



NAGT/USGS 2016 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program



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 fifty-one years, over 2,300 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 wanted to get the professors’ reactions to an initiative that would provide stronger linkage to academia while providing better summer research assistants for the USGS. Pecora suggested that the USGS would provide support by way of internships for outstanding newly graduated geosciences majors, while NAGT would solicit outstanding student nominations from the directors of the nation’s geosciences field camps. (Field camp, a tradition in the education of a geoscientist, 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 three-fold increase in the past decade.)

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 the field camp directors (now numbering over 120) 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. At the same time, USGS scientists interested in working with an intern submit a proposal about their field and laboratory projects. A science review and placement 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 their review. This is followed by candidate interviews and ranking for preferred selection. While the interviews provide useful opportunities for candidates and scientists for determining goodness of fit, the USGS scientist 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 scientists and supervisors alike.

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 2016 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Intern: James Amato
College: University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Mentor: Robert Al-Chokhachy
Location: Yellowstone and Bozeman, Montana
Project: Understanding the variability in climate-aquatic linkages

Intern: Jeremy Ashburn
College: Baylor University
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Earthquake hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.

Intern: Kimberly Barry
College: University of Texas, Arlington
Mentor: Jeffrey Chaplin
Location: Bradford County, Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical processes relating to resource extraction and human health

Intern: Kristin Beck
College: University of Washington
Mentor: James Vallance
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Volcanic hazards in the Cascades: teasing out the history of explosive eruptions from far-traveled volcanic ash deposits

Intern: Julia Bowe
College: University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Mentor: John Mullaney
Location: East Hartford, Connecticut
Project: Support of the Connecticut groundwater-level network

Intern: Isaac Bukoski
College: East Carolina University
Mentor: Denis LeBlanc
Location: Northborough, Massachusetts
Project: Cape Cod hydrologic research

Intern: Rials Christensen
College: University of Utah
Mentor: Marci Robinson
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Microfossil indicators of Paleocene and Eocene paleoenvironments

Intern: Hannah Cohen
College: University of Illinois
Mentor: Katherine Skalak
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Hydrologic/geologic technician

Intern: Tait Earney
College: South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
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: Frederick Fenner
College: University of Houston
Mentor: Jeffrey Chaplin
Location: Bradford County, Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical processes relating to resource extraction and human health

Intern: Marcel Gaztambide
College: University of Utah
Mentor: Celeste Journey
Location: Columbia, South Carolina
Project: Multidisciplinary assessment of water resources for various projects including Bridge Deck Runoff, Groundwater Model Development, and National Water Quality Assessment Program

Intern: Robert Gibler
College: University of Houston
Mentor: Shane Detweiler
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geological and geophysical studies of the San Andreas Fault System

Intern: Gabriel Gordon
College: University of California, Santa Cruz
Mentor: James O'Connor and Ralph Haugerud
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Mapping the Missoula floods

Intern: Annette Hein
College: University of Wyoming
Mentor: John Nimmo
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Modeling and measurement of unsaturated zone flow processes

Intern: Andrea Hylant
College: University of Michigan
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied hydrogeophysics research

Intern: Chelsea Jolley
College: Brigham Young University, Idaho
Mentor: Miriam Jones
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Peatland responses to centennial and millennial-scale changes in North Pacific hydroclimate

Intern: Caroline Kellner
College: Cornell University
Mentor: Stephen Kirby
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Field and laboratory investigations of serpentinites and associated rocks in the Northeastern California Coast ranges

Intern: Mitchell Lassa
College: University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Mentor: Gerard Butch
Location: Troy, New York
Project: Surface-water and ground-water networks

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Intern: Zoe Lefebvre
College: Washington University
Mentor: Kristen Hart
Location: Davie, Florida
Project: Sea turtle movements and habitat-use, American crocodile nest monitoring and Burmese python movement and habitat-use

Intern: Geoffrey Luty
College: Slippery Rock University
Mentor: Billy Justus
Location: Little Rock, Arkansas
Project: Biological, water-quality, and hydrological assessments in Arkansas streams and groundwater

Intern: Joseph Mason
College: Fort Lewis College
Mentor: Stephen DeLong
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Tectonic geomorphology and seismic hazard in Northern California

Intern: Ian McBrearty
College: Iowa State University
Mentor: Joan Gomberg
Location: Seattle, Washington
Project: New clues to pre-and post- earthquake deformation

Intern: Emma McConville
College: University of Maryland
Mentor: Jacob Lowenstern
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geologic databases and fieldwork for the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory

Intern: Bethany Morter
College: University of Oregon
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Volcano and seismic hazards assessments

Intern: Joshua Mudge
College: Fort Lewis College
Mentor: Melinda Erickson
Location: Mounds View, Minnesota
Project: Arsenic in Minnesota groundwater: occurrence and relation to hydrogeologic and geochemical factors

