



NMGS NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Kate Zeigler

As always, we would like to thank all of you who take the time to send us your thoughts and suggestions regarding all that NMGS does – we value your comments and thank you again for taking the time to communicate with us! We do take all of your suggestions to heart, and we are continuing to focus on broadening the list of our upcoming publications as per your recommendations, as well as determining the best format for advancing our theme of celebrating the scientific contributions of the geologic legends of New Mexico. Many of you expressed concern over the year regarding the status of student scholarships in the face of the current economic downturn. We are very glad to report that we are continuing to support our students and their research at the same levels (if not higher!) than in previous years. Careful investing on the part of the NMGS Foundation has safeguarded our funds and we are very fortunate to be able to continue our student scholarship program. And, as always, we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and efforts towards both the Spring Meeting and the Fall Field Conference! NMGS events are volunteer-driven and would not happen without the time and effort of our members who contribute so much to both our Spring Meeting and the Fall Field Conference.

NMGS 2009 Fall Field Conference

This year's Fall Field Conference was based in Socorro and traveled east to explore Chupadera Mesa, which is brand new territory for a field conference. This trip was co-led by Virgil Lueth (NMBGMR), Spencer Lucas (NM Museum of Natural History & Science) and Richard Chamberlin (NMBGMR) and was quite fascinating. In addition, Steve Hook and Steve Cather presented several interesting aspects of their own research at various stops. It is clear from this field conference that a wealth of work is progressing in this relatively uncharted part of New Mexico and I am sure NMGS members are looking forward to revisiting Chupadera Mesa a few years down the road. Virgil Lueth did an outstanding job as managing editor of the guidebook. As always, Kitty Pokorny and Connie Apache acted as our ever-ready registration chairs and were in charge of publication sales (where would we be without them?). Mark Mansell and Shannon Williams kept everyone well-fed and hydrated at the drink truck and Shannon instituted an excellent recycling program by asking folks to refill their water bottles from coolers rather than grabbing a new bottle. An excellent idea for future field conferences! As always, a giant thank-you to all of our flaggers and everyone else who helped to make this year's field conference a success.

Each year, a variety of scholarships offer students the opportunity to attend the Fall Field Conference: the New Mexico Geological Society Foundation scholarship and the Los Alamos Geological Society scholarship. In addition, this year we had a one-time scholarship provided by John Throne and we thank John for his generosity. These scholarships traditionally allow anywhere from 30 to 32 students to attend in order to learn geoscience on the ground (so to speak) and to meet professional geoscientists in an informal setting. We are exceedingly grateful to all of these organizations for their continued support of geoscience students. Recipients of the 2009 Fall Field Conference scholarships are:

NMGS Foundation FFC Scholarship:

NMT: Aaron Curtis, Amy Luther, Phil Miller, Christine Polo

San Juan College: Jack Nakita, Thomas Murphy

WNMU: Nessa Griffin, Lodi Meurs

NMSU: Chris Clinkscales, Joseph Hecker, Evan Kochelek, Ryan Mulhall

UNM: Christina Batson, Stephanie Mason

NMHU: Hernan Lara, Rachell Pitrucha

Los Alamos Geological Society Scholarship:

NMT: Lindsey Harris

NMSU: Devon Mullis

UNM: Chanel Dailey

NMHU: Amanda Aragon

John Throne Scholarship:
Colin Cikoski

Flaggers (registration waived by NMGS):
NMHU: Adam Brister, Danielle Cedillo, Lorraine Garcia

