy, and natural hazards, as critical issues as contrasted with the non geoscientists who ranked economics and population growth as critical issues. The geoscience community needs to better sell geoscience ideas to the general public to produce a shift in their definition of critical issues. The next steps for the Center are to implement components, improve content, develop stakeholders and partners to evaluate products, and identify metrics and measures. This report is available on the web.

9. **Critical Issues Programs**

Boland reported the Program started on October 1, 2013, with the hiring of the first staff member. It is currently a three-person operation. The ultimate goal is to create an extension service for the geosciences. They are working to have the Center database connect with EarthCube. They are also developing fact sheets that can be tailored to the user. A one-day critical issue forum is planned for this fall. The primary audience would be geoscientists and a detailed topic and format are still to be decided by the steering committee.

10. **Open Access Update**

Tahirkheli reported the August deadline for draft Open Access plans by federal agencies passed quietly. Publishers have put pressure on the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to announce the draft policies. The two more common

standards are gold and green open access. Gold is immediate and requires payment. OSTP will likely take a green approach, which is that the document will become open access after an embargo period and to be self archived by authors/institutions in open repositories. Embargo periods can vary; the National Institute of Health uses 12 months and OSTP may follow that. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 outlined the requirements for some, but not all, federal agencies for open access to publications. Publishers have responded to OSTP by establishing CHORUS. CHORUS is a clearinghouse for U.S. open research documents and is a public-private partnership developed by publishers to provide a full solution to federal open access requirements. It has more than 100 participating publishers in the initial pilot. There is also a competitor to CHORUS named SHARE. Nickless said data should be freely available but not necessarily free of charge. Open access is not new and can trace its roots to the 1940s. He mentioned that the UK's Research Council policy is an embargo of six months. The Geological Society of London open access policy was approved by its council in 2013 and is posted but has not been widely taken up. The UK government has provided additional funds to cover costs of open access publishing. Funds ramp up over time but at the maximum will only cover about 70-80% of the publishable research output. The discussion moved to the establishment of data repositories but there is no central one. The Higher Education Funding Council for England expects all submitted articles must be easily discoverable, i.e., deposited in an industry or subject repository.

11. **Ethics in the Geosciences**

Boland reported that the 2013 AGI Leadership Forum focused on ethics in the geosciences. A Consensus Statement was produced that 27 Member Societies have signed. Several these societies are still in the process of nominating members to a committee to develop a Common Code of Ethics. The plan is for the committee to review, and if necessary revise, AGI's Guidelines for Ethical Professional Conduct.

12. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting date was announced as October 20, 2014, in Vancouver, British Columbia, in conjunction with GSA 2014.

13. **Wrap up and Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Dorian Kuper
AGI Secretary

P. Patrick Leahy
AGI Executive Director

CALL FOR 2015 NOMINATIONS

AGI OFFICERS AND AWARDS

Each year AGI sends out a call to its Member Societies for nominations for AGI Officers and Awards. Nominees will be reviewed and screened by the AGI Nominating Committees and passed on to the AGI Executive Committee and Member Society Council for final approval at the May 31 and June 1, 2015, meetings in Denver, Colorado. The nature and criteria for selection of candidates to be considered for officers and awards is outlined below. **The deadline for submitting nomination forms and supporting bio/backup material on candidates to AGI is February 1, 2015.** Nomination forms are available on the AGI web site to download. While nominations are requested from Member Society Representatives, nominations can be made by individual members of any Member Society. Nominations can also be submitted online at: <www.americangeosciences.org/awards> and clicking on "Call for Nominations" near the bottom of the page.

AGI is seeking nominations for the following Executive Committee positions and awards:

AGI 2016 Executive Committee Positions

President Elect	(3-years –President Elect, President, and Past President)
Treasurer	(2-year commitment)
Member at Large	(3-year commitment)

AGI 2015 Awards

Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell for Superlative Service to the Geosciences

The Ian Campbell Medal is given in recognition of singular performance in and contribution to the profession of geology. Candidates are measured against the distinguished career of Ian Campbell, whose service to the profession touched virtually every facet of the geosciences. Campbell was a most uncommon man of remarkable accomplishment and widespread influence. In his career as a geologist, educator, administrator, and public servant, he was noted for his candor and integrity.

Marcus Milling Legendary Geoscientist Medal

This is given in recognition of (1) consistent contributions of high-quality scientific achievements and service to the Earth sciences having lasting, historic value, (2) recognized previously for accomplishments in field(s) of expertise by professional societies, universities, or other organizations, (3) senior scientist nearing completion or has completed full-time "regular" employment, and (4) living at time of selection and expected to personally accept the award. This award was established in 1999 as the Legendary Geoscientist Award but renamed in 2007 to honor past AGI Executive Director.

Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of the Geosciences

This award is given for a contribution or contributions that lead to greater public appreciation and better understanding of the role of geosciences in the affairs of our society. It will normally be given to one recipient per year. The award is presented to a person, organization, or institution in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the public understanding of geology. The contribution may be in geoscience as a science or as it relates to economic or environmental aspects of modern civilization. The award may be given to a geoscientist or non-geoscientist, or to an organization or an institution that is geoscience or non-geoscience in character. This award was renamed from "AGI Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of Geology" in 1999.

Consensus Draft October 2, 2014 For Distribution to AGI Member Societies

American Geosciences Institute Guidelines for Ethical Professional Conduct

Geoscientists play a critical role in ethical decision-making about stewardship of Earth, the use of its resources, and the interactions between humankind and the planet on which we live. The public must trust and have confidence in the work of individual geoscientists and the geosciences as a profession. The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) expects those in the profession to adhere to the highest ethical standards in all professional activities.

Geoscientists should engage responsibly in the conduct and reporting of their work, acknowledging the uncertainties and limits of current understanding inherent in studies of natural systems. Geoscientists should respect the work of colleagues and those who use and rely upon the products of their work.

In day-to-day activities geoscientists should:

- Be honest.
- Act responsibly and with integrity, acknowledge limitations to knowledge and understanding, and be accountable for their errors.
- Present professional work and reports without falsification or fabrication of data, misleading statements, or omission of relevant facts.
- Separate facts/observations from interpretations.
- Accurately cite authorship, acknowledge the contributions of others, and not engage in plagiarism.
- Acknowledge and act on real or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Continue professional development and growth.
- Encourage and assist in the development of a diverse and inclusive workforce.
- Treat colleagues, students, employees, and the public with respect.
- Keep privileged information confidential, except when doing so constitutes a threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

As a member of a professional and scientific community, geoscientists should:

- Promote greater understanding of the geosciences by other technical groups, students, the general public, news media, and policy makers through effective communication and education.
- Acknowledge the complexities and uncertainties of Earth systems.
- Use their technical knowledge and skills to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and enhance sustainability of society.
- Inform the public about natural resources, hazards, and other geologic phenomena, clearly, accurately, and responsibly.
- Advocate responsible stewardship of the planet through an improved understanding and interpretation of Earth systems, and by communicating real and potential implications of human actions.

Executive Director's Report

P. Patrick Leahy

AGI is very pleased to report that on June 1, Dr. Ed Robeck became Director of Education and Outreach as well as Director of the Center for Geosciences Education and Public Understanding. Needless to say this has been a very busy transition for Ed over the past 4 months. In addition, Dr. Andrey N. Gidasov will begin with AGI on November 1 as its first Director of Development. The position will support the fundraising activities of both the Institute and its Foundation. The need for this position has been clear for some time because for the geosciences to be successful our fundraising activities must engage more effectively a broader range of the stakeholder community who are dependent on the geosciences.

AGI has closed the fiscal year with a modest surplus of funding. It has also added the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) as an International Associate. At the request of the International Union of Geophysics and Geodesy (IUGG), AGI has applied to become an affiliate of IUGG.

In August, the investment portfolio increased in value by over \$82,000 and is up over \$218,000 in 2014. AGI's Finance Committee added two new members, Dr. Harvey Thorliefson and Ms. Dorian Kuper. As routine due diligence, AGI has changed auditors; and Calibre Inc. will provide audit support for AGI in 2015. AGI has also instituted the use of consistent guidelines for branding of AGI materials which will enhance the recognition of AGI among stakeholders.

Center for Geoscience Education and Public Understanding Activities

The Center for Geoscience Education and Public Understanding web site is running smoothly, with updates and upgrades being added regularly.

AGI is advertising for the second AGI/Schlumberger Fellow in Geoscience Communication and hopes to have a candidate selected to begin in early 2015. The Critical Issues Website is growing rapidly. It has been beta tested and modified and is now in its second round of beta testing. Reactions to the website have been overwhelmingly positive with most modifications highlighting the ease of searching, etc. It will be widely released this winter.

The first Critical Issues Forum will be held this November 19-20 in Ft. Worth, Texas. Several Member Societies are providing sponsorship. The forum is entitled "America's Increasing Reliance on Natural Gas: Benefits and Risks of a Methane Economy." The forum will attempt to gain insights on two important questions: (1) Is a natural gas-dominant economy achievable in North America? (2) Would a natural gas-dominant economy be desirable? AGI, through its steering committee, has put together an exciting program, and we hope to have participants representing a broad array of stakeholders.

The Center is undertaking several new projects. For example, it received NSF funding to conduct a summit meeting on the influence of the Next Generation Science Standards on geosciences education in the spring of 2015, and has initiated a report on the status of K-5 geosciences education—the first report of its kind for these critical early grades.

