 

 **ANNUAL REPORT 2013: NAGT/USGS COOPERATIVE SUMMER FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM**

The 2013 Field Season for the NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program marked the 48th year of what is now one of longest running science internship programs in the nation. It also, in spite of a draconian Sequester situation, maintained the program’s average historic levels of intern numbers. 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/NAGTFlyer2013.pdf>.)

This year, 108 students were nominated by field camp directors, and 89 of those students completed an application for the program. After receiving 56 proposals from USGS scientists (who cost-share student support with the Director’s office), and after the proposal review panel met and matched students to projects, a total of 45 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 2013:

* This year, the NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program faced enormous challenges. The very week (February 28th) that pending interns were to receive their final placements, the Federal Sequestration was announced along with a hiring freeze action, prohibiting any new hires – including interns – to be made throughout all of the Department of the Interior. Because this corps of interns contributes directly to the critical mission of the agency, we were able to make the case for a priority hiring waiver. Nevertheless, seven weeks ensued until the waiver was granted. This took its toll on these graduating seniors and our scientists alike. While this internship was the clear first choice of these students, because of the pending uncertainty some had to accept other opportunities. (Twelve interns declined placement during this period of time. However, we were able to find suitable candidates for seven of these projects.) Our USGS scientists also faced program financial rescissions and general uncertainties of available funds. For over two months, the internship operation was almost exclusively engaged in providing information to NAGT interns and scientists regarding what was being done, and where we stood with the pending hiring waiver. At the same time, we worked with program supervisors and senior leadership regarding the program’s cost-shared support requirement. Fortunately, by keeping all parties involved in the process, the deleterious effects – at least in terms of hires – was kept to ~10%. Last year, we had 51 interns; this year we had a total of 45 interns.
* 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 second 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 two years ago, 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.
* We continue to receive a growing number of proposals from our life scientists; they love the skill sets, field-based abilities, and commitment of these students. As USGS has a large (systems-science) portfolio of research responsibilities, not just geology, this requires us to do some awareness building on the attributes and benefits of engaging in 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 (classic field mapping and mineral studies, for example).
* 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 two years ago, we were able to identify 112 active field camp programs during the 2013 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 placed 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 there is much attention in the federal system placed on student program evaluations, personalizing the evaluation request to the student interns and early request for feedback continues to be important. 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, October 27th, from 2:00-4:00pm.
* The USGS, Office of the Director, continues to provide 50% cost-shared, intern salary support for a period of up to 12 weeks. Individual scientists, through their science centers, supply the other 50% support. Although final expenditures will not be determined until later next month, it is estimated that the collective support for this program will be ~$400,000.
* A newly introduced Federal Recent Graduates program provides a much sought-after opportunity for NAGT/USGS interns to continue employment for up to three years, with the intent of permanent hire (if funding is available).
* **Of particular importance** to this historic internship program, and to the leadership of NAGT, is the pending retirement of the USGS National Education Coordinator, Robert Ridky.  Of the myriad of educational activities of USGS, this internship program is of the highest priority.  Because an overlap in position will be required, Bob is working diligently to obtain approval for a new position.  The Federal budget situation makes this somewhat challenging.  It is also critically important that the Bob’s replacement has strong academic ties and an NAGT affiliation that will continue the prioritization of this program.  We request that NAGT leadership work with Bob to identify appropriate candidates.

