[](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.emast.org/images/nagt_logo.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.emast.org/content/index.cfm/ContentID/482/SectionID/127&h=107&w=126&sz=4&hl=en&start=62&um=1&tbnid=aKIQBJ-afhGaLM:&tbnh=76&tbnw=90&prev=/images?q=nagt&start=60&ndsp=20&svnum=10&um=1&hl=en&rlz=1T4GGIH_enUS238US238&) [](http://www.usgs.gov/)

**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 Ashe  BS Geology  Whitman College  Evan Baker  BS Geology  University of North Carolina  Adam Baldwin  BS Geology  Edinboro Univ. of Pennsylvania  Kyle Broach  BS Earth/Environmental Sciences  Vanderbilt University  Brendan Buskirk  BS Geological Sciences  University of Oregon  Spencer Buteyn  BS Geology  California State University  Michael Cassar  BS Geology  Western Washington University  Katie Chapman  BS Geology  Whitman College  Lorelei Curtin  BS Geology  Pomona College  Michael Davis  BS Geology  Wheaton College  Jaime Delano  BS Geology  University of California, Davis  Amelia Deuell  BS Geology/Environment and Natural Hazards  University of Wyoming  Beau Gentry  BS Earth Science  University of California, Santa Barbara  Frances Griswold  BS Geology  Wheaton College  Deniel Gurganus  BS Geological Sciences  University of North Carolina  Theresa Halligan  BS Geology  University of Nebraska, Omaha  Melissa Hornick  BS Geology  University of Arkansas  Elizabeth Huss  BS Geological Sciences and English  State University of New York, Geneseo  Christopher Johnson  BS Earth Science  George Mason University  Mindy Juergensen  BS Geology  Illinois State University  John Kyle Kissock  BS Environmental Geology  Bucknell University  Jeffrey Ladderud  BS Geology  Washington State University  Charles Lapeyre  BS Geology  Sewanee: The University of the South  Mark Larson  BS Geology and Anthropology  Missouri State University  Carson Macpherson-Krutsky  BS Geology  Western Washington University  Elsie Macsata  BS Geology  Fort Lewis College  Gabriel Matson  BS Earth Science and Mathematics  University of California, Santa cruz  Adam McCullough  BS Geology  Macalaster College  Anthony McGlown  BS Geology  University of Alabama  Samuel Tyson McKinney  BS Geology and Mechanical Engineering  University Texas, Austin  Nari Miller  BA Geosciences and Chemistry  Williams College  Tiffany Napier  BS Geology and Anthropology  University of Nebraska-Lincoln  Jonathan Ooms  BS Earth Sciences  University of California, Santa Cruz  Aaron Perkins  BS Geology  University of Pittsburgh  Brenna Quigley  BS Aquatic Biology and Geology  University of California, Santa Barbara  Ryan Reeves  BS Environmental Science  University of Texas, El Paso  Michelle Robinson  BS Geology  Humboldt State University  Yuri Rupert  BS Geology  Auburn University  Sydney Salley  Senior, Earth and Environmental Sciences  University of Michigan  Matthew St. Clair  BS Geology  University of Michigan  Timothy Stadler  BS Geology  University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh  Patricia Sullivan  BS Geology  Oregon State University  Carla Valdez  BS Earth and Environmental Science  University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  Bobby Voeks  BS Geology  Humboldt State University  Alicia Wilder  BS Earth Science/Geology  Montana State University  Ryan Witkoski  BS Geophysics  California State University | Borehole and surface geophysical methods used in groundwater systems  Geologic mapping and stratigraphic studies at Cascade Volcanoes  Acquiring essential surface-and-ground-water network data for analyzing water resources  Removal of *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* from the water column,and application of pumice on phosphate concentrations, Upper Klamath Lake  High-flow events in suburban streams  Mineral commodity production calculations  Installation, maintenance, and collection of seismic stations for improved monitoring and reporting  Geological and geophysical studies of the San Andreas Fault system  The temperate cryosphere in a changing climate  Acquiring essential surface-and-ground-water network data for analyzing water resources  Mobile LiDAR and fault slip measurement  Characterization and instrumentation of active landslides and debris flows  Northern Appalachian bedrock mapping and Sleepers River water energy and biogeochemical budgets  Experimental studies of hazardous hydrological processes on volcanoes  Climate science and vegetation ecology  Global positioning system data collection for crustal deformation research  Argon geochronology analysis  Utilizing Quaternary geochronology to unravel geomprophic histories  Earthquake hazards study in the central and eastern U.S.  