



NAGT/USGS 2012 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-seven years, over 2,000 students have participated in this program, with many participants proceeding on to distinguished careers with the USGS, with academia, or with industry.

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 stronger 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. As

employers value the skills and applications developed in the field camp experience, enrollments have shown a remarkable increase in recent years.) 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. Each director has the opportunity to nominate up to three students, based on their 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 submit a proposal about their field and laboratory projects. A science review panel then matches candidates by their course work, skills and interests 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 2012 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Intern: Andrew Abbott
College: Georgia State University
Mentor: Curtis Schreffler
Location: Harrisburg and Altoona, Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical Processes Relating to Resource Extraction and Aquatic Health

Intern: Jodie Banks
College: University of Alaska
Mentor: Geneva Chong
Location: Greater Yellowstone Area, Wyoming
Project: Vegetation Ecology Field Team Member

Intern: Jaclyn Baughman
College: Colgate University
Mentor: Gary Curtis
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Characterizing Uranium Transport in a Heterogeneous Aquifer at a Former Mill Site

Intern: Tyson Berndt
College: Montana State University
Mentor: Thomas Pierson and David Ramsey
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geologic Mapping of Quaternary Volcaniclastic Deposits Downstream of Mount Hood, Oregon

Intern: Austin Blaser
College: Brigham Young University – Idaho
Mentor: Gavin Hayes
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Extending Global Models of Three-Dimensional Subduction Zone Geometry

Intern: Hannah Blatchford
College: Beloit College
Mentor: David Pilliod
Location: South Fork Salmon River, Idaho
Project: Metal Contaminants in Stream and Riparian Food Webs at the Stibnite Mine Site

Intern: Jane Block
College: Purdue University
Mentor: Daniel Cordier
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Global Rare Earth Element Reserves, Resources, Mine Production, Processing and Material Flow

Intern: Christina Boak
College: Georgia State University
Mentor: Robert Burruss and Elizabeth Rowan
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Geochemistry of Fluids in Devonian Age Strata of the Appalachian Basin

Intern: James Bridgeman
College: Furman University
Mentor: Jonathan Glen
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geophysical Investigations Related to Geothermal, Mineral, and Water Resources, and to Natural Hazards

Intern: John Brockman
College: Miami University of Ohio
Mentor: Shane Detweiler
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geological and Geophysical Studies of the San Andreas Fault System

Intern: Ian Cappelle
College: University of Texas, El Paso
Mentor: James Lienkaemper
Location: Northern California
Project: The Geologic Study of Active Faults

Intern: Justin Cowart
College: Southern Illinois University
Mentor: Michael Cosca
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Argon Geochronology of Alteration Associated with Ore Mineralization

Intern: David Cross
College: University of Kentucky
Mentor: James Kuwabara
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Benthic Nutrient Flux of Biologically Reactive Solutes with a Salt Pond Under Restoration

Intern: Melissa Davidson
College: University of Houston
Mentor: Michael Lisowski
Location: Yellowstone, Long Valley, Cascade Range ...
Project: Geodetic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes at Yellowstone

Intern: Joshua Davis
College: University of Florida
Mentor: Janet Slate
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Geologic Investigations of USGS-BP-3 Corehole, Great Sand Dunes National Park

Intern: Timothy Fegel
College: Eastern Michigan University
Mentor: Jill Baron
Location: Fort Collins, Colorado
Project: High Alpine Water Quality under Changing Climate

Intern: Kiernan Folz Donahue
College: St. Norbert College
Mentor: Jason Alexander
Location: Lincoln, Nebraska
Project: Sandbar Dynamics and Surface Water Quality Assessment in the Lower Platte River Basin

Intern: Bobbjean Freeman
College: Humboldt State University
Mentor: Michael Marshall
Location: Central Valley, California
Project: Water Productivity Mapping for Irrigated Crops in California using Farm-Level Assessments and Remote Sensing

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Intern: Benjamin Giamalva
College: Louisiana State University
Mentor: Brady Allen
Location: Cook, Washington
Project: Assessment of Klickitat River Adult Anadromous Fish Habitat Use via Radio Telemetry

Intern: Daniel Grant
College: Illinois State University
Mentor: Gerard Butch
Location: Troy, New York
Project: Surface-water and Ground-water Networks

Intern: Peter Haproff
College: University of California, Santa Barbara
Mentor: Carol Prentice
Location: Northern California
Project: Earthquake Geology and the San Andreas Fault System

Intern: Dean Hazle
College: Hope College
Mentor: Curtis Schreffler
Location: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical Processes and Pesticides in Vulnerable Aquifers

Intern: Bryan Holmes
College: University of Washington
Mentor: Seth Moran
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Seismic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes

Intern: Alexis Iverson
College: University of Minnesota
Mentor: Jennifer Morace
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Assessing Foodweb Resources for Juvenile Salmonids Utilizing the Lower Columbia River

Intern: Stephanie James
College: Colorado State University
Mentor: Collin Eagles-Smith
Location: Corvallis, Oregon
Project: Mercury Bioaccumulation in Aquatic Ecosystems in the Western U.S.

