



NAGT-USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program



Soon to enter its fifth decade, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)-U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Cooperative Summer Field Training Program is the longest continuously running internship program in the earth sciences. Over the past forty-five years, more than 2000 students have participated in this program with an impressive number of these individuals becoming full-time employees of the USGS.

The cooperative program was launched at the Geological Society of America meeting in Kansas City in early fall of 1965 when William “Bill” Pecora, then the newly appointed Director of the USGS, held a meeting with a small group of distinguished professors and officers of the NAGT. Pecora felt strongly that the USGS needed to be more engaged in geological education. He wanted to get the professors’ reactions to an initiative that would provide better linkage to academia while providing better summer field assistants for the USGS. Pecora suggested that the USGS would provide support by way of internships for outstanding undergraduate geosciences majors, while NAGT would advertise the program to faculty and students, and solicit outstanding student nominations from the directors of the nation’s geosciences field camps. (Field camp is a tradition in the education of a geoscientist. It is an

intensive course that applies classroom and laboratory training to solving field-based geoscience problems.) Needless to say, ‘Pecora’s Plan,’ as it became known, met with instant approval.

Although some modifications have been made over the years, the NAGT-USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program operates today much as it did from the beginning. With active participation from the highest levels of both organizations (including the Director of the USGS), a joint committee oversees the program. The program “year” begins in September with all field camp directors being provided information about the program and the opportunity to nominate up to three students, based on total camp enrollment. Nominated students apply by sending a resume, letter of interest, and transcripts to the USGS Education Office. At the same time, USGS scientists interested in working with an intern send information about proposed field, laboratory, or office-related scientific projects to the Education Office. Candidates are then matched by their course work, skill and interest with up to five projects. The listing of candidates and accompanying academic information are sent to USGS scientists for review, interviews, selection or possible further discussion. The USGS scientist with whom the intern will work makes the final intern selection. As interdisciplinary system science is a cornerstone of USGS science, all science disciplines are encouraged, and do take advantage of this program. Students hired through this program have continually received outstanding reviews from our managers.

Over the years, NAGT has succeeded in identifying top-flight students for the program, and the USGS has succeeded in garnering the interest of competent and enthusiastic supervising mentors. The NAGT-USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program continues Pecora’s vision of greater educational involvement and provides a first rate professional experience to students early in their careers. It is a wonderful partnership that influences the career paths of future scientists in positive and exciting ways.

NAGT/USGS 2010 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Intern: Christine Barszewski
College: Grand Valley State University
Mentor: Brady Allen
Location: Cook, Washington
Project: Rock Creek Fish Population and Life History Assessment

Intern: Kaleb Boucher
College: University of Maine
Mentor: Seth Moran
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Seismic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes

Intern: Amy Brown
College: Sul Ross State University
Mentor: Andrea Foster
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Spectroscopic Investigations of Arsenic Speciation and Bioavailability

Intern: Timothy Brown
College: University of Houston
Mentor: Shaul Hurwitz
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Quantifying the Fluxes of Heat and CO₂ at the Yellowstone Caldera

Intern: Matthew Cochrane
College: California State University
Mentor: Jonathan Glen and David Ponce
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geophysical Investigations Related to Earthquake Hazards and Geothermal, Mineral, and Water Resources in Western U.S.

Intern: Joseph Cukjati
College: University of Houston
Mentor: Joseph Breen
Location: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical Processes Relating to Resource Extraction and Aquatic Health

Intern: Mary Davis
College: State University of New York at Binghamton
Mentor: Dean Anderson and Edwin Weeks
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Greenhouse Gas Exchanges, Energy, and Evapotranspiration over Subalpine Forest and Urban Ecosystems

Intern: Christine Doman
College: University of Michigan
Mentor: Stephen Corn
Location: Glacier National Park, Montana
Project: Amphibian Monitoring and Research in Glacier National Park

Intern: Monica Erdman
College: University of California at Santa Barbara
Mentor: William Menzie
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Mineral Commodity Industry Reports on a State-by-State Basis

Intern: Amy Erschberger
College: University of California at Santa Barbara
Mentor: Erin Boydston
Location: Thousand Oaks, California
Project: Effects of Urban Development and Habitat Fragmentation on the Ecology and Conservation of Mammalian Carnivores

Intern: Lucian Farmer
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: Lisa Stillings
Location: Reno, Nevada
Project: The Distribution of Metals in Mineralized Landscapes

Intern: Alex Ferguson
College: Idaho State University
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Field and Office Studies of Intraplate Seismicity

Intern: Max Gardner
College: Wesleyan University
Mentor: Shane Detweiler
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Fault Zone Studies in California and China

Intern: Katrina Garman
College: Colgate University
Mentor: Joseph Walder
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Experimental Studies of Hazardous Hydrological Processes on Volcanoes

Intern: Ian Hamilton
College: University of Texas at Arlington
Mentor: Kevin Breen
Location: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical Processes Relating to Resource Extraction and Aquatic Health



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Intern: Sara Henry
College: California State University
Mentor: Dennis LeBlanc
Location: Northborough, Massachusetts
Project: Cape Cod Toxic Substances Hydrology Field Research

