

Letter From the President, Klaus Holliger

Dear NSGS members,

The SEG Annual Meeting is approaching rapidly and the technical program is in the process of being finalized and published. Approximately 50 abstracts were submitted to the NSGS part of the program, of which 32 were accepted after review. This is close to last year's record turnout and illustrates our section's vitality and sustained, healthy growth. The quality of the accepted abstracts was uniformly high, which has allowed us to build a great near-surface program consisting of two oral sessions on "Surface Waves" and "Environmental and Geotechnical Applications", one poster session on "Near Surface General Contributions", and one special session on "Hydrogeophysics". In addition, the near-surface program will be complemented by a post-convention workshop on the very timely topic of "Geophysics Applied to Geohazards and Public Safety".

I would like to thank president-elect James Irving who organized the review procedure and the near-surface part of the technical program. My thanks also go to all NSGS members who submitted or reviewed abstracts, and to Sergey Fomel, the chairman of the technical program, and to Kristi Wann, his assistant from SEG headquarters, for their help and support in the construction and scheduling of the near-surface program

I am looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Kind regards,

Klaus Holliger

President, Near Surface Geophysics Section of SEG

Call for Award Nominations

Harold Mooney Award

The NSGS has two major awards: the Harold Mooney Award and the Frank Frischknecht Leadership Award. These awards are our chances to honor members that have made superior contributions to our community. For these awards to be effective we need active participation by the membership to generate nominations. Please read the following and submit your nomination to awards committee chairman to Larry Bentley (NSGS Awards Committee Chair) by email (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.

Harold Mooney Award

The Harold Mooney Award is presented by the NSG Section during its reception 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.htm>

Frischknecht Leadership Award

The Frank Frischknecht Leadership Award is jointly presented by the NSGS and the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS). Presentation of the award alternates between the SAGEEP and SEG annual meetings. The last presentation of the award was performed by EEGS at the SAGEEP meeting in April 2011. The next presentation will therefore be done by NSGS at the 2012 SEG meeting, but EEGS can send nominations to the NSGS for consideration. The Frank Frischknecht Leadership Award is established to recognize an individual who shows extraordinary leadership in advancing the domain of near-surface geophysics. For more information see <http://nsgs.seg.org/section-awards.htm>

2011 Conferences

SEG 2011 -- NSGS Dinner Reception and Business Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2011, Iron Cactus Mexican Grill

The NSGS will be holding its annual reception during SEG at the Iron Cactus Mexican Grill (200 River Walk, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas) in the Agave Room starting at 7 pm. There is no charge to NSG Section members, non-members can join on the spot and students are particularly welcome: student membership free!

A separate NSGS business meeting will be scheduled during the conference. Details will be announced closer to the meeting. All are welcome!

IWAGPR2011

6th International Workshop on Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar, June 22 - 24, Aachen, Germany

The goal of the workshop is to spread knowledge about GPR technology and its use, as well as, to provide a unique possibility to participants to exchange ideas about the advances in their work and discuss their results. More than 60 oral and poster presentations are scheduled covering a wide range of advancements in GPR techniques and applications including hydrogeophysics; advanced modeling, processing and inversion; mining, archaeological and geological applications; concrete, pavement and material characterization; and novel GPR systems and antennas (see the online preliminary program: www.fz-juelich.de/iwagpr2011)

Jan van der Kruk, Klaus Reicherter and Sebastián Lambot

Other Conferences

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 NSGS Executive Committee Nominations -- NS Editor

The NSGS Nominations Committee is soliciting nominations for the NS Views Editor for the 2010/2011 NSGS Executive Committee. The NS Views editor solicits content for and formats the quarterly electronic NS Views newsletter. This position is an excellent way to become involved in the NSGS and has been held by both dedicated students and NSGS members.

A more detailed list of the duties of the position can be found at 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. We encourage any member with interest in strengthening the NSG community to become more involved in the NSGS.

Call for NSGS Awards Committee Volunteers

Our section has recently formed the NSGS Awards Committee, which currently consists of Larry Bentley from the University of Calgary. We would like to add at least one more volunteer to this committee. The job of the committee is to encourage nominations for the Harold Mooney Award and the Frischknecht Leadership Award as well as make recommendations to the executive committee for the selection of the recipients of the awards (<http://nsgs.seg.org/section-awards.php>). In addition, the awards committee works with the student travel grants program. If you are interested, please contact Larry Bentley (lbentley@ucalgary.ca).

