

NAGT/USGS 2018 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-three years, over 2,400 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 2018 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Intern: Emma Armstrong
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: Michael Toomey
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Hurricane frequency near Chesapeake Bay during the past two thousand years

Intern: Tristan BeDell
College: Appalachian State University
Mentor: Shane Detweiler
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geological and geophysical studies of the San Andreas Fault system, California

Intern: Jessica Bersson
College: Whitman College
Mentor: James Vallance
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Volcanic hazards at Glacier Peak and Mount Shasta: understanding the latest Pleistocene to post-glacial history through field and laboratory studies

Intern: Lila Bishop
College: University of Texas at Austin
Mentor: Erin Whorton
Location: Tacoma, Washington
Project: Frozen in time: using historical photographs to understand the future of water in the western U.S.

Intern: Riley Blais
College: Clemson University
Mentor: Denis LeBlanc
Location: Northborough, Massachusetts
Project: Cape Cod hydrologic research

Intern: Allyson Boggess
College: James Madison University
Mentor: Meagan Gonnee
Location: Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Project: Impact of mosquito ditching management actions on salt marsh elevation and carbon burial

Intern: Mary Kate Branigan
College: University of Nevada, Reno
Mentor: Lesleigh Anderson
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Reconstructing paleoclimate from Alaskan lake oxygen isotope; long-term perspectives on North Pacific ocean-atmosphere dynamics

Intern: Kiara Broudy
College: University of California, Santa Cruz
Mentor: Belle Philibosian
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Northern California active fault mapping and paleoseismic studies

Intern: Camille Buckley
College: Saint Louis University
Mentor: Jeffrey Ziegeweid
Location: Mounds View, Minnesota
Project: Fluvial geomorphology of the Chippewa and Upper Mississippi river basins

Intern: Trevor Burns
College: East Carolina University
Mentor: Jeffrey Chaplin
Location: Fairview, Pennsylvania
Project: Characterization of surface-water quality and quantity

Intern: Samuel Callis
College: University of Utah
Mentor: Benjamin Pauk
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geodetic monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes and Yellowstone

Intern: David Campbell
College: Eastern Kentucky University
Mentor: Alicia Gearwar
Location: Troy, New York
Project: Surface-water and ground-water networks

Intern: Marley Chertok
College: Temple University
Mentor: Nancy Simon
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Differentiating cyanobacteria genera using hyperspectral data and relating these data to water quality parameters

Intern: Brad Clagget
College: University of Tulsa
Mentor: Joel Groten
Location: Mounds View, Minnesota
Project: Field and digital geologic mapping to resolve stratigraphic discrepancies in the Appalachians

Intern: Cheyenne Cox
College: University of Missouri – Kansas City
Mentor: Daniel Doctor
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Field and digital geologic mapping to resolve stratigraphic discrepancies in the Appalachians

Intern: Robert Domeyko
College: George Mason University
Mentor: Marci Robinson
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Marine microfossil indicators of past warm periods

Intern: Morgan Garner
College: Georgia State University
Mentor: Miriam Jones
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Placing wetland accretion and vegetation in change associated with land-use change and sea-level rise into the Holocene context

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Intern: Kerri Gefeki
College: Northern Illinois University
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Earthquake hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.:
Field and office activities

Intern: Scott Gifford
College: Brigham Young University – Idaho
Mentor: Nicholas Johnson
Location: Millersburg, Michigan
Project: Optimize pheromone application rates to yield
consistent catches of sea lamprey in barrier-integrated
traps

Intern: Lauren Giggy
College: Fort Lewis College
Mentor: Jeffrey Chaplin
Location: Fairview, Pennsylvania
Project: Characterization of hydrogeologic resources in
Pennsylvania with emphasis on methane and
pesticides in groundwater

Intern: Nicholas Gilbert
College: University of Missouri – Columbia
Mentor: Benjamin Pauk
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geodetic monitoring of Cascade Range volcanoes and
Yellowstone

Intern: Francesca Governali
College: Dartmouth College
Mentor: Andrea Foster
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Phytostabilization in action: Optimizing plant-
microbial communities for enhanced reclamation of
acidic tailings

Intern: Madeline Hille
College: University of Washington
Mentor: Richard Briggs
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Active faults in the western U.S.

