NAGT-USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program

Now beginning its fifth decade, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)-U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Cooperative Summer Field Training Program is the longest continuously running internship program in the earth sciences. Over the past forty years, more than 1500 students have participated in this program with an impressive number of these individuals becoming full-time employees of the USGS.

The cooperative program was launched at the Geological Society of America meeting in Kansas City in early fall of 1965 when William “Bill” Pecora, then the newly appointed Director of the USGS, held a meeting with a small group of distinguished professors and officers of the NAGT. Pecora felt strongly that the USGS needed to be more engaged in geological education. He had a plan for how this might be accomplished and wanted to get the professors’ reactions to an initiative that would provide better linkage to academia while, in the process, providing better summer field assistants for the USGS. Pecora suggested that the USGS would provide support by way of internships for outstanding undergraduate geoscience majors, while NAGT would advertise the program to faculty and students, solicit nominations, distribute applications, and assist in processing all materials. Needless to say, ‘Pecora’s Plan,’ as it became known, met with instant approval.

Although some modifications have been made over the years, the NAGT-USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program operates today much as it did from the beginning. With active participation from the highest levels of both organizations (including the Director of the USGS), a joint committee oversees the program. The program “year” begins in September with all field camp directors being provided information about the program and the opportunity to nominate up to three students, based upon total camp enrollment. Nominated students apply by sending their resume to the USGS Education Office along with a letter of interest and transcripts. At the same time, USGS scientists interested in working with an intern send information about field, laboratory, or office-related scientific projects to the Education Office. Candidates are then matched by skill and interest with up to five projects. The listing of candidates and accompanying academic information are sent to USGS scientists for review, interviews, selection, or possible further discussion. USGS personnel make final selections. As interdisciplinary, system science is a cornerstone of our science, all disciplines are encouraged, and do take advantage of, this program’s support and available talent. Students hired through this program have continually received outstanding reviews from our managers; and, over the decades, an impressive number of these individuals have become full-time colleagues. Interns employed through this program are hired at a rate commensurate to their educational level and experience, typically at a GS-5 Grade, Step 1, with an adjusted locality payment.

Over the years, NAGT has succeeded in identifying top-flight students for the program, and the USGS has succeeded in garnering the interest of competent and enthusiastic supervising mentors. Evaluations of the program by the students have been strongly positive, and the interns have continually received outstanding reviews from our managers. The NAGT-USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program continues Pecora’s vision of greater educational involvement, and provides a first-rate professional experience to students early in their careers.

For more information about this program, contact: Robert Ridky, MS 110, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192-0002, email: rridky@usgs.gov.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAGT Intern</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Verbanazk</td>
<td>University of Missouri</td>
<td>Oliver Boyd</td>
<td>Memphis, Tennessee</td>
<td>Community Velocity Model for the New Madrid Seismic Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Shaw</td>
<td>Humboldt State University</td>
<td>Erin Boydston</td>
<td>Irvine, California</td>
<td>Movement Patterns of Carnivores in a Fragmented Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Mellott</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown</td>
<td>Melinda Chapman</td>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina</td>
<td>Piedmont-Mountain Ground-Water Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowndes Pendergrass</td>
<td>Clemson University</td>
<td>Christine Bunc</td>
<td>Madison, Wisconsin</td>
<td>Wildlife Health Internship: Investigation of Wildlife Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Trease</td>
<td>Eastern Michigan University</td>
<td>James Campbell</td>
<td>New Cumberland, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Geochemical Processes Relating to Human and Aquatic Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Orem</td>
<td>Northern Arizona University</td>
<td>Melinda Chapman</td>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina</td>
<td>Piedmont-Mountain Ground-Water Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Wolf</td>
<td>Illinois State University</td>
<td>Melinda Chapman</td>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina</td>
<td>Piedmont-Mountain Ground-Water Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katharine Pecsok</td>
<td>University of Missouri</td>
<td>Tyler Coplen and Jurate Landwehr</td>
<td>Reston, Virginia</td>
<td>Developing Hydrogen and Oxygen Isoscapes of US Tap Waters with Application to Hydrology, Ecology and Forensic Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Juda</td>
<td>Macalester College</td>
<td>David Croker</td>
<td>Menlo Park, California</td>
<td>Northern California Seismic Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Birkett</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin</td>
<td>Gary Curtis</td>
<td>Menlo Park, California</td>
<td>Studies of Uranium Contaminated Groundwater at a Former Uranium Mill Site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Science Information and Education Office
April 2008
NAGT/USGS 2008 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