Geodetic monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes and Yellowstone  Benthic nutrient flux of biologically reactive solutes, headwaters of Klamath River Basin  Transport of contaminants in groundwater  Implementing Wyoming groundwater-quality monitoring network  Earthquake dynamic triggering and short-term forecasting  Geophysical investigations of geothermal, mineral, and water resources and natural hazards in the western U.S.  Cape Cod toxic substances hydrology research  Geophysical investigations of geothermal, mineral, and water resources and natural hazards in the western U.S.  Hydrostratigraphy, groundwater and surface-water quality in the Lance Formation  Colorado headwaters basin project  Melt and fluid inclusion resources study  Mercury storage in permafrost and potential release to the environment by thaw  Geomorphology and Quaternary geology projects  Advanced national seismic system emplacement, operation and maintenance  Earthquake geology and the San Andreas Fault System study  Nisqually Delta restpration evaluation program  Characterizing post-fire debris flow susceptibility in the western U.S.  Assessing foodweb resources for juvenile salmonids, lower Columbia River  Collection and assessment of surface and borehole geophysical data  The effect of floodplain geomorphology on nutrient biogeochemistry and water quality  Characterizing invertebrate communities and food webs of deep-sea canyons in the western Atlantic Ocean  Advanced national seismic system emplacement, operation and maintenance  Study of interactions between geomorphology, surface water hydrology, and ecology that control particle dynamics in aquatic systems  Fate and transport of biodegrading chlorinated solvent contaminants in fractured rock aquifers  Interactions between riparian wetland geomorphology, hydrology, and ecology for ecosystem restoration  Factors determining the niche of a species that lives in rocky talus slopes  Earthquake activity and fault slip rates, southern San Andreas Fault study | Melinda Chapman  Raleigh, NC  William Scott  Vancouver, WA  Gerard Butch  Troy, NY  Nancy Simon  Klamath Falls, OR  Judson Harvey  Reston, VA  W. David Menzie  Reston, VA  David Croker and David Oppenheimer  Menlo Park, CA  Shane Detewiler  Menlo Park, CA  Matthew Bachmann  Tacoma, WA  Gerard Butch  Troy, NY  Benjamin Brooks  Northern CA  William Schulz and Jeffrey Coe  Golden, CO  Gregory Walsh and James Shanley  Montpelier, VT  Joseph Walder  Vancouver, WA  Geneva Chong  Jackson, WY  Jerry Svarc  Menlo Park, CA  Michael Cosca  Denver, CO  Cal Ruleman and Shannon Mahan  Denver, CO  Walter Mooney  Menlo Park, CA  Michael Lisowski  Vancouver, WA  James Kuwabara  Menlo Park, CA  Allen Shapiro  Reston, VA  Michael Sweat  Cheyenne, WY  Joan Gomberg  Seattle, WA  Victoria Langenheim  Menlo Park, CA  Denis LeBlanc  Northborough, MA  Victoria Langenheim  Menlo Park, CA  Michael Sweat  Cheyenne, WY  James Cole  Jackson County, CO  Albert Hofstra  Denver, CO  Paul Schuster  Boulder, CO  James O’Connor  Portland, OR  Alena Leeds  Golden, CO  Carol Prentice  Northern California  Isa Woo and John Takekawa  Olympia, WA  Dennis Staley  Golden,CO  Jennifer Morace  Portland, OR  John Lane  Storrs, CT  Gregory Noe  Reston, VA  Amanda Demopoulos  Gainesveille, FL  Alena Leeds  Golden, CO  Katherine Skalak  Reston, VA  Thomas Imbrigiotta  West Trenton, NJ  Cliff Hupp  Reston, VA  Erik Beever  Nevada, Oregon, Yellowstone, Glacier NP  Katherine Scharer  Pasadena, CA |
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