

# FOUNDATIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEO2YC DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOSCIENCE TEACHERS

*Volume VI, Issue 3: September 2017*

## Free Online Textbook for Introductory Geology Course – OpenGeology.org

**By Chris Johnson**

*Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, UT*

The first free textbook for introductory geology classes at the college level (within the U.S.) was launched this summer. [OpenGeology](http://www.Opengeology.org/textbook) (<http://www.Opengeology.org/textbook>) is a web-based textbook for the general education audience as well as for an introductory majors course. The book contains 16 chapters covering topics typical to those of existing hardcopy textbooks, and includes many interactive features such as:

- embedded subchapter quizzes with real-time response,
- animations,
- drag and drop activities,
- click on key word for glossary definition
- annotated imagery
- slider bars for two images of same location

To help with credibility for an online book, primary sources are cited and external reviewers were used. References are tracked using a superscript approach not common with textbooks. This gives more credibility to an online source since guiding students through the process of understanding credible online information is a newly important aspect of an introductory science course. Further,

the book has been reviewed by 16 geologists/practitioners in higher education from across a spectrum from academia to industry, including faculty from community colleges, 4-year universities, the Utah Geological Survey, and Rio Tinto Kennecott Mine, and continues to undergo review.

Salt Lake Community College administration supported the project with stipends. Over five semesters three adjunct faculty (Matt Affolter, Paul Inkenbrandt, and Cam Mosher) and one full-time faculty (Chris Johnson) were supported by stipends. Salt Lake Community College is the only community college in the most populous part of Utah and serves about 30,000 students per year.

The book was piloted in summer 2017 semester and the authors are looking for more reviewers. If faculty would like to review a chapter or more, or would like to adopt the book, please email [edits@opengeology.org](mailto:edits@opengeology.org). The authors would like to have a list of adopters so they can be notified of major changes. Soon, the book will also be available in pdf download per chapter and orders can be made for print versions for less than \$15.



## President's Column

**By Brett Dooley**

*Mt San Jacinto College, San Jacinto, CA*

This has been a tumultuous year for the nation and for me personally. I am grateful that during my tenure as president of the Geo2yc division I had so much help and support from Wendi Williams (who served as secretary) and Callan Bentley (the vice president and soon to be president of the division). Chris Johnson has been amazing with his devotion

to the division and dedication to maintaining and improving the Geo2yc website, and I am pleased to say he will continue to serve in that roll. Tom Whittaker has done a wonderful job again of keeping the newsletters running smoothly and staying on schedule. It is sad to say this will be his last newsletter as editor, though he will continue in a mentoring capacity for another quarter as Sherry Oaks takes the reigns and gets her bearings herding the cats. Amber Kumpf has steadfastly served as archivist for years, and Pete Berquist will be moving into the position while Joy Branlund will fill the vice presidency vacated as Callan transitions to president.

For those of you who will be attending GSA, I hope to see you. Please remember that our division meeting is on **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 – 5:15 in Willow B**. It is staggered with the other divisions (this year with no overlap!) in hopes you can attend more than one business meeting.

Division Meetings Schedule		
4:30		
pm	Geo2YC Business Meeting	
5:00 pm	Willow B	
	<b>4:30-5:15</b>	
5:30 pm	TED Business Meeting	
	Jefferson Room	
6:00 pm	<b>5:20-6:05</b>	
		GER Business Meeting
6:30 pm		Willow A
		<b>6:10-6:55</b>
7:00 pm	<b>Geoscience Education Reception</b>	

If you have interest in volunteering with the Geo2YC division we would LOVE to have you attend the division meeting in Seattle. A few people, including our past president Kaatje Kraft, have suggested the Earth Educator Rendezvous (EER) may be a better fit for our membership. As such, the division council has discussed the possibility of moving the annual meeting away from the National GSA Conference and to the EER instead. This would move the division meeting from early fall to summer and is generally substantially less expensive. Your thoughts are appreciated whether you are full-time 2YC faculty, part-time 2YC faculty, 4YC faculty, or K-12 teachers. Join us!



Our division has sponsored five sessions and other events throughout the meeting and is hosting the joint session *T129. The Challenge of Defining Student Success: Broadening Participation, Measuring Success, and Preparing 2YC and 4YC Students for a Variety of Transitions* in both an oral and a poster session. Check the [GSA website](#) for more details.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. Teaching is a gift and I have been honored that you have allowed me to see, support, and represent you and the amazing work you all do for your students.



# Martha Murphy of Santa Rosa Junior College named Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Honoree for Fall 2017

**By Karen M. Layou**

*Reynolds Community College, Richmond VA*

Please join the OAFAC Committee in recognizing Martha Murphy of Santa Rosa Junior College as our Fall 2017 Honoree. Martha was nominated by Sarah Fortner, of Wittenberg University.

Sarah writes, “Martha Murphy serves the broader geoscience community through sharing teaching activities in *In the Trenches*, sharing strategies for effective collaborative development of interdisciplinary curriculum in a 2YC session at the Earth Educator's Rendezvous, and through promoting the use of technology in the classroom (she was the lead author of an article in the 2YC newsletter on the Use of SoilWeb). Martha has also co-lead a webinar on Soil Sustainability through InTeGrate that reached an audience of 60 faculty. Martha's recent contributions to the geoscience community stemmed out of her earlier work with InTeGrate co-authoring *A Growing Concern: Sustaining Soil Resources through Local Decision Making*. In addition, she has also reviewed 20 activities for the Cutting Edge Collection.

Martha regularly teaches three or more classes a semester using a student-centered teaching style. She is a master at connecting with her students and meeting their needs through providing just-in-time resources. She has a strong sense for how teaching activities will be received by students of all abilities. As a colleague, her energy and enthusiasm propel project work to higher levels. She knows



Martha with some exceptional columnar basalt at Devil's Postpile National Monument, California



how to support success in all areas of her career through assisting students in their vocational goals and through contributing to a positive and fruitful team.”

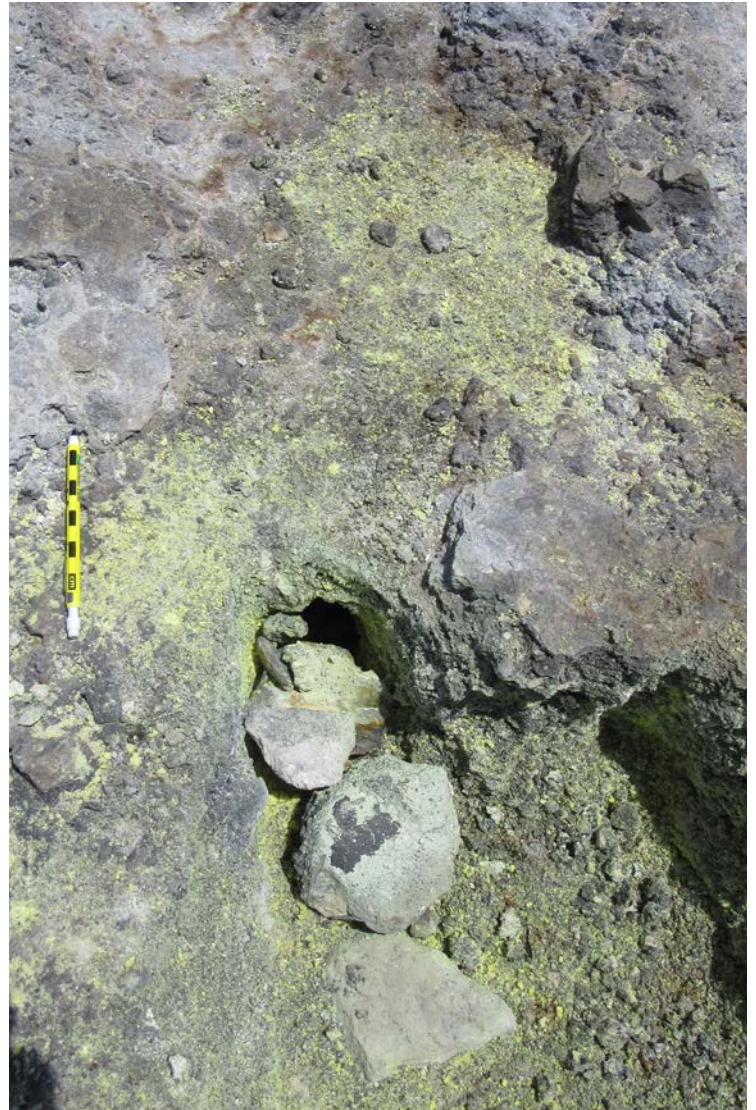
Thank you Martha, for your sharing your strategies and materials with both educators and students of the geoscience community! We are pleased to support Martha with a one-year complimentary membership to the NAGT Geo2YC Division, and she will be entered into the pool of honorees under consideration for the Annual Outstanding Faculty Award, which is sponsored by a professional development stipend of up to \$750 from Pearson Publishing.

We know you have adjunct colleagues who are doing great things the Geo2YC community and beyond, and we want to recognize their efforts! Self-nominations are also welcome. Please take a moment and complete a nomination form available at:

[http://nagt.org/nagt/divisions/2yc/oafa\\_nomination.html](http://nagt.org/nagt/divisions/2yc/oafa_nomination.html)



## Readers' Geo2YC Pencil Photographs



(Above) Geo2YC pencil next to a sulfuric fumarole on Vulcano, Aeolian Islands, Italy (photo submitted by Callan Bentley).



(Left) on the K/T (K/Pg) boundary at Gubbio, Italy (photo submitted by Callan Bentley).

If you have taken your Geo2YC pencil anywhere this summer, or even have a cool rock formation where you live or work that you can grab a photo of using the pencil as scale, please consider submitting it to the newsletter for publication. All we need is an approximate location. You are welcome to give coordinates if appropriate to do so.

Don't have a pencil? Going to GSA? Come by the NAGT booth!



# *Letter from the Editor*

**by Tom Whittaker**

*Unity College, Unity, ME*

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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as newsletter editor for the past three years. I have certainly enjoyed it, and would highly recommend the experience of getting involved in the running of this wonderful organization we are all a part of.

A few of brief notices:

1. A reminder that NAGT and the Geo2YC division are only as healthy as our membership. If you haven't already done it, consider setting up your membership dues to auto-renew each year – we already have enough to think about in December!
2. Save the date: [Earth Educator's Rendezvous 2018](#) is in Lawrence, KS, July 16-20.
3. Each volume of FOUNDATIONS features a new banner image. We are beginning our search for Volume VII (2018). If you have an image free of copyright, and that will represent well when cropped to 8.1 inches wide and 1.3 inches tall, please consider submitting it. Final decision to be made in February 2018.

If you have questions or comments about the content of FOUNDATIONS, or have suggestions for future newsletter items please feel free to contact me or new editor Sherry Oaks during this transition period.

Thank you! 