NAGT Intern: Matthew Clark  
College: Louisiana State University  
Advisor: Daniel Goode  
Location: West Trenton, New Jersey  
Project: Natural and Enhanced Biodegradation of Chlorinated Solvents in Subsurface Environments

NAGT Intern: Danielle D’Alfonso  
College: University of California/Santa Barbara  
Advisor: Robert Gresswell  
Location: Bozeman, Montana  
Project: Evaluating Movement and Habitat Use Patterns of Fluvial Arctic Grayling in the Upper Big Hole River Watershed

NAGT Intern: Dan Eakin  
College: University of Wyoming  
Advisor: Deborah Hutchinson  
Location: Woods Hole, Massachusetts  
Project: Law of the Sea Extended Continental Shelf in the Amerasian Basin, Arctic Ocean

NAGT Intern: Kathryn Hoffmeister  
College: University of Georgia  
Advisor: Celeste Journey  
Location: Columbia, South Carolina  
Project: Hydrologic Data Collection, Management, and Analysis for the Santee River Basin and Coastal Drainages (NWQA Program)

NAGT Intern: Elizabeth Luber  
College: University of Illinois  
Advisor: Andrea Foster  
Location: Menlo Park, California  
Project: Characterization of Arsenic-Sequestering Microbial Communities from the Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site

NAGT Intern: Cory Beaver  
College: University of Missouri  
Advisor: David Freiwald  
Location: Little Rock, Arkansas  
Project: Lower Mississippi River National Rivers and Stream Assessment

NAGT Intern: Jordan Garroway  
College: Cornell University  
Advisor: Gary Fuis  
Location: Menlo Park, California  
Project: Geology and Geophysics for the Understanding of Earthquake Hazards in the Southern California Region

NAGT Intern: Emmy Smith  
College: Amherst College  
Advisor: Joan Gomberg  
Location: Seattle, Washington  
Project: Discovering Clues about Tremor, Slow Slip, and Earthquakes

NAGT Intern: Dan McInnis  
College: University of Notre Dame  
Advisor: Leonard Kinikow  
Location: Reston, Virginia  
Project: National Assessment of Long-Term Ground-Water Depletion
NAGT/USGS 2008 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

NAGT Intern: Joshua Garber
College: University of Texas/Austin
Advisor: Denis LeBlanc
Location: Northborough, Massachusetts
Project: Transport and Fate of Ground-water Contaminants – Cape Cod Toxic Substances Hydrology Research Site

NAGT Intern: Stephanie Tubman
College: Colgate University
Advisor: Michael Lisowski
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geodetic Monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes

NAGT Intern: Kathryn Jeffcoat
College: University of Arkansas
Advisor: Michael Powers
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Geophysical Field Data Acquisition, Office Processing, Interpretation, and Report Preparation

NAGT Intern: Seth Martin
College: University of Arkansas
Advisor: Tim Reilly
Location: West Trenton, New Jersey
Project: Occurrence and Distribution of Agricultural Chemicals in the Hydrosphere

NAGT Intern: Alden Denny
College: Western Washington University
Advisor: Nancy Simon
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Mineral Formation in Sediments of Eutrophic Upper Klamath Lake, OR

NAGT Intern: Kathy Kelsey
College: University of Puget Sound
Advisor: Rob Striegl
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Yukon River Basin Project

NAGT Intern: S. Michelle Bourret
College: University of California/Santa Cruz
Advisor: Rob Striegl
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Yukon River Basin Project

NAGT Intern: Dan Burnham
College: Idaho State University
Advisor: Don Sweetkind
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: DD Subsurface Mapping of Aquifer Heterogeneity near Death Valley, CA