

## 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.

# NAGT/USGS 2008 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements



**NAGT Intern:** Ryan Verbanazk  
**College:** University of Missouri  
**Advisor:** Oliver Boyd  
**Location:** Memphis, Tennessee  
**Project:** Community Velocity Model for the New Madrid Seismic Zone

**NAGT Intern:** Jessica Shaw  
**College:** Humboldt State University  
**Advisor:** Erin Boydston  
**Location:** Irvine, California  
**Project:** Movement Patterns of Carnivores in a Fragmented Landscape

**NAGT Intern:** Fred Mellott  
**College:** University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown  
**Advisor:** Melinda Chapman  
**Location:** Raleigh, North Carolina  
**Project:** Piedmont-Mountain Ground-Water Study

**NAGT Intern:** Lowndes Pendergrass  
**College:** Clemson University  
**Advisor:** Christine Bunck  
**Location:** Madison, Wisconsin  
**Project:** Wildlife Health Internship: Investigation of Wildlife Diseases

**NAGT Intern:** Anthony Trease  
**College:** Eastern Michigan University  
**Advisor:** James Campbell  
**Location:** New Cumberland, Pennsylvania  
**Project:** Geochemical Processes Relating to Human and Aquatic Health

**NAGT Intern:** Jessica Zinger  
**College:** University of Michigan  
**Advisor:** Dean Anderson  
**Location:** Denver, Colorado  
**Project:** Measurement and Analysis of the Flow of Greenhouse Gases, Water Vapor, and Energy in Urban and Sub-alpine Forest Ecosystems

**NAGT Intern:** Caitlin Orem  
**College:** Northern Arizona University  
**Advisor:** Melinda Chapman  
**Location:** Raleigh, North Carolina  
**Project:** Piedmont-Mountain Ground-Water Study

**NAGT Intern:** Dan Wolf  
**College:** Illinois State University  
**Advisor:** Melinda Chapman  
**Location:** Raleigh, North Carolina  
**Project:** Piedmont-Mountain Ground-Water Study

**NAGT Intern:** Katharine Pecsok  
**College:** University of Missouri  
**Advisor:** Tyler Copen and Jurate Landwehr  
**Location:** Reston, Virginia  
**Project:** Developing Hydrogen and Oxygen Isoscapes of US Tap Waters with Application to Hydrology, Ecology and Forensic Discrimination

**NAGT Intern:** Natalie Juda  
**College:** Macalester College  
**Advisor:** David Croker  
**Location:** Menlo Park, California  
**Project:** Northern California Seismic Network

**NAGT Intern:** Jacob Birkett  
**College:** University of Wisconsin  
**Advisor:** Gary Curtis  
**Location:** Menlo Park, California  
**Project:** Studies of Uranium Contaminated Groundwater at a Former Uranium Mill Site

# NAGT/USGS 2008 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements



**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 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/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

