Dialogue

A Message to GSA Student Members

Anthony J. Naldrett, GSA Past President

It is no exaggeration to say that of all GSA's different types of members, you, our Student Members (graduate students) and Student Associates (undergraduates) are the most important to our Society because, above all, you are the lifeblood for our future. As of October 2002, we had 881 Student Associates and 3,010 Student Members, which accounted for over 24% of the total membership. We regard this as a healthy indicator for our future.

I came to Canada from Britain in 1957 with an undergraduate degree in geology. After a few years as a mine geologist, I entered graduate school at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and joined GSA in 1962, despite the fact that my interests were primarily in Canada. I regarded GSA as a premier earth science society with a North America-wide (even worldwide)

profile. My continuing involvement with the Society over the past 40 years—through its meetings, publications, and committees—gave me a breadth of outlook which membership in more focused societies has never done, a breadth which has enormously enriched both my personal and professional life.

Because of the impact GSA has had on my life, I'd like to remind you of what you are getting for your membership (and perhaps to point out to some of your friends what they are missing!).

- First, you receive the benefits of all GSA members: subscription to *GSA Today*, which keeps you abreast of what is going on and is about to occur in the earth sciences; a 20% discount on all GSA publications; member rates for certain other journals; and eligibility for our affinity programs.
- As students, you also receive free online access to *GSA Bulletin* and *Geology* and their archives (professional members must pay \$130 for this), and you have the right to participate in the GSA graduate research grants competition, to compete for GeoCorps positions, to apply for travel grants and undergraduate research grants administered by the six GSA Sections, and to register for the GSA

Annual meeting for \$90 (which is \$30 less than nonmember students must pay). In addition, if you wish to receive a print version of *GSA Bulletin* or *Geology*, you can do so for \$40—half the price paid by professionals.

- You receive all of this for annual dues of \$30 (\$25 if you pay before January 1). And to help ease the transition to professional life, you can continue to pay the student dues rate for two years after graduation. In short, if GSA represents your field of interest, you can hardly afford not to belong!

Part of GSA's mission is to promote the geosciences in the service of humankind, and your participation is essential for achieving this. We hope that you will become involved in our Society and keep it focused and vital once you leave college and take up your professional careers.

I hope that many of you will see GSA in a way similar to how I see it, that you'll take advantage of the opportunities GSA creates that let you get to know and work with others who are specialists in areas different from your own, and that these opportunities help you in your development as a well-rounded earth scientist.

2003–2004 CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE FELLOW APPOINTED

Michèle Koppes, a doctoral candidate at the University of Washington, has been appointed the GSA–U.S. Geological Survey Congressional Science Fellow for 2003–2004. Koppes' broad research interests are in the processes that shape our landscape and in the ways in which these processes reflect natural climate variability and anthropomorphic change. Focusing on the impact of glacial systems in landscape evolution and the glacial sedimentary record as an indicator of recent climate change, her research has taken her to the fjords of Alaska and Patagonia, the high mountain glaciers of Central Asia and the margins of the western Antarctica. She has also enjoyed sharing her research by developing and teaching courses on glaciers and geomorphology at both the high school and university level. Outside of her primary research interests, she has contributed to projects as varied as determining landslide and earthquake hazards in Puget Sound, developing environmental

clean-up strategies at Hanford nuclear reservation and assessing the impact of managed forest practices on the health of New England forests. Koppes received her M.S. in geology and certificate in environmental management from the University of Washington. She received her B.A. in geology from Williams College in 1995, where she first became a member of GSA.

A Dutch citizen, Koppes has traveled to every continent and lived in countries as disparate as Switzerland and the Philippines. In so doing, she learned to appreciate the importance of communication between disciplines and cultures in the global management of climate, the ocean, the atmosphere, and natural resources. She is interested in how the findings of the geological community at large can be applied to political, societal, legal, and economic issues confronting this nation and the global public.

"I believe that we, as earth scientists, have a duty to lend our unique perspective on the relationships among

society, the landscapes we inhabit, and the natural resources we rely on to the making of sound public policy," said Koppes. She is particularly concerned with the differences between the scientific and legislative views of risk and uncertainty in decision-making. An active advocate of using scientific literacy as a tool to bridging this communication gap, Koppes spends her summers teaching field glaciology and environmental conservation techniques to high school students in the national parks.

Koppes is honored to be the GSA–USGS Congressional Fellow and is excited to promote the role of the earth sciences to this nation's environmental and technological policy decisions. She is particularly interested in working on climate change issues, public lands management, sustainable resource use, and science education.

For Information on the 2004–2005 GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellowship, see the Call for Applications on page 24.