



NAGT/USGS 2011 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-six 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 and support 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 over 100 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 and laboratory 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 2011 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Intern: Anna Ahlstrom
College: Texas A&M University
Mentor: John Moody
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Runoff Response after Fourmile Canyon Fire

Intern: Tyler Brown
College: University of Wyoming
Mentor: Seth Moran
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Seismic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes

Intern: Caitlin Casar
College: East Carolina University
Mentor: Amanda Demopoulos
Location: Gainesville, Florida
Project: Characterizing Deep-sea Invertebrate Communities Associated with Shipwrecks and Natural Reefs

Intern: Scott Cecilian
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: Gerard Butch
Location: Troy, New York
Project: Surface-water and Ground-water Networks

Intern: Sam Coleman
College: Northern Arizona University
Mentor: Curtis Schreffler
Location: Erie, Pennsylvania
Project: Monitoring to Predict Escherichia coli Concentrations at Presque Isle Beaches

Intern: Bart Cubrich
College: University of Nebraska
Mentor: Gregory Walsh
Location: Montpelier, Vermont
Project: Northern Appalachian Bedrock Mapping

Intern: Nicholas Dosch
College: University of Wisconsin
Mentor: John Mullaney
Location: East Hartford, Connecticut
Project: Nutrient Loads to Long Island Sound from Rivers and Groundwater

Intern: Neil Fenning
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Earthquake Hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.

Intern: Krista Garrett
College: Whitman College
Mentor: James Kuwabara
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Benthic Nutrient Flux from Water-Storage Wetlands Adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake

Intern: Harrison Gray
College: University of California
Mentor: Shannon Mahon
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Luminescence Dating

Intern: Brandon Guttery
College: University of Oklahoma
Mentor: Albert Hofstra
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Melt or Fluid Inclusion Analysis in Resource Investigations

Intern: Lauren Harrison
College: University of Wyoming
Mentor: Andrea Foster
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: The Toxicity of Te, In, Ga and Li Species as Measured by *in vivo* Test Kits

Intern: Isabel Hong
College: Whitman College
Mentor: Joan Fitzpatrick
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Physical Properties of the WAIS Divide Ice Core in West Antarctica

Intern: Charles Horowitz
College: University of Pittsburgh
Mentor: John Nimmo
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geophysical Methods for Examining Flow Processes in the Unsaturated Zone



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Intern: Miquela Ingalls
College: University of North Carolina
Mentor: Robert Al-Chokhachy
Location: Jackson, Wyoming
Project: Fine-scaled Monitoring of Hydrologic and Thermal Regimes of High-elevation Streams within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Implications to Instream Biota

Intern: Robert Spencer Kellum
College: Eastern Michigan University
Mentor: Jennifer Morace
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Assessing Foodweb Resources for Juvenile Salmonids Utilizing the Lower Columbia River

Intern: Tyler Kent
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Michael Lisowski
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geodetic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes and Yellowstone

Intern: Scott Kenyon
College: California State University
Mentor: Celeste Journey
Location: Columbia, South Carolina
Project: Mercury Study of the Santee River Basin and Coastal Drainages as Part of the National Water Quality Assessment Program

Intern: Sabina Kraushaar
College: Fort Lewis College
Mentor: Victoria Langenheim
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geophysical Investigations Related to Geothermal, Mineral, and Water Resources and to natural Hazards in the Western U.S.

Intern: Evan Larsell
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Katherine Kendall
Location: West Glacier, Montana
Project: Noninvasive Grizzly Bear Population Monitoring in Northwestern Montana

Intern: Evin Maguire
College: University of Michigan
Mentor: David Friewald
Location: Little Rock, Arkansas
Project: Identification of Biological Methods for Evaluating Wetland Water Quality Conditions

Intern: Cody Mason
College: Fort Lewis College
Mentor: Cal Ruleman
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Geologic Mapping, Neotectonics, and Global Climate Change within the Northern Rio Grande Rift



Intern: Kelly McHugh
College: Miami University
Mentor: Michelle Coombs
Location: Anchorage, Alaska
Project: Investigation of Eruptive Processes during the 2006 Eruption of Augustine Volcano

Intern: Amelia McMillin
College: Western State College of Colorado
Mentor: Evelyn Roeloffs
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Combining Borehole Strainmeter and Tide Gauge Data to Study Vertical Deformation during Slow Slip Events in the Cascadia Subduction Zone

Intern: Matthew Miller
College: University of Oklahoma
Mentor: Thomas Imbrigiotta
Location: West Trenton, New Jersey
Project: Fate and Transport of Biodegrading Contaminants in Fractured-rock Aquifers

Intern: Patrick Norby
College: Brigham Young University
Mentor: Brady Allen
Location: Cook, Washington
Project: Rock Creek Fish Population and Life History Assessment

Intern: Daven Quinn
College: University of North Carolina
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied Hydrogeophysics Research

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Intern: Curtis Reid
College: Whitman College
Mentor: Dean Anderson and Edwin Weeks
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Evaluation of the Exchanges of Greenhouse Gases, Energy, and Evapotranspiration over Forest, Grasslands, and Urban Ecosystems

Intern: Nicole Rockentine
College: Albion College
Mentor: Denis LeBlanc
Location: Northborough, Massachusetts
Project: Cape Cod Toxic Substances Hydrology Field Research

Intern: Diana Rotter
College: George Mason University
Mentor: James Coleman
Location: Monterey, Virginia and Reston, Virginia
Project: George Washington National Forest

Intern: Andrew Schneider
College: University of Cincinnati
Mentor: Tracy Nishikawa
Location: San Diego, California
Project: Evaluating the Water Budget of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Wetlands

Intern: Courtney Sprain
College: University of Minnesota
Mentor: Andrew Long
Location: Black Hills, South Dakota
Project: Microgravity Measurements to Characterize Groundwater Storage in Caves, Fractures, and Other Voids

Intern: Jonathon Stautberg
College: Texas A&M University
Mentor: James O'Connor
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Quaternary Mapping and Geomorphology Studies along the Columbia River Corridor

Intern: Elizabeth Studebaker
College: University of Arkansas
Mentor: Jacoby Carter
Location: Lafayette, Louisiana
Project: Monitoring Urban Green Treefrog Populations and Their Environment

Intern: Helen Thomas
College: University of California
Mentor: Shane Detweiler
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geological and Geophysical Studies of the San Andreas Fault System

Intern: Peter Tierney
College: Williams College
Mentor: Michael Field
Location: Santa Cruz, California
Project: Computer Analysis of Digital Seafloor Imagery in Support of Ridge-to-Reef Studies of Hawaiian Coral Reefs

Intern: Sara Ulrich
College: University of Wisconsin
Mentor: Nancy Rybichi
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Stream-bank Vegetation Characteristics and Bank Erosion Rates

Intern: Jillian Votava
College: Michigan Technological University
Mentor: Kirsten Barrett
Location: Fairbanks, Alaska
Project: Dominance in Late Succession in the Alaskan Boreal Forest

Intern: Evan Wolf
College: University of California
Mentor: Carol Prentice
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Paleoseismology: the Geologic Study of Active Faults

Intern: Donald Yezerski
College: Denison University
Mentor: Curtis Schreffler
Location: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical Processes Relating to Aquatic Health and Resource Extraction

