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GSA TODAY

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Journeys with GSA: The GSA Foundation at Connects

Each year, GSA Connects offers the special opportunity for GSA Foundation staff to engage deeply with the community we serve. The atmosphere of discovery, exchange, and collegiality reminds us why your work—and ours—matters so much to the geosciences.

At Connects, we renew old bonds and forge new ones. When students come to our booth, Foundation staff are eager to learn why students are attending Connects and to learn about their journeys with field camp or research projects which may have been made possible thanks to funding provided by the Foundation for GSA awards.

From long-term members and donors, we are able to gain a sense of how GSA shapes enduring personal and professional journeys. Dr. David Janecky, who enjoyed a distinguished career at Los Alamos National Laboratory, says, "At Connects and other scientific meetings, I thoroughly enjoy working through the poster sessions to talk with students about their work. Several of those discussions have turned into longer-term mentoring activities and even collaborations."

The GSA community's generosity takes many forms, from volunteering for sections or divisions to serving as mentors to leading field trips. And of course, financial gifts.

Last year, the GSA Foundation provided more than $2 million in funding to support GSA programs, including support for GSA's Greatest Needs Fund, which is flexible funding that enables GSA to address new and emerging priorities in an uncertain science funding and policy landscape. Other gifts provide dedicated funds to support research, conference attendance, field camp scholarships, career awards, policy advocacy, and more.

At Connects, the GSA Foundation also recognizes your generosity by hosting the Penrose Circle Reception for major contributors. Award recipients are invited to meet the wonderful people who fund GSA awards and scholarships. David Janecky notes, "Events such as the Penrose Reception give me an opportunity to talk with small groups of students and encourage them to see connections among their research interests and careers. Following those discussions and interactions, I do donate funds in both general and targeted ways that the foundation facilitates."

Terry Pavlis, Professor Emeritus at UT El Paso, shares, "It was great to see friends and colleagues while enjoying the vitality of the GSA and GSA Foundation communities."

We can't wait to see you this year in Denver. If you'd like to schedule a time to meet at Connects, please reach out to Executive Director Sean O'Brien (**sean.obrien@gsa-foundation.org**) or Development and Communications Officer Becky Priest Santavicca (**becky.santavicca@gsa-foundation.org**)—or just drop by the GSA Foundation booth when you have a moment. We'd love to hear more about your GSA journeys and philanthropic goals.

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

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

SCAN ME



Figure 1. The GSA Foundation Booth at Connects 2025 in San Antonio—L-R, GSAF Board Member Katy Sementelli, Stewardship Coordinator A.J. Villa, former GSAF Board Member Terry Briggs, Operations Manager Jeff Tyler, and GSAF Board Member Les McFadden.

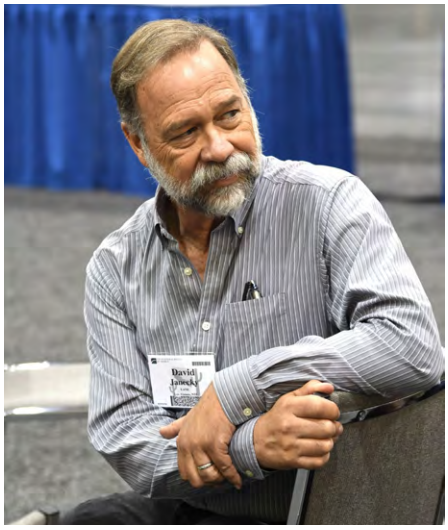


Figure 2. Dr. David Janecky at GSA Connects.



Figure 3. GSA members and supporters at the GSA Foundation Penrose Reception donor recognition event, Connects 2025 in San Antonio. L-R, Dr. Terry Pavlis, Dr. Harold Stowell, Dr. James Ogg, and Dr. Gabi Ogg.