Intern: Ian Hoyer
College: Whitman College
Mentor: Andrew Schroth and John Crusius
Location: Anchorage, Alaska
Project: Influence of Catchment Geology and Varying Degree of Cover on the Form, Flux and Concentration of Alaska Nutrients in Cooper River Watershed

Intern: Patrick Kelly
College: Colorado State University
Mentor: Cliff Hupp
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Vegetation and Hydrogeomorphic Relations

Intern: Jamie Margaret Kern
College: Montana State University
Mentor: Michael Lisowski
Location: Yellowstone, Cascade Range Volcanoes
Project: Geodetic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes and Yellowstone

Intern: Bradley King
College: Illinois State University
Mentor: Anthony Crone and Robert Williams
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Geological and geophysical Investigations of Hazardous Faults; Data for Earthquake Hazard Assessments

Intern: Tory Anne Klettke
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Shaul Hurwitz
Location: Menlo Park, California and Yellowstone
Project: Quantifying Fluxes of Heat and CO₂ at the Yellowstone Caldera

Intern: Franklin Koch
College: Washington University
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied Hydrogeophysics Research

Intern: William Lukens
College: Temple University
Mentor: Laurel Larson
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: High-Flow Events in Suburban Streams; Physical Nature and Ecological Repercussions of Disturbance

Intern: Alexander Lusk
College: University of Washington
Mentor: Byron Stone and Kevin Kincare
Location: Michigan; New York; Massachusetts
Project: Quarternary Investigations and Data Collection for Patterns of Sedimentation in Glacial and Proglacial Environments



Intern: Joseph Mangano
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Jim O'Connor
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Gravel-bed River Studies, and Quarternary Mapping Geomorphology Studies along the Columbia River

Intern: Jonathan Moen
College: Middlebury College
Mentor: John Nimmo
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Investigation of Newly Discovered Processes Related to Unsaturated Zone Flow

Intern: Stanley Mordensky
College: George Washington University
Mentor: Scott Southworth
Location: Appalachian Blue Ridge, Virginia and North Carolina
Project: Mount Rogers Region Geologic Map and Research

Intern: Joe Mulvaney-Norris
College: Southern Illinois University
Mentor: John Jorgenson
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Rare Earth Element Reserves and Resources in North America

Intern: ody Munday
College: Western Kentucky University
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied Hydrophysics Research

Intern: Joanna Panosky
College: University of Rhode Island
Mentor: William Schultz
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Field Characterization and Instrumentation of Active Landslides Located in Southwestern Colorado and Along the Central Coast of Oregon

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Intern: Caldwell Payne
College: Southern Illinois University
Mentor: George Breit
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Origin of Amagmatic Gold Deposits in Northwestern Nevada

Intern: Ryan Quinn
College: University of Illinois
Mentor: Noel Hurley
Location: Columbia, South Carolina
Project: Multidisciplinary Assessment of Water resources at Army and Department of Transportation Facilities

Intern: Elizabeth Rose
College: University of California
Mentor: Gary Fuis
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: The Salton Seismic-Imaging Project: Preparations for a Major Active-Source Seismic Survey

Intern: Katherine Rouse
College: Whitman College
Mentor: Geneva Chong
Location: Southern Greater Yellowstone Area and Southwest Wyoming
Project: Quantifying Landscape Change Impacts on Habitat Characteristics

Intern: Kyle Samperton
College: University of North Carolina
Mentor: Nancy Simon
Location: Klamath Falls, Oregon
Project: Field Studies of Phosphorus Cycling Related to Sediment Processes in Eutrophic Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon

Intern: Gustav Seixas
College: Wesleyan University
Mentor: L. Sue Beard
Location: Northwest Arizona and Southeast Nevada
Project: Geologic Mapping and Structural Analysis of Black Canyon Hot Springs

Intern: Brett Shurtleff
College: Central Washington University
Mentor: William Schultz
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Field Characterization and Instrumentation of Active Landslides Located in Southwestern Colorado and along the Central Coast of Oregon

Intern: Luke Smith
College: University of Houston
Mentor: Gerard Butch
Location: Troy, New York
Project: Surface-Water and Ground-Water Networks

Intern: Julia Spencer
College: Whitman College
Mentor: Jill Baron
Location: Alpine and Glacial Reaches of the Rocky Mountains
Project: Comparison of Microbial Activity in Headwater Basins Undergoing Rapid Change from Climate Change and Atmospheric N Deposition

Intern: Marin Troutman
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Joan Gomberg
Location: Seattle, Washington
Project: Earthquake Swarms and Tectonics of Eastern Washington

Intern: Steven Walker
College: University of Texas at Austin
Mentor: Daniel Goode
Location: West Trenton, New Jersey
Project: Fate and Transport of Biodegrading Contaminants in Fractured-Rock Aquifers

Intern: Matthew Weingarten
College: University of Wisconsin
Mentor: Paul Hsieh
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Computer Modeling of Contaminant Transport in Fractured Rocks

Intern: Brett Worman
College: University of Wyoming
Mentor: David Croker
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Field Technician with the Northern California Seismic Network

Intern: Bissett Young
College: Indiana University
Mentor: Seth Moran
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Seismic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes

