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GSA TODAY

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GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
FOUNDATION

Never a Wrong Moment: Giving in Real Time and Over Geological Time

Your generosity to the GSA Foundation makes a difference—fostering education, research, careers, community, and more. The breadth of its mission and work means that there are many ways to support GSA through the GSA Foundation.

We want the giving process to be as transparent as possible so you know how your gifts make an impact, for whom, and when. You can contribute on behalf of current, pressing priorities with annual fund donations and build endowments that provide steady investment across generations. All of these contributions matter—and come together to nurture geoscience journeys and excellence.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

For the geosciences, this is a pivotal moment. Science funding is threatened across multiple domains. At the same time, neither lawmakers nor the general public fully grasp that Earth science is vital to meeting the challenges of the present. Headlines warn about insufficient aquifers and the necessity of sourcing clean-energy minerals. Nepal's devastating August floods, among many other natural disasters, underscore the need for investment in disaster prediction, mitigation, alert systems, and recovery—all of which require geoscience tools.

Your donations help GSA meet this moment and champion your expertise. When you give to funds such as GSA's Greatest Needs Fund, the J. David Lowell Field Camp Scholarship Program, or the GSA Science Policy Fellows Program, you are empowering GSA to nurture new Earth scientists and advocate for why this community's work is imperative.

You can also make an immediate impact in a specific area of study. For example, longtime GSA Foundation benefactor Roscoe Jackson recently made a large gift that will provide $10,000 for sedimentology research for one graduate student or early-career professional each year for the next five years. If your philanthropic vision aligns with GSA's mission, the GSA Foundation will work to ensure your contribution is used when and how you prefer.

ENDOWED JOURNEYS

The GSA Foundation is also home to many endowments—permanent funds created with specific purposes. Many of them support research in particular disciplines or regions; others facilitate conferences, recognition of career achievements, and much more. Thanks to these funds, GSA is able to make hundreds of annual awards. Endowments are a way to support your giving goals in perpetuity.

The new Dr. Emile A. Pessagno Jr. Mesozoic Stratigraphy Fund, for example, will support PhD students studying Mesozoic biostratigraphy, lithostratigraphy, and tectonostratigraphy. Dr. Pessagno, a renowned micropaleontologist, provided for the establishment of this fund in his estate plan.

WAYS TO DONATE

We offer many ways to give. Like Dr. Pessagno, you can include the GSA Foundation in your estate plan. You can also donate securities and other non-cash assets. Community members who are 70.5 or older increasingly make gifts through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) as part of IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

Of course, you need not choose between giving on behalf of urgent priorities and endowed funds. GSA relies on all kinds of support and all kinds of supporters. We are a small enough organization to take a personal approach with each donor.



Figure 1. Mrs. Alice and Dr. Emile Pessagno Jr., GSA Annual Meeting, 2000.



Figure 2. Turané McIntosh, recipient of a 2026 J. David Lowell Field Camp Award—one of the many GSA initiatives you can support through the GSA Foundation.

As an organization, GSA unites geoscientists at all education and career stages and all sectors of the geoscience world, from academia to industry to government. From this, we forge a distinctive society marked by its spirit of camaraderie, discovery, and scientific rigor. All gifts to the GSA Foundation help us continue to achieve great things.

We welcome your questions and are grateful for your generosity. Please reach out to Sean O'Brien (sean.obrien@gsa-foundation.org) or Becky Priest Santavicca (becky.santavicca@gsa-foundation.org) to learn more about making the difference you want—whenever you want.

Visit https://gsa-foundation.org/fund/greatest-needs-of-gsa/ **to give today, or scan the QR Code.**

SCAN ME

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