



ANNUAL REPORT 2012: NAGT – USGS COOPERATIVE SUMMER FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

The 2012 Field Season for the NAGT-USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program marked the 47th year of what is now one of the longest running science internship programs in the nation. It also marked a return in number of interns to the program's average historic levels. More than 2200 students have participated in this program since it was first conceived in 1965 by William "Bill" Pecora, then the newly appointed Director of the US Geological Survey. Many of these students have gone on to become well-known leaders, influential professors and outstanding contributors to the knowledge base of geoscience. (More information about the history, operation of this program, and this year's interns can be found at: <http://education.usgs.gov/nagt/NAGTFlyer2012.pdf>)

This year, 101 students were nominated by field camp directors, and 79 of those students completed an application for the program. After receiving 71 proposals from USGS scientists, and after the proposal review panel met and matched students to projects, a total of 52 students were placed with USGS science projects. Since bringing new life back into this historic program nine years ago, we have now gone from 8 placements in 2002, to numbers that are consistent with the historical average for this program.

Summary of information and tasks completed in 2012:

- In addition to the letter that NAGT sends out to all nominated students congratulating them on their nomination and providing instructions for applying to the program, for the first time this year, USGS also sent individual letters to each nominated student with notes of congratulations and application instructions.
- This year we continued the practice, introduced last year, of requesting that Field Camp Directors include a brief description of the attributes of the particular nominees selected. This greatly helps the USGS Placement Panel in their efforts to place a student with a project best suited to their abilities while also helping USGS mentor scientists in preparing to conduct their interviews with students.
- This year we had only 2 interns withdraw from the program after initially accepting their position with a project (in comparison to 7 in 2011). We did note that these students declined the internship offer in favor of securing a full-time, permanent position elsewhere. While we read that so many recent graduates are seeking employment, and that internships are still, unquestionably, the principal pathway into securing a position, with this select group at least – most of whom have, heretofore, went on to graduate school – we're seeing that a number are first opting for employment. This is undoubtedly linked to the current economic and job situation, and to certain aspects of the "is higher education worth it" discussion that is playing out in various sectors of the media.
- We continue to receive a growing number of proposals from our life scientists; they love the skill sets and field-based abilities of these students! This does, however, require us to do some awareness building on the attributes and benefits of engaging in the authentic research – no matter what the discipline of study. Thus far, we have been successful in conveying this understanding. At the same time, the USGS needs to be more successful at soliciting a greater number of solid earth projects, especially from our energy and minerals group.
- As information available on geology field camps often tends to be inaccurate or out of date, we again spent considerable time this year updating our comprehensive listing of geology field camps nationwide - including contact names and websites where possible. Using the same research procedures employed when the list was developed last year, we were able to identify 138 departments as having an active field camp program during the present, 2012 academic year. Website links were identified for each program, as well as specific contact information for the respective field camp instructors. This listing is now maintained on the USGS Education website and also on NAGT's website

- Program evaluations continue to be sent to both scientists and interns. USGS takes the lead in sending evaluations to the scientists and NAGT takes the lead in sending evaluations to interns. As of September 20th, we have received 36 mentor evaluation responses, and 16 student evaluation responses. As there is much attention in the federal system placed on student program evaluations, we may want to consider personalizing the evaluation request to the student interns, and perhaps sending them out earlier and, if not responded to, several additional times. These evaluations, copies of information referenced in the bulleted items above, and detailed, multi-year comparative program information, will be provided in the full packets to those attending our Annual Joint NAGT/USGS Internship Meeting on Sunday, November 4th, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM, at the Westin Charlotte: Harris Room

