

NAGT Annual Report
Fall 2020
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President, 2019-2020
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NAGT Executive Committee work:

As President I was responsible for organizing and running all Executive Committee (ExComm) meetings, and therefore, I was in attendance at all of them (10 total). Several calls with the Presidential Line and/or the Executive Director helped to prepare for ExComm meetings. Notably, our usual Spring “Face-to-Face” two day meeting was held virtually this year, and we still managed to get a lot of work done and have a good time.

Important work accomplished by the ExComm this year includes the hiring of Executive Director Anne Egger, successful searches for new editors for both the *Journal of Geoscience Education* and *In the Trenches*, the formation of a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee (replacing a similar ad hoc committee), adopting an Ethics Policy and procedures for addressing reported violations of that policy, and providing guidance to transition the Earth Educators’ Rendezvous (EER) to a virtual meeting rather than in-person. While all of these activities are important, I am especially happy to report the success of the 2020 EER and the work that everyone involved was able to do in a short amount of time. Hosting a virtual EER was not without risk, but attendance at the meeting was high, and we provided resources for the community at a time when there was a lot of uncertainty about what teaching would look like in the Fall. I believe this meeting served our community well and showcased the importance of NAGT to the broader geoscience community.

As part of the EER, Anne, Egger, Jennifer Wenner and I led a three-day workshop on [“Teaching your upper-level course online: A community collaboration to build robust online geosciences courses.”](#) More than 65 participants were organized by course topics to develop and identify learning outcomes that might be challenging to address in an online or hybrid course structure, and to identify and design activities and assessments. The workshop evaluations were positive, with many participants expressing thanks for offering the workshop. Anne, Jen, and I hosted several drop-in virtual sessions for workshop participants to get additional feedback and support in developing their Fall courses.

In early October, Anne Egger and I led a webinar on [“Tools and strategies for finding programmatic strengths and weaknesses”](#) for the AGI/AGU Heads and Chairs webinar series. We had approximately 65 participants, and the slides and recording of the webinar will continue to serve as a resource to the community.

In November of 2019, Jen Wenner and I worked with SERC to host a [Geoscience Education Infrastructure Planning Meeting](#) at Carleton College. Based on the priorities developed by workshop participants, SERC submitted a proposal to NSF (RAISE). The proposal was funded and one aspect of the work will improve discoverability of NAGT web pages including Teach the Earth.

I have been serving as the NAGT representative on the NSF-funded [Bridging to STEM Excellence](#) project led by Rick Moog from the POGIL project. The project created a consortium of organizations that provide professional development (POGIL, BioQuest, NAGT, National Center for Science and Civic Engagement, and the Summer Institutes for Scientific Teaching) to pilot a consultancy program. Five pilot institutions identified challenges, and the BTSE project

provided 3-person teams of PD providers to lead consultancy visits to each campus and provide recommendations for professional development. I led a team of three consultants (myself and representatives from NCSCE and BioQuest) to Bakersfield College in California in March, 2020 and co-authored a report based on findings from that visit to provide suggestions to the institution for improving student success in math courses. Dallas Rhodes and David Gosselin are also NAGT consultants for this project and worked with other consultancy leaders to visit other pilot institutions.

NAGT Council work:

I attended all Council meetings (January, May, October, 2020).

NAGT Committee work:

I serve as a member of the Professional Development Planning Committee and attended meetings in September and October of 2019, and January, and March of 2020. The PD committee oversees all professional development activities for NAGT. Highlights from the past year's work include collaborating to submit a proposal to NSF to continue funding the On the Cutting Edge Early Career Workshops, the successful continuation of regular webinars, and transitioning Travelling Workshop Programs and the 2020 EER to happen virtually.

I am a workshop leader for the Travelling Workshops Program (TWP), but did not lead any workshops during this reporting period.

I served as the chair of the Neil Miner Award Committee. The committee solicited nominations and selected an award recipient (see separate committee report).

Liaison activity:

I became the liaison to the Geo2YC Division in Spring 2020 to replace Joshua Villalobos who resigned from the role. I attended Geo2YC officers meetings in April and August, 2020.

Conference/meeting participation:

I attended the 2020 Earth Educators' Rendezvous (virtual, July 2020), and co-led a three-day workshop (see activities above).

Other activities relevant to NAGT:

I continue to work as part of the leadership team for the On the Cutting Edge Classroom Observation project. We submitted a manuscript to the International Journal of STEM Education on the impacts of teaching with InTeGrate on reformed teaching practices that should be published shortly (R. Teasdale is lead author).

At my own institution (Boise State University), I serve as the concurrent enrollment liaison for the Department of Geosciences and interact with local high school instructors who are teaching sections of GEOL 101 Physical Geology in high schools Boise State credit. I also serve as a member of the Department of Geosciences Undergraduate Program Committee.

I am the PI on an NSF S-STEM grant that awards scholarships to BS Geoscience students at Boise State. As part of the project activities, I developed a new course, GEOS 397 Career Exploration and Planning in the Geosciences that I am teaching for the second time in Fall 2020.

Along with three co-instructors, I am facilitating a one-credit Race and Racism in the Earth and Environmental Sciences readings seminar for undergraduate and graduate students in the geosciences, biology, and human and environmental systems communities. While none of the facilitators are experts in this field, we are learning a lot and having great discussions with the 15 enrolled students.

Lastly, I participated in a three week online class about “Flexible Teaching” through Boise State. This summer institute was designed to help faculty prepare for teaching online, remote, or hybrid courses in Fall 2020 (or to prepare to transition easily to such teaching should in-person classes be canceled). I used this opportunity to redesign a course I regularly teach for first-semester graduate students in the Department of Geosciences, adding units on time management and wellness, professional behavior, and career planning.

Upcoming Activities

I will attend the GSA 2020 Connects Online virtual meeting in October, 2020, including attending NAGT ExComm, Council, and Division meetings. In place of the annual awards luncheon, I recorded several flipgrid videos that will be part of our virtual awardee recognition.

Goals from last report and goals for next reporting period:

The goal stated in my mid-year report was to work with NAGT Executive Director Anne Egger and SERC staff to seek funding for administration of the National Geoscience Faculty Survey. We are making progress toward this goal, with a proposal planned for submission in December 2020; this is also a goal for the next reporting period. A second goal for the next reporting period is to continue working with the Presidential Line to support the work of the Executive Committee.