

NAGT-GER Division Annual Report

Report to the NAGT Executive Committee
Geoscience Education Research Division
August 15, 2019

Current Division Officers

Past President: Karen McNeal
President: Katherine Ryker
Vice President: Kelsey Bitting
Anne Gold: Treasurer
Leilani Arthurs: Secretary
Emily Ward: Media Director

Division Officer terms beginning at GSA in September 2019

Past President: Katherine Ryker (1-year term)
President: Kelsey Bitting (1-year term)
Vice President: Emily Ward (1-year term)
Treasurer: Cory Forbes (3-year term)
Graduate Student Liaison: Bailey Zo Kreager (2-year term)
Media Director: TBD (1st year; term length not specified in by-laws)

The division is wrapping up its fifth year and has spent the year continuing to build community, promote GER, develop resources, and provide networking and communication opportunities.

Professional Meetings

At the 2018 Earth Educators' Rendezvous (Lawrence, KS), the Division hosted a networking event with coffee and bagels on Tuesday morning before the Advancing Transdisciplinary Dialogue in Geoscience Education Research workshop. This event allowed us to share division news and strengthen networks between existing and potential NAGT members of our Division. At this event, we promoted the benefits we provide our memberships. We also partnered with the Geo2YC division to host an off-site, social networking event for division members and friends on the Wednesday evening of the Rendezvous. Approximately 75 EER attendees attended this event.

Based on that success, we worked with both Geo2YC and TED to co-sponsor and host another off-site, social networking event during the 2019 EER (Nashville, TN). This event was open to all Rendezvous participants and again, approximately 75 people participated, including faculty, students and K-12 teachers representing all three divisions.

Finally, in the absence of a 3-day workshop specifically targeted to GER members, we organized a "research writing retreat" working group, led by Peggy McNeal (Towson University). 14

people participated and worked on a variety of tasks, from manuscript revisions to proposals to dissertation chapters to conference abstracts.

Since our last division report, the GER Division officers have chaired two sessions at the 2017 and 2018 Annual Fall Meetings of GSA, and proposed a third that has been accepted for the 2019 meeting. All three sessions received more abstracts than could be accepted to both an oral and poster session. Oral presentations are well received, with 40-75 attendees at each talk. The 2017 and 2019 sessions revolve around GER Methods and Theoretical Frameworks; the 2017 session was described by an external-to-GER DBER representative as “the most research rigorous DBER session” they had attended. The 2018 session was sponsored to highlight “implications for undergraduate geoscience teaching and learning” for GER, in response to the Community Framework for GER.

In an effort to disseminate information about methods and theoretical frameworks widely, we have shared the schedule for these, along with the presenter’s public contact information and the slides if the presenter chooses to share them on our website here:

<https://nagt.org/nagt/divisions/geoed/methods>. At each of our sessions, we invite three speakers, with one or two people selected from the broader disciplinary-based education research community. The invited speakers for 2018 were Doug Lombardi (Temple University), Cissy Ballen (Auburn University) and Emily Ward (Rocky Mountain College). The invited speakers for 2017 were Erin Dolan (University of Georgia), Nicole LaDue (Northern Illinois University) and David McConnell (North Carolina State University).

The Division has also sponsored three additional 2018 GSA sessions on integrating active learning strategies into college-level geoscience classrooms, going “beyond the road-cut” (virtual, local and non-traditional field teaching and learning experiences), and improving climate science literacy.

As in past meetings at GSA, the three divisions (GER, TED, and Geo2YC) coordinated our schedules for 2018 and 2019 so that our meeting times did not overlap and people belonging to multiple communities could attend multiple business meetings.

Communications

External

We continue to send out our Newsletter (the GER Exchange) to our 328 (as of 8/1/19) members on a monthly basis from September – December and February – April. Each newsletter includes job and funding opportunities, highlights a research article, promotes relevant webinars or other professional development opportunities, and advertises for any sponsored sessions or events. We have continued our “Spotlight” feature to highlight the type of work done by various researchers in the community, including recent profiles of Drs. Steven Semken, Caitlin Callahan and Julie Sexton. To view past newsletters, visit the archive at <https://nagt.org/nagt/divisions/geoed/archive>. A full list of “Spotlights” can be found at <https://nagt.org/nagt/divisions/geoed/spotlight>.