9/20/2012

Robert W. Ridky /s/
National Education Coordinator
U.S. Geological Survey

Penny Morton /s/
NAGT Internship Representative
University of Minnesota, Duluth

NAGT/USGS 2012 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Student Intern	Project Title	Researcher
Andrew Abbott MS Geology Georgia State University	Geochemical Processes Relating to Resource Extraction and Aquatic Health	Curtis Schreffler Harrisburg and Altoona, PA
Jodie Banks BS Geological Sciences University of Alaska	Vegetation Ecology Field Team Member	Geneva Chong Yellowstone, WY
Jaclyn Baughman Senior, Geology Colgate University	Characterizing Uranium Transport in a Heterogeneous Aquifer at a Former Mill Site	Gary Curtis Menlo Park, CA
Tyson Berndt BS Earth Sciences Montana State University	Geologic Mapping of Quarternary Volcaniclastic Deposits Downstream of Mount Hood, Oregon	Thomas Pierson/David Ramsey Vancouver, WA
Austin Blaser BS Geology Beloit College	Extending Global Models of Three- dimensional Subduction Zone Geometry	Gavin Hayes Golden, CO
Hannah Blatchford BS Geology University of Nebraska	Metal Contaminants in Stream and Riparian Food Webs at the Stibnite Mine Site	David Pilliod South Fork Salmon River, ID
Jane Block BS Earth and Atmospheric Sci. Purdue University	Global Rare Earth Element Reserves, Resources, Mine Production, Processing, and Material Flow	Daniel Cordier Reston, VA
Christina Boak BS Geology Georgia State University	Geochemistry of Fluids in Devonian Age Strata of the Appalachian Basin	Robert Burruss/Elisabeth Rowan Reston, VA

James Bridgeman BS Earth & Environmental Sci. Furman University	Geophysical Investigations Related to Geothermal, Mineral, and Water Resources, and to Natural Hazards	Jonathan Glen Menlo Park, CA
John Brockman BS Geology Miami University of Ohio	Geological and Geophysical Studies of the San Andreas Fault System	Shane Detweiler Menlo Park, CA
Ian Cappelle BS Geology University of Texas, El Paso	The Geologic Study of Active Faults	James Lienkemper Northern California
Justin Cowart BS Geophysics Southern Illinois University	Argon Geochronology of Alteration Associated with Ore Mineralization	Michael Cosca Denver, CO
David Cross Senior, Geology University of Kentucky	Benthic Nutrient Flux of Biologically Reactive Solutes with a Salt Pond Under Restoration	James Kuwabara Menlo Park, CA
Melissa Davidson BS Geology University of Houston	Geodetic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes at Yellowstone	Michael Lisowski Yellowstone, Long Valley, Cascade Range Volcanoes
Joshua Davis BS Geology University of Florida	Geologic Investigations of USGS-BP-3 Corehole, Great Sand Dunes National Park	Janet Slate Lakewood, CO
Timothy Fegel BS Geology Eastern Michigan University	High Alpine Water Quality under Changing Climate	Jill Baron Fort Collins, CO
Kiernan Folz Donahue BS Geology St. Norbert College	Sandbar Dynamics and Surface Water Quality Assessment in the Lower Platte River Basin	Jason Alexander Lincoln, NE
Bobbiejean Freeman BS Geology Louisiana State University	Water Productivity Mapping for Irrigated Crops in California using Farm-Level Assessments and Remote Sensing	Michael Marshall Central Valley, CA
Benjamin Giamalva BS Environmental Geology Fort Lewis College	Assessment of Klickitat River Adult Anadromous Fish Habitat Use via Radio Telemetry	Brady Allen Cook, WA
Daniel Grant BS Geology Illinois State University	Surface-water and Ground-water Networks	Gerard Butch Troy, NY
Peter Haproff BS Geological Sciences Univ. of CA, Santa Barbara	Earthquake Geology and the San Andreas Fault System	Carol Prentice Northern California
Dean Hazle BS Geology Hope College	Geochemical Processes and Pesticides in Vulnerable Aquifers	Curtis Schreffler Harrisburg, PA
Bryan Holmes	Seismic Monitoring of Cascade Range	Seth Moran

