



# NMGS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10 FALL 2007

Dear Members,

2007 has been another very successful year for the Society, highlighted by our annual Spring Meeting in Socorro, which focused on geothermal energy, and a magnificent Fall Field Conference in the Jemez Mountains in September. The Society continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the New Mexico Bureau of Geology, thanks to the support of Peter Scholle, the Bureau director. And thanks to the funding provided by the NMGS Foundation, we have been able to continue our program of awarding scholarships and research grants to New Mexico students.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of all those volunteers who have helped to make 2007 such a busy and exciting year for the Society, in particular Shari Kelley and Barry Kues, who co-convened this year's Fall Field Conference; Patrick Walsh and Jennifer Whiteis, who organized the Spring Meeting; Virgil Lueth, our managing editor; Adam Read, our webmaster; Bob Myers, the scholarship committee chair; and Maureen Wilks and Kitty Pokorny, who together have done an outstanding job of managing our publications sales and conference registration.

Serving as this year's President has been very gratifying, and much more fun than I thought it would be. As my term of office comes to an end, I would like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members for their patience and support this year. I would particularly like to thank our outgoing Past-President Jennifer Lindline, whose diligent note-taking during our board meetings made my job as President so much easier.

Lewis Land, President, NMGS

## **Executive Committee**

President	Lewis Land NM Bureau of Geology
Vice President	Shari Kelley NM Bureau of Geology
Treasurer	Kate Zeigler University of New Mexico
Secretary	Marilyn Huff New Mexico State University
Past President	Jennifer Lindline New Mexico Highlands University

## **NMGS Foundation Board**

President	Virgil Lueth
Vice President	John Shomaker
Treasurer	Laura Crossey
Secretary	Tim Lawton
NMGS Liaison	Shari Kelley

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **2008 Spring Meeting**

The 2008 Spring Meeting will be held on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Conference Center in Socorro. The theme of the meeting will be regional tectonics and recent geologic mapping in the Rio Grande Rift. Deadline for submission of abstracts is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Contact Mike Timmons (mtimmons@gis.nmt.edu) or Kate Zeigler (kaerowyn@unm.edu) for details.

### **2008 Fall Field Conference**

The next Fall Field Conference will be held in mid-October, 2008, in Silver City, New Mexico. The trip will focus on Eocene-Oligocene volcanism, Paleozoic and Precambrian stratigraphy, and ore deposits of the Gila Wilderness in southwestern New Mexico. Greg Mack and Jim Witcher are the principal conveners of the 2008 conference.

### **2008 Scholarships and Awards**

All scholarships awarded by the New Mexico Geological Society are funded by the NMGS Foundation. The Society coordinates the competitions and makes recommendations to the Foundation for funding. There are two types of scholarships:

(1) Competitive scholarships that are decided by the NMGS Scholarship Committee. These include the Pipkin Undergraduate Research Award, the Graduate Grants-in-Aid, the Kottowski Research Award, and the awards for outstanding student presentations at the Spring Meeting.

(2) Non-competitive scholarships that are awarded by academic departments. These include the Fall Field Conference scholarships, the Pipkin Book Scholarships, the Pipkin Senior Scholarships, the Robert and Beverly Wellnitz Memorial Scholarships, and the Outstanding Senior Award. Not all of these awards are given to each school each year.

Information on Scholarships can be found at <http://nmgs.nmt.edu/scholarships>

### **Student Proposal Deadlines**

Graduate Research Grants-in-Aid and Pipkin Undergraduate Research Award submissions must be postmarked by Friday, **February 15, 2008**.

### **Non-Competitive Scholarship Deadlines**

#### **Note to Universities:**

In mid-March each year, you will be contacted by the NMGS Vice-President to solicit your picks for ALL of the non-competitive awards except the Fall Field Conference scholarships. These scholarships need to be awarded by the end of the spring semester. Please keep this deadline marked. Don't let your students miss out on these lucrative scholarships!