In collaboration with NAGT, we developed a more formalized events and sessions sponsorship request policy and process for events and sessions, outlined at https://nagt.org/nagt/about/ger_sponsorship_policy.html. This has been streamlined so that NAGT members use the same form to request sponsorship from both NAGT and GER. We anticipate that this same process could be utilized by other divisions and sections.

Finally, in October 2018 we received our first division swag: a dark blue re-usable bag with our division logo and name in silver. We began sharing them with members at GSA and AGU in 2018 and EER in 2019.

Internal

In 2018, we established two new spaces to aid in internal communication: an archive and annual calendar. The goal of both these systems is to prevent the loss of institutional memory as board members finish their terms. The archive includes annual and financial reports, annual business meeting agendas, e-mail templates, logos, session proposals, flyers and surveys. The annual calendar is organized by officer and category. These categories including meetings and sponsorship timeframes, newsletter, elections and NAGT, awards, and finances. The calendar reflects official obligations represented in the by-laws, as well as the more pragmatic deadlines that facilitate those obligations. For example, the Past President is reminded to begin identifying appropriate award committee members in January; the Treasurer (who also serves as Conference Liaison) initiates conversations with NAGT about coordinating business meetings at GSA in February. We will continue to update and adapt this calendar as duties shift and/or more details about a task are available.

Awards

Thanks to the leadership of Nicole LaDue, we were able to establish two GER Division Awards in 2018. The Transformation Award honors “colleagues who have made significant contributions to the development of and capacity for geoscience education research.” In 2018, this award was presented to Julie Libarkin (Michigan State University). The Collaboration Award honors non-GER colleagues who have “infused the GER community with new approaches to GER.” In 2018, this award was presented to Tim Shipley (Temple University). Awardees receive Division membership for a year, and are recognized at the NAGT luncheon at GSA.

Finances

As established in 2018, the GER division account is nested under the NAGT main account. The treasurer submits expenses to the NAGT executive office for payment. The division has an account balance of \$7,252.26 (August 13, 2019) with a pending expense from the EER of \$245.20. Please see our financial report for details on annual expenditures.

Webinars

This coming year, we hope to continue building community and resources within our Division. We plan to address our membership’s desires for additional professional development in research

methodologies by working on the webinar series we began in Fall 2017. In April 2018, we hosted a discussion from five panelists on Careers in Academia: Options with Your GER Background.

By-laws Revision

We successfully revised our by-laws in 2018; these went into effect on February 4, 2019. These revisions added two new positions (Media Director and Graduate Student Liaison), eliminated the Conference Committee, clarified the role of the Communications Committee, and added or removed existing duties to other positions in alignment with practice.

Concluding Thoughts and a Welcome

After five years of service, I am incredibly proud of how this division has grown since its founding in 2014. We have had a steady string of very capable leaders, each of whom has made a positive and unique impact on the division at large. This is evidenced by all manners of things from establishing two GER Awards, chairing multiple well-respected sessions, collaborating with other NAGT divisions and external organizations (e.g. AGU/AGI, AMS), organizing business and social networking events, and beginning a fledgling webinar series. I am continually impressed by this community, thankful for the trust that they have placed in us as leaders, and look forward to welcoming our new division officers in September 2019 as I transition to my final year on the board as Past President. I extend a special thanks to Karen McNeal and Anne Gold, who finish their current terms this year, to Kelsey Bitting, Leilani Arthurs, and Emily Ward for their continued service, and to Anne Egger for her thoughtful guidance in communicating with the broader NAGT leadership. I'd also like to offer a warm welcome to our new board members, Cory Forbes and Bailey Zo Kreager.

The Division leadership looks forward to continued growth as a community of practice!

Katherine Ryker, on behalf of the 2018-2019 NAGT-GER Division Executive Board:

President Katherine Ryker, University of South Carolina
Past President Karen McNeal, Auburn University
Vice President Kelsey Bitting, Northeastern University
Treasurer Anne Gold, University of Colorado-Boulder
Secretary Leilani Arthurs, University of Colorado-Boulder
Media Director Emily Ward, Rocky Mountain College