Intern: Amanda Hultz
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Earthquake hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.:
Field and office activities

Intern: Sarah Jonathan
College: Macalester College
Mentor: William Farmer
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Repressing the hydrologic cycle at a national scale:
Tools for model evaluation and improvement

Intern: Sally Keating
College: University of California, Davis
Mentor: Stephen DeLong
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Landslide hazards in post-glacial landscapes

Intern: Douglas Keto
College: Western Michigan University
Mentor: Alicia Gearwar
Location: Troy, New York
Project: Surface-water and ground-water networks

Intern: Evan Magette
College: Colgate University
Mentor: Michael Toomey
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Mapping drowned Hawaiian reef terraces to
reconstruct past sea level change

Intern: Anna Maher
College: University of Nebraska, Omaha
Mentor: Jared Trost
Location: Mounds View, Minnesota
Project: Evaluating the susceptibility and sustainability of
water supplies from confined glacial aquifers

Intern: Connor Martin
College: University of Pittsburgh
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Earthquake hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.:
Field and office activities

Intern: Jordon Mason
College: South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied hydrogeophysics research

Intern: Kimberly Moore
College: Sam Houston State University
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied hydrogeophysics research

Intern: Joshua Parris
College: Georgia State University
Mentor: Brent Topping
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Arsenic sources in the Klamath Basin

Intern: Eleanor Rappolee
College: Michigan State University
Mentor: Katherine Skalak and Adam Benthem
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Sediment dynamics and transport in rivers

Intern: Michael Reed
College: State University of New York at Geneseo
Mentor: Katherine Scharer
Location: Pasadena, California
Project: Earthquake hazards of reverse faults in southern
California

Intern: Emma Reib
College: Dartmouth College
Mentor: Gregory Noe
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: The effect of floodplain geomorphology on nutrient
biogeochemistry and water quality

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Intern: Steven Richardson
College: Ohio University
Mentor: Emily Pindilli
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Integration of economics into the Mississippi Alluvial Plain Aquifer groundwater model

Intern: Hannah Rigoni
College: New Mexico Tech
Mentor: Ronald Harvey
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Fate and transport of micropollutants during surface water-groundwater exchange

Intern: Claire Ruggles
College: University of Wisconsin – Madison
Mentor: Daniel Dzurisin
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geodetic monitoring of Cascade Range volcanoes and Yellowstone

Intern: Kristen Steele
College: James Madison University
Mentor: Jessica Rodysill
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Holocene drought history inferred from lake lowstands in the Southeastern U.S.

Intern: Elizabeth Teeter
College: Bowdoin College
Mentor: Ian Jezorek
Location: Cook, Washington
Project: Columbia Gorge tributary salmonid monitoring and evaluation

Intern: Alexandra Wallenberg
College: Illinois State University
Mentor: Al Hofstra
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Melt and fluid inclusion analysis in resource investigations

Intern: Kelsey Walsh
College: Humboldt State University
Mentor: Kenzie Turner
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Project: Geologic mapping in San Luis Valley of the Rio Grande rift

Intern: Geoffrey Webb
College: University of Missouri – Columbia
Mentor: Andrew Waite
Location: Ithaca, New York
Project: Surface-water and ground-water networks

Intern: Shannon Weld
College: Colorado State University
Mentor: Celeste Journey
Location: Columbia, South Carolina
Project: National Water Quality Program groundwater and surface water trends

Intern: Zoe Wellschlager
College: University of Oregon
Mentor: Vincent D'Angelo
Location: West Glacier, Montana
Project: Experimental suppression of invasive lake trout; and Translocation of imperiled fishes

Intern: Kelsey Wetzel
College: Utah State University
Mentor: Scott Bennett
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Neotectonic investigations of the Yakima Folds and Cascade Range

