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GSA TODAY

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Geological Society of America Foundation

The GSA Foundation, which raises funds on behalf of The Geological Society of America, has seen immense changes over the past year—transformations that strengthen GSA's work and impact. In May 2025, after a national search, the GSA Foundation welcomed Sean O'Brien, PhD, as Executive Director. Becky Priest Santavicca subsequently joined the GSA Foundation as its Development and Communications Officer in September.

Before Sean and Becky joined the team, the GSA Foundation staff and board provided steady continuity and leadership. The dedication and ongoing contributions of GSA Foundation Board Members, all of whom are GSA members, ensured awareness of, and alignment with, GSA's priorities and needs. The GSA Foundation also benefited from the expertise of longtime staff A.J. Villa, Stewardship Coordinator, and Jeff Tyler, Operations Manager. Together with Interim Executive Director Neil Fishman and the Board of Trustees, Jeff and A.J. kept the Foundation strong and growing in a transitional period.

Now that the GSA Foundation is fully staffed, the team is excited to do even more to build connections with the GSA community. We love to hear about GSA and its impact from those who know it best—its members and longtime supporters. Toward that end, GSA Foundation staff attend all GSA Section Meetings and GSA Connects each year. There, we are impressed by the research and knowledge that sustain the community. We also learn how GSA has shaped your trajectories and inspired you across education and career stages. Your stories inspire us to do more and work harder to support GSA's excellence.

In 2025, thanks to the generosity of the community, the GSA Foundation was able to provide more than $2 million in funding to GSA. These resources have a huge impact. Some awards enable geology students and young professionals to engage in research, go to summer field camps, and attend conferences; others recognize trailblazers who make groundbreaking discoveries, share the role of geoscience with lawmakers, and foster international collaboration.

Our impact—and capacity—continues to grow. We are on track to raise more than $700,000 in new endowed funds in fiscal year 2026.

All of these funds further the mission of GSA, now and in perpetuity. These new resources will enable GSA to nurture current and future geoscientists and take a leading role in addressing the challenges the Earth sciences are uniquely poised to address.



Figure 1. L-R, GSA Foundation Stewardship Coordinator A.J. Villa and Operations Manager Jeff Tyler at the 2025 joint NE/NC Section Meeting.



Figure 2. L-R, GSA Foundation Development and Communications Officer Becky Priest Santavicca, Shankhadeep Baul, Sayantan Saha, and GSA Council Treasurer and GSA Fellow Brian Katz at GSA Connects 2025.



Figure 3. L-R, GSA Foundation Executive Director Sean O'Brien, longtime GSA member Robert Blodgett, and GSA Science Communication Fellow & Marketing Coordinator Rachel Phillips at the 2026 NE Section Meeting.

You are part of this story.

The geoscience community is one that knows that small changes over time can create enormous impact. By supporting the GSA Foundation, you are keeping GSA at the forefront of discovery and leadership.

Please scan the QR code below to donate today, or contact Sean O'Brien at sean.obrien@gsa-foundation.org to share your vision and shape the future.

Gifts to the GSA Foundation are fully tax-deductible under U.S. law.

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