BS Earth & Space Sciences University of Washington	Volcanoes	Vancouver, WA
Alexis Iverson Senior, Geology University of Minnesota	Assessing Foodweb Resources for Juvenile Salmonids Utilizing the Lower Columbia River	Jennifer Morace Portland, OR
Stephanie James BS Geology Colorado State University	Mercury Bioaccumulation in Aquatic Ecosystems in the Western U.S.	Collin Eagles-Smith Corvallis, OR
Kevin Jones Senior, Geology Auburn University	Physical Science Technician	William D. Menzie Reston, VA
Eric Knoedler BS Geology University of Washington	Fate and Transport of Biodegrading Contaminants in Fractured Rock Aquifers	Thomas Imbrigiotta West Trenton, NJ
Andrew Kunz BS Geology Eastern Illinois University	Hydrologic Technician/Geologic Technician	Katherine Skalak Reston, VA
Amanda Lanning Senior, Geology Georgia State University	Cape Cod Toxic Substances Hydrology Field Research	Denis LeBlanc Northborough, MA
Brady Lubenow BS Earth Science Minnesota State College	Effects of Wildfire on Stream Discharge and Water Quality	Deborah Martin/Sheila Murphy Boulder, CO
Jason Lubmiewski BS Geology University at Buffalo, SUNY	Landslide Inventory Mapping in Support of a New National Landslide Database	Lynn Highland Golden, CO
Alexandra Macho BA Geology Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison	Hydrological Technician	Cliff Hupp Reston, VA
Graham Meese BS Environmental Geology Univ. of California, Santa Cruz	Hydrologic Influence on Tundra, Pond, and Lake Ecosystems Important to Avian Herbivores, Invertivores, and Piscivores	Thomas Fondell Anchorage, AK
Melanie Newton BS Geology Western Kentucky University	Melt and Fluid Inclusion Analysis in Resource Investigations	Albert Hofstra Denver, CO
Jason Palu BS Geology University of Nebraska, Lincoln	Noninvasive Grizzly Bear Population Monitoring	Katherine Kendall West Glacier, MT
Christopher Pederson BS Geological Engineering Colorado School of Mines	Applied Hydrogeophysics Research	John Lane Storrs, CT
Brad Pitcher	Quantifying Past and Present Output of	Jacob Lowenstern

BS Geology and Mathematics Central Washington University	Magmatic Volatiles ant the Yellowstone Volcanic System	Menlo Park, CA and Yellowstone
Kate Potter BS Geology and Religion Whitman College	Experimental Studies of Hazardous Hydrological Processes on Volcanoes	Joseph Walder Vancouver, WA
Buddy Price BS Geology Western Kentucky University	Hydrologist/Hydrologic Field Technician	Jamie Shanley Montpelier, VT
Joshua Quisenberry BS Geology Washington State University	Field Technician for Northern California Seismic Network	David Oppenheimer/David Croker Menlo Park, CA
Amy Radakovitch MS Geology St. Norbert College	Earthquake Hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.	Walter Mooney Menlo Park, CA
Gregory Salwen BS Geological Sciences Binghamton University	Nisqually Delta Restoration Monitoring and Evaluation Program	Isa Woo/John Takekawa Olympia, WA
Sara Anne Schanz BS Geology Western Washington University	Fluvial Geomorphology and Quarternary Geology	Jim O'Connor Portland, OR
Heather Scott BS Geosciences Virginia Tech University	Modeling Preferential Flow Processes in the Unsaturated Zone	John Nimmo Menlo Park, CA
Evan Soderberg BS Geology University of Wyoming	Cascades Volcano Observatory Volcanology/ Petrology Intern	Carl Thornber Vancouver, WA
Sarah Survis BS Geology University of Wisconsin	Surficial Geologic Mapping in the Greater Platte River Basins, Central Great Plains	Margaret Berry Lakewood, CO
John Swartz BS Geology University of Pittsburgh	Biogeochemical Interactions at Environmental Interfaces: Yukon River Basin Project	Rob Striegl Boulder, CO
Michelle Taylor BS Geology University of Texas, Arlington	Hydrostratigraphy, Groundwater Occurrence, and Groundwater and Surface-water Quality in Oil and Gas Provinces Subject to Hydraulic Fracturing	Michael Sweat Cheyenne, WY
Caitlin Weaver BS Geology University of Nebraska, Lincoln	Quantifying Greenhouse Gases and Energy Exchanges, and Evapotranspiration over Forest, Grassland, and Urban Ecosystems	Dean Anderson Lakewood, CO
Sydney Wilson BS Environmental Geology Western Washington University	Biogeochemical Interactions at Environmental Interfaces: Carbon Storage and Fluxes in Freshwater Aquatic Ecosystems	Michelle Walvoord Lakewood, CO

