

Southeastern Section of NAGT
2021 Annual Report
Mary Abercrombie

I. Leadership Updates

With President Melissa Hage nearing the end of her two-year term, a virtual Tea/Happy Hour meeting was held on May 26, 2021, inviting all interested members to socialize as well as to learn more about current openings for leadership positions. Along with the job responsibilities of the President and Vice President, details of the newly created positions of Communications Director and Award Director were shared. Following that meeting, I, Mary Abercrombie, was elected to fill the role of president, and Valerie Reynolds, Geology Lecturer and Earth Science Undergraduate Coordinator in the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences at UNC-Charlotte, was elected vice president. The newly created position of Communications Director was filled by Scott Harris and the position of Award Director was filled by Meghan Cook.

II. SE GSA 2021 – Auburn University, Alabama (virtual)

Typically, the SE Section annual business meeting is held at the Southeastern Section GSA meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SE GSA meeting was held in a fully online format; consequently, our annual business meeting was canceled.

III. OEST Awards

This year's winners:

Louisiana: Erin Nevala

Mississippi: Gail Davis

North Carolina: Brandon Dillman

South Carolina: Hannah Quinley

This year's section winner: Monika Moorman (Florida)

IV. Upcoming Plans

The section will continue to recruit new members to fill vacancies for state representatives. We anticipate that the new Awards Coordinator will take charge of all things OEST and concentrate on increasing nominations.

VI. Section Communications

A virtual Meeting and Social was held in July 2021 in connection with the Earth Educators Rendezvous. New officers were introduced and winners of the OEST Awards were announced which was followed by a "Where in the Southeastern Section" geoscience photo quiz. We anticipate looking for ways to increase virtual connections within the section while the pandemic continues. There has not been a section newsletter for a number of years; however, our Communications Director will continue to provide a social media presence through the section's Facebook page and Twitter account:

<https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternNAGT>

https://twitter.com/nagt_se

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I. Leadership Updates

Valerie Reynolds stepped down as Vice President of the section in June 2022. Members of the leadership team are:

President: Mary I. Abercrombie
Vice President: currently vacant
Awards Coordinator: Meghan Cook
Communications Director: Scott Harris
Treasurer: Adam Skarke
Executive Committee Liaison: Alex Manda

State Representatives:

Alabama: Ann Arnold and Rylleigh Harstad (David Kopeska-Merkel stepped down)
Florida: Mark Peebles (Stephanie Killingsworth stepped down)
Georgia: Victor Ricchezza and Hannah Eisla
Louisiana: Chris Campbell
Mississippi: Renee Clary and Christa Haney
North Carolina: Megan Plenge and Marta Toran
South Carolina: Emily Scribner
Tennessee: Michael Gibson

II. Joint North Central/Southeastern GSA 2022 – Cincinnati, Ohio

The first SE Section annual business meeting since 2019 was held at the joint meeting of the North Central and Southeastern Sections of GSA in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 7, 2022. Our meeting was held over lunch in Room 209 of the Duke Energy Convention Center. Turnout was very good, with 13 attending in person and 8 members joining virtually via Zoom. Topics discussed included potential field trips and session topics for next year's joint section meeting with the Northeastern section in Reston, Virginia; encouraging participation of K-12 teachers and students, perhaps with the support of mini-grants; and increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

III. OEST Awards

We had several OEST nominations submitted through the NAGT website, as well as a number of additional nominations submitted directly by the state representatives. We had five state winners and one section winner. This is a fantastic recognition that NAGT provides to educators in our community that can show, in a small way, how much we value teachers in our community. Each winner will be honored with a plaque along with other accolades. This year's winners were:

Alabama: **Amanda Savrda**
Louisiana: **Sandra Saye Foucqueteau**
Mississippi: **Veronica Wylie**
North Carolina: **Stefan Klakovich**

South Carolina: **Christopher Willis**

This year's section winner: **Amanda Savrda**

IV. Upcoming Plans

We will continue to look for ways to enhance membership connections and participation while we emerge from the challenges of the COVID pandemic. Possibilities include virtual field trips and/or virtual social gatherings.

VI. Section Communications

The Communications Director continues to provide outreach to geoscience professionals and educators through the section's Facebook page and Twitter account:

<https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternNAGT>

https://twitter.com/nagt_se

The Facebook page now has a total of 380 followers and features regular posts of virtual events taking place throughout the section.