2009 NMGS Honorary Member – Greg Mack

Each year, NMGS recognizes one member for their outstanding contributions to the Society over the years. This year, NMGS honors Dr. Greg Mack, of New Mexico State University, for his long commitment to both the Society and to excellence in geologic research. Greg has made major contributions to geoscience in a wide variety of subdisciplines, ranging from Rio Grande Rift sedimentation processes to rift tectonics in Europe and North America to Paleozoic paleosols and their relationship to paleoclimate. Greg has also advanced our understanding of Permian stratigraphy in central and southern New Mexico and has been referred to by some as “the master of Yeso stratigraphy”. In addition, he implemented and oversaw the development of the diverse Zuhl Geological Collection at NMSU, currently housed in the NMSU library. As well as being a very active field scientist, Greg organized three NMGS Fall Field Conferences, beginning with the 1988 trip to southwestern New Mexico, followed by the 1998 trip to Las Cruces and surroundings and with the latest being the 2008 Fall Field Conference to the Gila Wilderness and Silver City area. In addition, Greg served on the organizing committee for the 1986 field conference to the Truth or Consequences region. We would like to thank Greg again for all that he has contributed both to our understanding of New Mexico geology and to NMGS!

Pipkin and Wellnitz Scholarship Awardees

Between May and November of 2009, the NMGS Foundation awarded over \$20,000 in Pipkin book and senior awards and the Robert and Beverly Wellnitz scholarships. Thank you to Barry Kues for organizing the scholarship process. We extend congratulations to all of our student award recipients! The winners of the Pipkin and Wellnitz scholarships are listed below.

Lucille Pipkin Book Awards (\$150)

UNM: Tara Aran, Amanda Rice, Jane Gallegos

NMT: Heather Casey, Shaun Finn, Paul Slezak

NMSU: Lucinda Rivas, April Smith, Katherine Weisbrod

San Juan College: Chanel Dailey, Max Campbell, Dana Hawkins

ENMU: Josh Chapman, Jessica Ward, Autumn Kratochvil

WNMU: Ryan Harrington, Whitney Hutchison, Cassie Hodge

NMHU: Adam Brister, Richard Catterello, Gabriel Jaramillo

Lucille Pipkin Senior Scholarships (\$3000)

UNM: Nicole Thomas

NMT: Frank Hack

NMSU: Betsy Crosby

ENMU: Seth Clabaugh

NMHU: Lorraine Garcia

Robert Wellnitz Scholarship (\$1000)

UNM: Ara Kooser

Beverly Wellnitz Scholarships (\$500)

NMT: Alex Rinehart

NMSU: Ryan Bright

Student Grant-in-Aid Proposal Deadlines

Graduate research grant-in-aids, Frank E. Kottowski Award and Pipkin Undergraduate Research Award submissions must be received electronically or postmarked by Friday, ***February 19, 2010***.

Details are available at: http://nmgs.nmt.edu/scholarships/NMGS_scholarship_details.pdf

Applications at: http://nmgs.nmt.edu/scholarships/NMGS_scholarship_packet.pdf

Upcoming Events

The annual Spring Meeting will be held at Macey Center in Socorro, NM on ***April 16, 2010***. The theme is Geology of the Sacramento Mountains and Tularosa Basin and the meeting will be co-chaired by Dan Koning, Shari Kelley and Kate Zeigler.

Future Fall Field Conferences

Commitments for field conferences are outlined for four years in advance. Field conference venues and the names of the co-organizers are listed below. All members are encouraged to lend a hand either as volunteers on the conference or as contributors to the guidebooks. Please do not hesitate to contact the co-organizers of a conference that will be held near you! In addition, if you have an idea for a future field conference venue, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Executive Committee!

2010 FFC: Four Corners Region

Field Trip Chairs: Jim Fassett, Kate Zeigler

2011 FFC: Tusas Mountains

Field Trip Chairs: Dan Koning, Shari Kelley, Scotty Aby, Kirt Kempter, Karl Karlstrom

2012 FFC: Sierra County

Field Trip Chairs: Spencer Lucas, Virginia McLemore, Karl Krainer, Karl Laumbach, Justin Spielmann

NMGS Publication Sales

Please visit the NMGS website for access to all publications from the NMGS and from the Bureau. Student members receive a 35% discount on all publications. Among our newest publications are the 60th Guidebook (Chupadera Mesa), the Geologic Highway Map and Special Publication 11: Geology of New Mexico. For more information on availability and prices, please visit: <http://nmgs.nmt.edu/publications/home.cfm>.

Current NMGS Committee Members

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Past President	Shari Kelley

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Member	Barry Kues
Member	Spencer Lucas

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