New Honorary Lecturer Program in Near-Surface Geophysics

Earlier this year, the SEG Executive Committee voted to establish an annual global Honorary Lecture tour on near surface geophysics. The SEG is currently seeking nominations for the first lecturer, who will begin in the fall of 2012. The Honorary Lecture Program, previously known as the Regional Lecture Program, is a companion program to the long-established SEG Distinguished Lecture Program. The goals are similar:

1. Recognize an individual's contributions to advancing the science and technology of geophysics.
2. Foster a sense of community amongst geophysicists by providing opportunities for local meetings and the exchange of ideas.
3. Encourage students by providing the opportunity to discuss scientific and career issues with a leading expert.

The Honorary Lecture Program in Near-surface Geophysics is the first topic-based lecture program; it has historically been geographically based. Any topic within the domain of near-surface geophysics is of interest. The HL is expected to present ten to twelve presentations at Affiliated and Associated Societies and Student Chapters.

Visit the SEG Web site (<http://www.seg.org/education/lectures-courses/honorary-lecturers>) for a description of the program and contact Louise Pellerin (pellerin@ak.net) to prepare a nomination.

Student Travel Grants for the 2011 SEG Annual Meeting

The Near Surface Geophysics Section is offering a limited number of student travel grants of US\$500 to encourage students to attend the SEG Annual Meeting in San Antonio (18-23 September, 2011). The awards are to encourage students to participate in the meeting and present their current research work. Priority is given to students presenting papers at the conference.

Application procedures can be found at <http://nsgs.seg.org/student-travel-grants.php>. Further information can be obtained from Larry Bentley, Chair NSGS Awards Committee, (lbentley@ucalgary.ca).

Progress of the Near Surface Task Force

For over a decade, the SEG has maintained that near surface geophysical applications are an important component of its mission and vision, for example a primary mission identified in the 2001 SEG Strategic Plan was to “promote and expand the use of geophysical science in engineering and infrastructure development and for environmental purposes”. Despite this recognition, opportunities and decisions have been addressed ad-hoc and there has not been a sustained effort to foster services and growth for the near-surface component of SEG’s membership. As a result of this approach, little progress has been made in broadening SEG’s base while other organizations such as the AGU Near Surface Focus Group have flourished. To increase SEG’s relevance and visibility to the near-surface community, the 2010 SEG Executive Committee approved a strategic plan with the intent to grow the NS membership and provide an exciting portfolio of programs and services.

The Near Surface Task Force (NSTF) members include Klaus Holliger, Jan van der Kruk, James Irving, Peter Annan, Rick Miller, Jianghai Xia, and John Bradford (Chair). The NSTF held its first meeting at the SEG conference in Denver, and has held teleconferences every 1-2 months since. Our first order of business was to prioritize the strategies and begin moving forward with implementation. We have made substantial progress toward implementation of several strategies and the results of this work are summarized below.

In early December, the NSTF requested that the 2011 SEG Executive Committee approve a Near Surface Honorary Lecturer. This first recommendation to come from the Task Force was unanimously approved and is planned to begin fall 2012. The NS HL is the first topical HL to be funded by SEG (all previous HLs have been regional) and will make approximately 10-15 tour stops internationally each year. A nomination form for the inaugural lecturer is included in this issue of Near-Surface Views.

Also in December, the NSTF requested that the SEG approve a standing special session at the annual meeting devoted to hydrogeophysics. Given the importance of water resources to society as a whole, the use of geophysics to characterize ground and surface water is critical. The importance of hydrogeophysics will only increase as stress on sources of fresh water continues to increase. Hydrogeophysics is one of the most actively growing areas of geophysics both in numbers of practitioners and researchers and in technological development. SEG has shown solid support for hydrogeophysics; the 2006 summer research workshop and the 2008 Annual Meeting SEG Forum were on hydrogeophysics. Most recently, a Special Session was held at the 2010 Annual Meeting. It is time to establish a stable platform for hydrogeophysics at the Annual Meeting. The SEG Executive Committee gave final approval for this initiative in February.

In May, the SEC EC approved a staff position to support near-surface activities for the FY2012 budget. This support will begin in January 2012. Funding dedicated staff support was yet another example of SEG’s commitment to supporting near-surface geophysics and was perhaps the most critical step in building toward a sustainable program of near-surface member products and services.

These are the first of what we expect will be a number of exciting new activities and member services to come out of the NS strategic planning and implementation process. We have been working with the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society to determine the best way that our two groups can partner to support applied geophysics. Further, we have been looking toward expanding SEG’s outreach and services to near-surface members outside of North America. For example, SEG will co-sponsor the International Workshop on Advanced GPR in Aachen,

Germany, 2011, the International Conference on Environmental and Engineering Geophysics in Changsha, China, 2012, and GPR 2012 in Shanghai, China. Additionally we are considering the development of a continuing education curriculum, and establishing ties with other groups of applied geophysicists that have not traditionally had an affiliation with SEG such as engineering, forensics, and archaeology.