

# Letter From the President, Klaus Holliger

Dear NSGS members,

Spring is fast approaching and several pertinent conferences are on the horizon. The Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (SAGEEP) will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, from April 10-14. NSGS plans to hold a business meeting during SAGEEP, which is open and represents a great opportunity to meet and talk to friends and colleagues. The date and location of this meeting will be announced by email. The general assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) will be held in Vienna, Austria, from April 3-8. The Sixth International Workshop on Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar (IWAGPR) will be held in Aachen, Germany, from June 22-24.

The 81<sup>st</sup> SEG Annual Meeting takes place this year in San Antonio, Texas, from September 18-23. Expanded abstracts can be submitted from March 9 through April 6. James Irving, our president-elect, is the technical chairman for the near-surface geophysics part of the meeting. There will be a special session on hydrogeophysics and a regular session on humanitarian geophysics in cooperation with the SEG Foundation's Geoscientists Without Borders (GWB) initiative. There is also a pending proposal for a post-convention workshop on geohazards.

I would like to encourage all students with an interest in near-surface geophysics to join our section. Your participation and involvement is very important and valuable for us! Student membership is free and travel grants of \$500 are available to support students attending the SEG Annual Meeting. We greatly appreciate the corresponding support of our sponsors!

Finally, I would like to thank Deborah Underwood and Larry Bentley, who have recently stepped down from their respective functions as webmaster and treasurer, for their long-standing and faithful service to the NSGS. It is selfless contributions like these that have made our section a great organization! Deborah will be succeeded by Achim Mester ([a.mester@fz-juelich.de](mailto:a.mester@fz-juelich.de)), a PhD student at the Juelich Research Center in Germany. Larry will be succeeded by Seth Haines ([shaines@usgs.gov](mailto:shaines@usgs.gov)), a research geophysicist at the USGS in Denver, Colorado. I would like to thank Achim and Seth for their willingness to accept these positions.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon, in San Antonio at the very latest!

Best wishes,

Klaus Holliger

# Student Travel Grants for the 2011 SEG Annual Meeting

## Purpose

The NSGS Student Travel Grant Program exists to encourage students seeking a career in near-surface geophysics to attend the SEG Annual Meeting. Each year a number travel grants of \$500 (USD) may be awarded. Further information can be obtained from Larry Bentley, Chair NSGS Awards Committee, ([lbentley@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lbentley@ucalgary.ca)).

## Eligibility

Students with research projects in near-surface geophysics are eligible for a travel grant. Preference will be given to students giving oral or poster presentations at the SEG Annual Meeting. The applicant must be a student member of the NSG Section. For full consideration, applications should be submitted by the end of June, 2011. However, applications will be accepted until August, 2011. Applications can be sent by post to the following address:

Annual Meeting Travel Grants  
SEG Foundation  
P.O. Box 702740  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74170-2740 USA  
Fax: 918-497-5560

Preferably, they can be sent [electronically](#).

The application should contain at a minimum:

1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail of the applicant, including permanent school and summer addresses
2. Affiliation (college or university, department, and academic advisor)
3. Maximum one page summary, listing course work in geophysics, synopsis of planned career, and financial need if appropriate.
4. Research topic (or expanded abstract for the SEG Annual Meeting presentation)
5. Letter of confirmation of enrolment from academic advisor

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## Selection

A Selection Committee consisting of the NSGS Awards Committee or Past-President, President, and President-Elect will review the applications and recommend awards to the Executive Committee. The Selection Committee will notify the award recipients one month after the deadline for applications.

## Payment

The travel grants will be awarded at the NSGS dinner reception at the SEG Annual Meeting. Award winners receive a free invitation to the reception.

# Special Issue of The Leading Edge

April 2011

The April issue of the TLE features articles from [Geoscientists Without Borders](#) (GWB) projects that were presented at the 2010 SEG Annual Meeting in Denver. There are six articles with an introduction by Craig Beasley, Louise Pellerin, and Jan van der Kruk. The issue includes updates on projects that have been conducted in Southeast Asia, South Africa, Thailand, India, Jamaica, and Honduras.