 8/28/13

 Robert W. Ridky */s/*

 National Education Coordinator

 U.S. Geological Survey

 Penny Morton */s/*

 NAGT Internship Representative

 University of Minnesota, Duluth

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|  **NAGT/USGS 2013 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements** |
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| **Student Intern** | **Project Title** |  **Researcher** |
| Mazie AsheBS GeologyWhitman CollegeEvan BakerBS GeologyUniversity of North CarolinaAdam BaldwinBS GeologyEdinboro Univ. of PennsylvaniaKyle BroachBS Earth/Environmental SciencesVanderbilt UniversityBrendan BuskirkBS Geological SciencesUniversity of OregonSpencer ButeynBS GeologyCalifornia State UniversityMichael CassarBS GeologyWestern Washington UniversityKatie ChapmanBS GeologyWhitman CollegeLorelei CurtinBS GeologyPomona CollegeMichael DavisBS GeologyWheaton CollegeJaime DelanoBS GeologyUniversity of California, DavisAmelia DeuellBS Geology/Environment and Natural HazardsUniversity of WyomingBeau GentryBS Earth ScienceUniversity of California, Santa BarbaraFrances GriswoldBS GeologyWheaton CollegeDeniel GurganusBS Geological SciencesUniversity of North CarolinaTheresa HalliganBS Geology University of Nebraska, Omaha Melissa HornickBS GeologyUniversity of ArkansasElizabeth HussBS Geological Sciences and EnglishState University of New York, GeneseoChristopher JohnsonBS Earth ScienceGeorge Mason UniversityMindy JuergensenBS GeologyIllinois State UniversityJohn Kyle KissockBS Environmental GeologyBucknell UniversityJeffrey LadderudBS GeologyWashington State UniversityCharles LapeyreBS GeologySewanee: The University of the SouthMark LarsonBS Geology and AnthropologyMissouri State UniversityCarson Macpherson-KrutskyBS Geology Western Washington UniversityElsie MacsataBS Geology Fort Lewis CollegeGabriel MatsonBS Earth Science and MathematicsUniversity of California, Santa cruzAdam McCulloughBS GeologyMacalaster CollegeAnthony McGlownBS GeologyUniversity of AlabamaSamuel Tyson McKinneyBS Geology and Mechanical EngineeringUniversity Texas, AustinNari MillerBA Geosciences and ChemistryWilliams CollegeTiffany NapierBS Geology and AnthropologyUniversity of Nebraska-LincolnJonathan OomsBS Earth SciencesUniversity of California, Santa CruzAaron PerkinsBS GeologyUniversity of PittsburghBrenna QuigleyBS Aquatic Biology and GeologyUniversity of California, Santa BarbaraRyan ReevesBS Environmental ScienceUniversity of Texas, El PasoMichelle RobinsonBS GeologyHumboldt State UniversityYuri RupertBS GeologyAuburn UniversitySydney SalleySenior, Earth and Environmental SciencesUniversity of MichiganMatthew St. Clair BS GeologyUniversity of MichiganTimothy StadlerBS GeologyUniversity of Wisconsin, OshkoshPatricia SullivanBS GeologyOregon State UniversityCarla ValdezBS Earth and Environmental ScienceUniversity of Michigan, Ann ArborBobby VoeksBS GeologyHumboldt State UniversityAlicia WilderBS Earth Science/GeologyMontana State UniversityRyan WitkoskiBS GeophysicsCalifornia State University | Borehole and surface geophysical methods used in groundwater systemsGeologic mapping and stratigraphic studies at Cascade VolcanoesAcquiring essential surface-and-ground-water network data for analyzing water resourcesRemoval of *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* from the water column,and application of pumice on phosphate concentrations, Upper Klamath Lake High-flow events in suburban streamsMineral commodity production calculationsInstallation, maintenance, and collection of seismic stations for improved monitoring and reportingGeological and geophysical studies of the San Andreas Fault systemThe temperate cryosphere in a changing climateAcquiring essential surface-and-ground-water network data for analyzing water resourcesMobile LiDAR and fault slip measurementCharacterization and instrumentation of active landslides and debris flowsNorthern Appalachian bedrock mapping and Sleepers River water energy and biogeochemical budgetsExperimental studies of hazardous hydrological processes on volcanoesClimate science and vegetation ecologyGlobal positioning system data collection for crustal deformation researchArgon geochronology analysisUtilizing Quaternary geochronology to unravel geomprophic histories Earthquake hazards study in the central and eastern U.S.Geodetic monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes and YellowstoneBenthic nutrient flux of biologically reactive solutes, headwaters of Klamath River BasinTransport of contaminants in groundwaterImplementing Wyoming groundwater-quality monitoring networkEarthquake dynamic triggering and short-term forecastingGeophysical investigations of geothermal, mineral, and water resources and natural hazards in the western U.S.Cape Cod toxic substances hydrology researchGeophysical investigations of geothermal, mineral, and water resources and natural hazards in the western U.S.Hydrostratigraphy, groundwater and surface-water quality in the Lance FormationColorado headwaters basin projectMelt and fluid inclusion resources studyMercury storage in permafrost and potential release to the environment by thawGeomorphology and Quaternary geology projectsAdvanced national seismic system emplacement, operation and maintenanceEarthquake geology and the San Andreas Fault System studyNisqually Delta restpration evaluation programCharacterizing post-fire debris flow susceptibility in the western U.S.Assessing foodweb resources for juvenile salmonids, lower Columbia RiverCollection and assessment of surface and borehole geophysical dataThe effect of floodplain geomorphology on nutrient biogeochemistry and water qualityCharacterizing invertebrate communities and food webs of deep-sea canyons in the western Atlantic OceanAdvanced national seismic system emplacement, operation and maintenanceStudy of interactions between geomorphology, surface water hydrology, and ecology that control particle dynamics in aquatic systemsFate and transport of biodegrading chlorinated solvent contaminants in fractured rock aquifersInteractions between riparian wetland geomorphology, hydrology, and ecology for ecosystem restorationFactors determining the niche of a species that lives in rocky talus slopesEarthquake activity and fault slip rates, southern San Andreas Fault study | Melinda ChapmanRaleigh, NC William ScottVancouver, WAGerard ButchTroy, NYNancy SimonKlamath Falls, ORJudson HarveyReston, VAW. David MenzieReston, VADavid Croker and David OppenheimerMenlo Park, CAShane DetewilerMenlo Park, CAMatthew BachmannTacoma, WAGerard ButchTroy, NYBenjamin BrooksNorthern CAWilliam Schulz and Jeffrey CoeGolden, COGregory Walsh and James ShanleyMontpelier, VTJoseph WalderVancouver, WAGeneva ChongJackson, WYJerry SvarcMenlo Park, CAMichael CoscaDenver, COCal Ruleman and Shannon MahanDenver, COWalter MooneyMenlo Park, CAMichael LisowskiVancouver, WAJames KuwabaraMenlo Park, CAAllen ShapiroReston, VAMichael SweatCheyenne, WYJoan GombergSeattle, WA Victoria LangenheimMenlo Park, CADenis LeBlancNorthborough, MAVictoria LangenheimMenlo Park, CAMichael SweatCheyenne, WYJames ColeJackson County, COAlbert HofstraDenver, COPaul SchusterBoulder, COJames O’ConnorPortland, ORAlena LeedsGolden, COCarol PrenticeNorthern CaliforniaIsa Woo and John TakekawaOlympia, WA Dennis StaleyGolden,COJennifer MoracePortland, ORJohn LaneStorrs, CTGregory NoeReston, VAAmanda DemopoulosGainesveille, FLAlena LeedsGolden, COKatherine SkalakReston, VAThomas ImbrigiottaWest Trenton, NJCliff HuppReston, VAErik BeeverNevada, Oregon, Yellowstone, Glacier NPKatherine ScharerPasadena, CA |
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