

# Serving Geoscience and the Profession

The mission of the Geological Society of America Foundation is to develop and provide funds to support the goals and programs of the Geological Society of America. These funds are distributed according to the needs of the Society and in a manner consistent with the desire of the donors. The responsibilities of the Foundation are twofold: (1) to support GSA programs, and (2) to preserve the Foundation's assets for the future.

## 2019–2020 HIGHLIGHTS

In fiscal year 2020, the GSA Foundation received annual campaign contributions and pledges of more than US\$807,300 from individual GSA members and corporations. Our success was assured by 7,316 separate gifts at all levels, a testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of GSA members and supporters.

On 5 May 2020, people around the world came together for *Giving Tuesday Now* to tap into the power of something that GSA already lives by: a sense of community to support one another. During this critical time, people everywhere experienced unexpected challenges. GSA and the GSA Foundation each committed US\$50,000 to create a new program, GSA COVID-19 Assistance and Relief Effort for Students (GSA CARES). We thank you, our members and GSA Sections, who went above and beyond the challenge to match this so that we were able to offer US\$188,000 in assistance to our students—those who will be stepping into ever-vital future roles in the geosciences.

The Campaign for GSA's Future wrapped up during the GSA 2019 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, having raised US\$6,270,000 from 176 donors to support GSA programs into the future. The Foundation celebrated its campaign success with a special combined Penrose Circle, student awards, and campaign donor dinner.

We also thank dozens of other individuals, Associated Societies, GSA Sections, and corporate sponsors for continuing to help advance On To the Future, GSA's flagship diversity initiative. A very generous individual donor once again offered a

matching challenge, and despite the unprecedented circumstances during the spring of 2020, our donors surpassed the match amount. The Foundation will continue to provide membership and help students from underrepresented groups attend their first GSA annual gathering: GSA 2020 Connects Online.

Our donors remain committed to helping students obtain vital field experience, and we were able to offer 19 scholarships from the J. David Lowell Field Camp Scholarship Program. Four of these were supported by the Petroleum Geoscientists Fund for Undergraduate Field Experience. Due to COVID-19 circumstances, while some 2020 field camps are still convening in person or virtually, those recipients whose field camps have been cancelled will use their funds next summer.

Corporate partners helped us re-think and adapt our seventh year of the GeoCareers Program, with a virtual version to be included during GSA 2020 Connects Online and additional career webinars throughout the year.

In 2019, our student donors continued to show their generosity, as 1,161 gave back to GSA in support of their fellow students. The Foundation was pleased to recognize this dynamic group through their own unique giving circle, Tektonikos. The accompanying tagline, "Building the Future," conveys their important role in the geosciences.

We are deeply appreciative of those who include the Foundation in their estate plans, and Legacy Circle gifts are vital to unrestricted funding. We are inspired that we continue hearing from donors making new legacy gift commitments, and we look



forward to introducing them personally to GSAF's new president, who joined GSAF in July, Dr. Christopher Grant Maples, so that he can learn firsthand why this is such an important personal commitment from some of you. Dr. Maples replaces Dr. John W. (Jack) Hess, who was the president of the Foundation since

## How Members Can Get Involved:

- Support students, research, and education through a voluntary contribution to the GSA Foundation when you renew your 2021 membership.
- Help others be part of our GSA member community. The Membership Assistance Program and Fund enables those who cannot afford the cost of membership, or who experience difficulty in transferring funds from their country to the USA, to become members. Support and spread the word.



January 2015. The staff greatly appreciates him and his years of caring leadership. The Foundation is continuing a strategy of communications themed around

*Community of Support*, in keeping with one of the enduring qualities that GSA members value most: the sense of community found within the Society.

Most recently, we have featured interviews with donors who gave to GSA CARES at [https://gsa-foundation.org/gsa-cares\\_camala-garzzone/](https://gsa-foundation.org/gsa-cares_camala-garzzone/).



The Foundation is pleased to help donors support GSA programs and priorities important to them. Looking forward, the Foundation and GSA are collaborating to carry out even more effective resource building strategies. With your help, we will shape a strong future for GSA.

We encourage every member to avail themselves of the opportunity to serve GSA and to support the Foundation in our combined efforts to ensure the dynamism and strength of the geosciences. Please visit the Foundation's website at [www.gsa-foundation.org](http://www.gsa-foundation.org) for information and ideas regarding ways you can make a philanthropic impact for GSA and the geosciences.