Education and Outreach Activities

AGI's Education and Outreach projects continue to be effective. Our 17th Earth Science Week (ESW) was October 12-18, with the theme of "Earth's Connected Systems." This year we continued the city-wide ESW celebration in Houston (second year) and added Denver. These city-wide celebrations enhance the local relevance of ESW while providing an active role for our strong local partners. We will add one or more cities in 2015. "Geologic Mapping Day" is in its third year as part of ESW, involving several partners (USGS, AASG, GSA, NASA, and NPS). AGI also takes an active role in the student mapping award presented at GSA annually.

The search committee for a new editor for the AGI/NAGT Physical Geology Laboratory Manual was organized in partnership with NAGT. The committee received several applications from candidates, and steps are underway for a new editor to be named in early 2015. Other publishing projects are making progress, too.

AGI successfully provided a college credit on-line course on Earth and space science for teachers during the summer. Through a grant from AAPG, we gave scholarships to the participating teachers. AGI will offer the course again in the spring 2015. In addition, during the summer AGI conducted three professional development academies for teachers with support from NASA and corporate grants. These academies will continue in 2015.

Environmental Affairs Activities

With the publication of the Remote Sensing Booklet, AGI and the Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee chair have agreed that it is time to reenvision the work to broaden the scope of activities, increase the impact of products, and engage the Member Societies more in the effort. A planning meeting will take place at the AGU meeting in December with the goal of designing the program for the future.

Geoscience Policy Activities

Joseph Majkut, the current Fisher Congressional Geoscience Fellow, graduated from Princeton and works in the office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Our AGI/AIPG summer interns were Eliana Perlmutter, Smith College; Zack Schagrín, West Chester University; and Lily Strelích, who just graduated from Occidental College.

AGI, in collaboration with eight other geoscience organizations, has been playing a leading role in organizing the Geoscience-Energy Briefing Series for Congressional staff. Six briefings were held over the past year and, because of the positive response, a new series is planned for 2015. AGI also collaborated in organizing the Hazards Caucus Alliance briefings and Geo-Congressional Visits Day.

AGI has completed a draft of Guidelines for Ethical Professional Conduct. The committee working on this has done an excellent job following up on the Leadership Forum of 2013. The Guidelines will be discussed at the Joint AGI/GSA Member Society Meeting at GSA in Vancouver.

Information Services Activities

The Information Services Department continues to focus on the expansion of GeoRef and the maintenance of ancillary databases. Through September, GeoRef staff had examined and added 79,000 new publication references to the file. The topics covered in new publications have gradually shifted over time with Hydrogeology and Environmental Studies becoming the topic of more than 15% of all new materials. Surficial and Quaternary Studies run a close second with Economic Geology a strong third. Traditional Mineralogy and Extraterrestrial Studies have declined in absolute numbers to fewer than 2,000 new references each year.

A recent agreement with Versitas resulted in receipt of metadata for 53,000 references to European publications. Staff are identifying and comparing the data to existing GeoRef materials. Some Versitas data stems from European publications produced in the late 1800's and recently made available through Open Access initiatives; others are new to GeoRef and range from geotourism to applied geodesy.

GeoRef continues to expand its coverage of Open Access Series. A list of actively-covered series is on our website and is one of Information Services most frequently visited web pages. There are currently 210 Open Access Series listed on the website at <http://www.americangeosciences.org/georef/open-access-journalsseries>.

In early October, Information Services staff coordinated an online discussion meeting for AGI's Member Societies providing an update on the Google Book Settlement and covering questions surrounding Copyright Issues and University Repositories.

Technology, Communication and Workforce Activities

The new AGI website/domain has been released and modifications are already being planned based on input AGI has received from users. The AGI domain name has changed to americangeosciences.org. AGI was recently awarded a grant from the European Commission. AGI is part of a broader consortium of geoscience organizations from Europe to investigate workforce issues in the minerals sector. This is the first grant we have received from governments outside the United States and speaks to our increasing global reach. EARTH magazine aggressively moved to digital access for subscribers while keeping a bi-monthly print subscription. This change was implemented with limited upheaval and seems to have been embraced by many.

AGI conducted, along with International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD), its 2014 Leadership Forum. The forum explored challenges and opportunities the geosciences face in engaging individuals with disabilities more effectively in the geosciences. A draft statement relative to this topic will be available soon.

AGI is advertising the 2015 Harriet Wallace Scholarship at the GSA meeting. Interest in this scholarship program has been significant and we expect 2015 will provide outstanding candidates. The "I'm a Geoscientist" campaign has been a strong success with both Member Societies and individuals requesting pins. Pins will be available at the AGI Booth during GSA. Additionally, AGI is working on the next edition of *The Geoscience Handbook*, expected to be released in early 2015. AGI will again be partnering with GSA on the student networking lunch at GSA in Vancouver. Thanks to member societies that are co-sponsors of the event.