### **2008 AAPG Southwest Section Annual Meeting**

**February 24-27, 2008 • Abilene, Texas**  
Hosted by the Abilene Geological Society

### **2008 GSA Cordilleran/Rocky Mountain Section Meeting**

**March 19-21, 2008, Las Vegas, Nevada**

### **2008 AAPG Annual Meeting**

**April 20-23, San Antonio, Texas**

Hosted by the South Texas Geological Society

### **2008 AAPG Rocky Mountain Section Annual Meeting**

**July 9-11, Denver, Colorado**

Hosted by the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists

## **REPORTS – 2007 EVENTS**

### **2007 Spring Meeting**

Patrick Walsh and Jennifer Whiteis of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology organized the 2007 Annual Spring Meeting in Socorro. There were 142 registrants at the meeting, an increase over the previous year, and 53 abstracts submitted. The theme of this year's meeting was Geothermal Resources of New Mexico and included Jim Witcher as our keynote speaker. Jim's topic was *Laramide and older structures as possible primary controls on the occurrence of convective geothermal systems in the Rio Grande Rift and adjacent areas*. Abstracts for the meeting were published by the Bureau in the May issue of *New Mexico Geology* with financial support from the NMGS Foundation.

### **2007 Fall Field Conference**

This year's field conference took place in late September in the beautiful Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico. This was the Society's first visit to the Jemez Mountains since 1996, and provided attendees with spectacular panoramas of the Valles Caldera and associated volcanic structures. The conference was very well-organized by Shari Kelley and Barry Kues, with logistical support provided by Kate

Zeigler (her third year in this position). Virgil Lueth, once again serving as the guidebook's Managing Editor, instigated a publishing innovation this year by publishing a separate, spiral-bound set of the road logs (with minipapers only), in addition to the full guidebook with both road logs and technical papers. The spiral-bound compilation of road logs with minipapers is available for separate purchase.

This year's Fall Field Conference will probably be remembered as one of the best in many years, and we wish to thank all the volunteers involved in its organization. A vote of thanks also goes out to this year's intrepid student flaggers, Paul Aragon, Nikita Tenorio, Cavin Rathjen, and Adam Bristol, for keeping us on track even in the dense fog and rain of Day 1.

### ***2007 Honorary Member***

Brian Brister was named the 2007 NMGS Honorary Member during the Friday night barbecue at the Valles Caldera National Preserve Headquarters. After receiving his Ph.D. from New Mexico Tech in 1990, Brian spent 8 years working in the petroleum industry, with much of his work focused on hydrocarbon resources of southeastern New Mexico. In 1999 Brian began working for the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources in Socorro. During his five years with the Bureau Brian directed his research toward the natural gas resources of the San Juan and Raton Basins of northern New Mexico. In 2004 Brian returned to the private sector and is currently employed by Gunn Oil Co. in Wichita Falls, TX. Although he presently resides out-of-state, Brian's commitment to New Mexico geology continues. He was responsible for a recent natural gas discovery in the Tucumcari Basin in east-central New Mexico, a semi-frontier basin that has only recently been subject to successful exploratory drilling.

Brian has a career-long history of volunteering in the management of various professional societies. He is currently vice-president of both the North Texas Geological Society and the Southwest Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), as well as serving as Scoutmaster of Troop 11 of the

Boy Scouts of America in Wichita Falls. Brian has been a member of NMGS since 1986. His primary involvement with the Society was from 1999 through 2004, during which time he served on the Executive committee, organized a Spring Meeting, and was co-editor of the 2004 Fall Field Conference Guidebook. During Brian's tenure on the Executive Committee it became obvious that the Society's high levels of investment income were endangering our non-profit status. One of Brian's most significant contributions was to assist in creation of the NMGS Foundation, thus providing stable, long-term management of our scholarship assets and ensuring that the Society's non-profit status is protected. We wish to thank Brian for his very substantial and long-term contributions to the Society and to New Mexico geology.

### ***Future Fall Field Conferences***

Commitments for field conferences are now outlined for the next three years. The field-conference venues and names of organizers are listed below. All members are encouraged to volunteer assistance to the organizers or to contribute to the guidebooks. If you live near or are involved with the geology in the vicinity of the future conference sites, please consider contacting one of the organizers. We welcome proposals for future field conferences in 2011 and 2012.