Intern: Kevin Jones
College: Auburn University
Mentor: William David Menzie
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Physical Science Technician

Intern: Nathan Kerns
College: University of Michigan
Mentor: Kelly Maloney
Location: Wellsboro, Pennsylvania
Project: Effects of Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale on Three Class A Wild Eastern Brook Trout Streams in Upper Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Intern: Eric Knoedler
College: University of Washington
Mentor: Thomas Imbrigiotta
Location: West Trenton, New Jersey
Project: Fate and Transport of Biodegrading Contaminants in Fractured Rock Aquifers

Intern: Andrew Kunz
College: Eastern Illinois University
Mentor: Katherine Skalak
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Hydrologic Technician/Geologic Technician

Intern: Amanda Lanning
College: Georgia State University
Mentor: Denis LeBlanc
Location: Northborough, Massachusetts
Project: Cape Cod Toxic Substances Hydrology Field Research

Intern: Brady Lubenow
College: Minnesota State University
Mentor: Deborah Martin and Sheila Murphy
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Effects of Wildfire on Stream Discharge and Water Quality

Intern: Jason Lubniewski
College: University at Buffalo, State University of New York
Mentor: Lynn Highland
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Landslide Inventory Mapping in Support of a New National Landslide Database

Intern: Alexandra Macho
College: University of Wisconsin – Madison
Mentor: Cliff Hupp
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Hydrological Technician

Intern: Graham Meese
College: University of California, Santa Cruz
Mentor: Thomas Fondell
Location: Anchorage, Alaska
Project: Hydrologic Influence on Tundra, Pond, and Lake Ecosystems Important to Avian Herbivores, Invertebrates, and Piscivores

Intern: Melanie Newton
College: Western Kentucky University
Mentor: Albert Hofstra
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Melt and Fluid Inclusion Analysis in Resource Investigations

Intern: Jason Palu
College: University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Mentor: Katherine Kendall
Location: West Glacier, Montana
Project: Noninvasive Grizzly Bear Population Monitoring

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Intern: Christopher Pederson
College: Colorado School of Mines
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied Hydrogeophysics Research

Intern: Brad Pitcher
College: Central Washington University
Mentor: Jacob Lowenstern
Location: Menlo Park, California and Yellowstone
Project: Quantifying Past and Present Output of Magmatic Volatiles ant the Yellowstone Volcanic System

Intern: Kate Potter
College: Whitman College
Mentor: Joseph Walder
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Experimental Studies of Hazardous Hydrological Processes on Volcanoes

Intern: Buddy Price
College: Western Kentucky University
Mentor: Jamie Shanley
Location: Montpelier, Vermont
Project: Hydrologist/Hydrologic Technician

Intern: Joshua Quisenberry
College: Washington State University
Mentor: David Oppenheimer and David Croker
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Field Technician for Northern California Seismic Network

Intern: Amy Radakovitch
College: St. Norbert College
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Earthquake Hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.

Intern: Gregory Salwen
College: Binghamton University
Mentor: Isa Woo and John Takekawa
Location: Olympia, Washington
Project: Nisqually Delta Restoration Monitoring and Evaluation Program

Intern: Sara Anne Schanz
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Jim O'Connor
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Fluvial Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology

Intern: Heather Scott
College: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Mentor: John Nimmo
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Modeling Preferential Flow Processes in the Unsaturated Zone

Intern: Evan Soderberg
College: University of Wyoming
Mentor: Carl Thornber
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Cascades Volcano Observatory Volcanology/Petrology Intern

Intern: Sarah Survis
College: University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
Mentor: Margaret Berry
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Surficial Geologic Mapping in the Greater Platte River Basins, Central Great Plains

Intern: John Swartz
College: University of Pittsburgh
Mentor: Rob Striegl
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Biogeochemical Interactions at Environmental Interfaces: Yukon River Basin Project

Intern: Michelle Taylor
College: University of Texas at Arlington
Mentor: Michael Sweat
Location: Cheyenne, Wyoming
Project: Hydrostratigraphy, Groundwater Occurrence, and Groundwater and Surface-water Quality in Oil and Gas Provinces Subject to Hydraulic Fracturing

Intern: Caitlin Weaver
College: University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Mentor: Dean Anderson
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Quantifying Greenhouse Gases and Energy Exchanges, and Evapotranspiration over Forest, Grassland, and Urban Ecosystems

Intern: Sydney Wilson
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Michelle Walvoord
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Biogeochemical Interactions at Environmental Interfaces: Carbon Storage and Fluxes in Freshwater Aquatic Ecosystems