# New Members of the NSGS Executive Committee

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## Seth Haines, Treasurer



Seth Haines received his BA (geology and physics) from Middlebury College in 1997. He received his M.S. (2001) and Ph.D. (2005) in the Geophysics Department at Stanford University, first studying the tectonic evolution of the Tibetan plateau using seismic refraction methods, and then working to develop seismoelectric experimental methods for use in near-surface applications. From 2005 to 2007 Seth was a Mendenhall Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, working primarily on shear-wave seismic reflection imaging of near-surface targets. He is presently a Research Geophysicist with the USGS Energy Resources Program, working on a variety of topics including seismic characterization of gas hydrate accumulations, and assessment of water issues associated with hydrocarbon production.

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## Achim Mester, Webmaster



Achim is Ph.D. student in geophysics at the Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany. His main topics are electromagnetic induction (EMI) and numerical inversion. He studied physics at the RWTH Aachen University, Germany and received his diploma in 2009. His diploma thesis was about the development of a TDR probe at the Institute of Applied Geophysics and Geothermal Energy, RWTH Aachen.

# Testing Facebook

The NSGS is trying out Facebook in an effort to better communicate with our members. If you'd like to help us test out the program, [find us on Facebook](#). Also, if you have any comments on how we can use the site to keep you updated on NSGS related events, feel free to email [Emily Hinz](#), the NS Views newsletter editor. We would greatly appreciate your feedback!

# Call for NSGS Executive Committee Nominations

The NSGS Nominations Committee is soliciting nominations for President-Elect and NS Views Editor for the 2010/2011 NSGS Executive Committee. The duties of the officers can be found at [http://nsgs.seg.org/Bylaws\\_October2008.pdf](http://nsgs.seg.org/Bylaws_October2008.pdf). If you would like to be nominated or you wish to nominate someone, please let us know by emailing us at [seg.nsgs@gmail.com](mailto:seg.nsgs@gmail.com). We encourage any member with interest in strengthening the NSG community to become more involved in the NSGS. More specific information can be found in the [bylaws](#).

# 2011 Conferences

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## SEG 2011

The Near Surface Geophysics Section would like to invite you to submit an Expanded Abstract for oral or poster presentation at the SEG International Exposition and 81st Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, 18-23 September, 2011. The abstract submission system opens on 9 March 2011 and the deadline is 6 April 2011. Please visit the [SEG conference website](#) for more details.

Contributions from all Near Surface and Environmental Geophysics disciplines and from all parts of the world are welcome. We encourage paper submissions which emphasize near surface geophysics applied to groundwater resource evaluation, mine dewatering, environmental characterization, engineering evaluation, seismic and geologic hazards assessment, as well as advancements in borehole, surface and airborne geophysical technologies and processing for near surface applications.

We are anticipating an exciting near-surface program with two to three special sessions and one post-convention workshop.

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## IWAGPR 2011

It is now possible to register online for the 6th International Workshop on Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar (IWAGPR2011). You can register using the link <registration> on the [IWAGPR2011 homepage](#).

The reduced fees will be valid up to April 21st 2011.

## Other Conferences

European Geophysical Union (EGU)

3 - 8 April 2011, Vienna, Austria

[EGU website](#)

73rd EAGE Conference

23 - 26 May 2011, Vienna Austria

[EAGE events site](#)

Near Surface 2011

12 - 14 September 2011, Leicester, UK

[Near Surface division of the EAGE](#)

American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting

5 - 9 December 2011, San Francisco, Ca, USA

Abstracts due 4 August

[AGU website](#)

# Call for Award Nominations

## Harold Mooney Award

The Harold Mooney Award is presented by the NSG Section during its reception and dinner at the SEG annual meeting. The honoree is chosen by his or her peers through nominations from the membership and recommendation to the NSG Section Executive Committee. The award is presented to an individual in recognition of long-term, tireless, and enthusiastic support of the near-surface geophysics community through education, outreach efforts, professional service, or development of opportunities with other professional disciplines that employ geophysics. For more information see <http://nsgs.seg.org/section-awards.php>.

Send nominations to Larry Bentley (NSGS Awards Committee Chair) by email ([lbentley@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lbentley@ucalgary.ca)) or snail mail (Department of Geoscience, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada). The nomination should contain the name, title and affiliation of the candidate along with a statement describing the reasons for the nomination. Nominations should be received by **Monday August 15, 2011** for full consideration.