#### ***Fall 2008: Gila Wilderness***

Greg Mack (NMSU) and Jim Witcher (NMSU)

#### ***Fall 2009: Chupadera Mesa***

Virgil Lueth (New Mexico Bureau of Geology) and Spencer Lucas (New Mexico Museum of Natural History)

#### ***Fall 2010: Four Corners Region***

Kate Zeigler (UNM) and James Fassett (USGS, ret.)

### ***NMGS Publication Sales***

All NMGS publications are now available on our website. There is a 35% discount for

student members on all publications. Publications include the new edition of the Geologic Highway Map, the Special Volume "Geology of New Mexico: A Geologic History", and all of the Field Conference Guidebooks.

Visit <http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/> for publication prices and ordering information.

### ***2007 Scholarships and Awards***

The New Mexico Geological Society Foundation awarded over \$35,000 in scholarships and awards in 2007. This year's recipients and their university affiliations follow:

#### **Lucille Pipkin Book Scholarships (\$150)**

NMT: Paul Slezak, Crystal Robinson, Jestina Hanson; ENMU: James Carnes, Seth Chrisman, Seth Clabaugh; NMSU: Lauren Aragon, Steve Goluska, Jason Kegel; UNM: Shannon Miller, Susan Meyers, Ian Moore; WNMU: Anna Goetz, Jonathon Evans, Meghan Watson; NMHU: Louis Garcia, Nicole Nebitsi, Calvin Parson; Dine College: Derek Begay, Elsie Upshaw, Theresa Tsosie; College of Santa Fe: Wendy Timmons, Julie Smith, Michael Morrow; New Mexico Military Institute: Frederick Kruse, John Schwenke; San Juan College: Cory Boehne, Martha Esmiol, Daniel Hanson.

#### **Robert Wellnitz Scholarship (\$1,000)**

Kym Samuels (NMT)

#### **Beverly Wellnitz Scholarship (\$500)**

Mark Tyra (UNM)  
Ron Foster (NMSU)

#### **Lucille Pipkin Senior Scholarship (\$3000)**

Emerlene Aragon (NMSU)  
Melissa Noel Gill (UNM)  
Matthew Earthman (NMT)  
Rhonda Trujillo (NMHU)  
Lindsay Jones (ENMU)

#### **Outstanding Senior Award (\$300)**

Denette Bowman (Diné)

Jeneeta Garcia (WNMU)

#### **Fall Field Conference Scholarships (\$150)**

UNM: Ian Moore, Will Woodruf, Linda Donohoo-Hurley, Ashley Edelman; NMT: Christina Forbes, Colin Cikoski, Matt Baillie, Kym Samuel, Doug Berlier; NMSU: Eric Gottlieb, Matt Jones, Kali Hodnett, Emerlene Aragon; NMHU: Joel Lowry, Calvin Parson, Rhonda Trujillo; WNMU: Jeneeta Garcia, Carla Turrey; ENMU: Seth Chrisman, Boyd Coffey; San Juan College: John Hosteen, Corwin Lameman

#### **Student Research Awards**

##### **Frank E. Kottowski Research Award (\$2500)**

Armand Dischosa (UNM)

##### **NMGS Grants-in-Aid (up to \$2000 each)**

Kym Samuel (NMT)  
Matthew Zimmerer (NMT)  
Ron Foster (NMSU)  
Emily Engle (NMT)

##### **Lucille Pipkin Undergraduate Research Awards (up to \$1000)**

##### **Spring Meeting Awards (\$100)**

Best Oral Presentation: Matt Averill  
(University of Texas – El Paso)

Best Poster Presentation: Shasta McGee  
(NMT)

##### **Other award recipients**

Los Alamos Geological Society Fall Field Conference Scholarships: Kate Zeigler (UNM); Lindsay Jones (ENMU); Matt Zimmerer (NMT); Louis Garcia (NMHU); Josh Sadler (NMSU).

New Mexico Bureau of Geology, in support of printing the NMGS Spring Meeting abstracts in the May, 2007 issue of New Mexico Geology.

New Mexico Tech Mineral Museum, in support of the 2007 Mineral Symposium.