Intern: Samuel Nilsson
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Geneva Chong
Location: Jackson, Wyoming
Project: Plant phenology, climate change and wildlife habitat quality

Intern: Madeline O'Brien
College: Wesleyan University
Mentor: Laura Clor and Greg Vaughan
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Photogrammetry of active thermal areas in Long Valley Caldera

Intern: Adam Ofstun
College: University of Pittsburgh
Mentor: Perry Jones
Location: Mounds View, Minnesota
Project: Assessing environmental conditions in areas of known mineralization in the Lake Superior basin

Intern: Nick Ogasa
College: University of California, Santa Cruz
Mentor: J. Ole Kaven
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Stress states of the Coso Geothermal Field throughout its production cycle

Intern: Emily Paine
College: Rice University
Mentor: Nancy Simon and E. Terrence Slonecker
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Characterizing individual cyanobacteria species using hyperspectral data

Intern: Jeremy Patterson
College: Colorado State University
Mentor: Claire Tiedeman
Location: Lawrenceville, New Jersey
Project: Groundwater flow and contaminant transport in fractured-rock aquifers

Intern: Sean Payne
College: Humboldt State University
Mentor: Jennifer Morace
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Columbia Plateau principal aquifer study

Intern: Lincoln Pettinger
College: Montana State University
Mentor: Erik Beever
Location: Bozeman, Montana
Project: Investigating factors which determine the niche of a species that lives in rocky talus slopes: merging ecology, biogeography, climate and geology to inform conservation of the American pika

Intern: Hannah Podzorski
College: University of Wisconsin, Madison
Mentor: Edward Stets
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Fluvial biogeochemistry at multiple scales: the role of streambed processes in controlling nutrient and carbon cycling in stream ecosystems

Intern: Mattie Reid
College: Bucknell University
Mentor: Scott Bennett
Location: Seattle, Washington
Project: Paleoseismologic and geologic investigations of active faults in the Pacific Northwest

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Intern: Charlene Rogers
College: University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Mentor: John Mullaney
Location: East Hartford, Connecticut
Project: Support of the Connecticut groundwater-level network

Intern: Kelly Sanks
College: Illinois State University
Mentor: Meagan Eagle Gonneea
Location: Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Project: Fate of salt marsh carbon in eroding and drowning marshes

Intern: Jonathan Schafer
College: Bowling Green State University
Mentor: Ian Jezorek and Patrick Connolly
Location: Cook, Washington
Project: Wind River watershed cooperative fish population and restoration assessment

Intern: Daniel Scheeler
College: Minnesota State University
Mentor: Cliff Hupp
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Vegetation and fluvial geomorphic relations

Intern: Jonathan Schwing
College: University of Oklahoma
Mentor: Ryan Crow and Kyle House
Location: Flagstaff, Arizona
Project: Geologic mapping and geomorphic analysis of early Colorado River deposits

Intern: Brian Snow
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Nicholas Johnson
Location: Millersburg, Michigan
Project: Block the migration of an invasive fish using low voltage pulsed direct current

Intern: Alicia Solomon
College: University of Kentucky
Mentor: Robin Stewart
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Investigations into the bioavailability and bioaccumulation of selenium and mercury in the San Francisco Bay estuary

Intern: Alivia Stoller
College: Illinois State University
Mentor: Carol Prentice
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Paleoseismology of the northern San Andreas Fault system

Intern: John Swiecichowski
College: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Mentor: Denise Akob
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Microbial degradation of organic compounds in hydraulic fracturing produced waters

Intern: Mark Szymanski
College: California State University, Chico
Mentor: Jacob Lowenstern
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geologic databases and fieldwork for the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory

Intern: Douglas Tebo
College: University of Texas, Arlington
Mentor: Roger Denligner and Wes Thelen
Location: Southwest Washington
Project: Field assistant for iMUSH seismic stations

Intern: Meghan Thompson
College: Boston University
Mentor: Greg Boughton
Location: Cheyenne, Wyoming
Project: Wyoming groundwater quality monitoring network

Intern: Ryan Till
College: University at Buffalo, State University of New York
Mentor: Michael Poland
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geodetic monitoring of Cascade Range volcanoes and Yellowstone

Intern: Emily Tinkler
College: Whitman College
Mentor: Donald Sweetkind
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Digital geologic map compilation in northern Sacramento Valley, the Sierran Foothills, and the California Coast ranges

Intern: Meghan Toft
College: University of Massachusetts
Mentor: Gregory Walsh
Location: Montpelier, Vermont
Project: Northeast bedrock mapping

Intern: Wesley Weisberg
College: Missouri State University
Mentor: Albert Hofstra
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Melt and fluid inclusion analysis in resource investigations

Intern: Elizabeth Whiddon
College: University of Michigan
Mentor: Rob Striegl
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Aquatic biogeochemical cycling: inland waters carbon fluxes