

2021 Annual Report

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent glass facade on the left side and a brick facade on the right. The building has a unique, angular roof structure. The sky is blue with some clouds. In the bottom left corner, the AGU logo is displayed in white, with the text "ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE" below it.

AGU
ADVANCING EARTH
AND SPACE SCIENCE

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On the cover:
Photo by Eric Laïgnel

President's Letter

Since 1919, AGU has dedicated itself to action. This community has created meaningful ways for scientists to collaborate, ensured that research is funded and used to create a better world, and inspired the next generation—living up to the commitments we have made to one another for the last 102 years.

Recently, we rose together to meet a bold new challenge. Following the passing of our new strategic plan, we began blazing a trail toward three major goals:

- Catalyze discovery and solutions to scientific and societal challenges
- Promote and exemplify an inclusive scientific culture
- Partner broadly with other organizations and sectors to address scientific and societal challenges

I am proud of the work we accomplished this year, especially of our efforts to partner broadly. Global challenges require global collaboration, and AGU is perfectly positioned to lead in developing sustainable partnerships that will embed the Earth and space sciences in decision-making at all levels.

When I began my first year as AGU President, I was inspired by the potential to connect and collaborate with scientific organizations around the world. During Fall Meeting 2020 I met with representatives from other geoscience associations, as we have done for years. With such powerful minds in the same room, I suggested we convene formally to drive real action, and the Global Geoscience Societies Initiative was born.

In November, we were exceptionally proud to send a delegation of AGU leaders to the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26) for the first time. COP26 in Glasgow was an opportunity to meet with world leaders to advocate for science-based solutions and issue a call for climate action. After the success of our first meeting, AGU was honored to send our own delegation to COP27 as a provisional observer.

2021 also kicked off another exciting global effort: the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. As a physical oceanographer, I was particularly excited for this initiative to elevate the critical role of ocean science in driving solutions. Several AGU programs were officially endorsed, including our joint Ocean Sciences Meeting with The Oceanography Society and the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, convening oceanographers from around the world in 2022, and AGU's exceptional Mentoring365 program, a partnership with NASA and other leading scientific organizations to provide support for the next generation of scientists.

Additional highlights from 2021 include:

- AGU held its first hybrid Fall Meeting with more than 23,000 attendees.
- G-Cubed became AGU's eighth open-access journal, continuing our commitment to open science.
- We launched the Community Science Exchange and the transdisciplinary, open-access journal *Community Science*, in collaboration with several partners.
- Thriving Earth Exchange launched 52 new projects around the world.



- The AGU Bridge program welcomed 15 new collegiate departments as partners, increasing to 42 the number of colleges in our network dedicated to recruiting and retaining geoscience students from marginalized backgrounds.
- Two AGU members were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.

The AGU community has done phenomenal work this year, but we have much more to do if we are to reach our goals. It is my honor to lead AGU into 2022 as we envision a future where scientific discovery continues to be valued and celebrated for its role in advancing human knowledge and where the Earth and space sciences are used for the benefit and prosperity of people and our planet.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Lozier". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Lozier

Strategic Plan

In 2020, AGU presented a new vision for the future of the Earth and space sciences in our strategic plan. This is the year we began to realize that vision of a thriving, sustainable and equitable future supported by scientific discovery, innovation and action.



**AGU
Strategic
Plan**

AGU
ADVANCING EARTH
AND SPACE SCIENCE

[Click the image to read the full AGU Strategic Plan](#)

Catalyze discovery and solutions to scientific and societal challenges

AGU's commitment to discovery science remains central to our mission, building on our traditional strengths in convening, vetting and sharing science. We also aim to move more decisively into the realm of solution-based science that addresses emerging global issues, using our time-tested models—including Fall Meeting and AGU's 23 journals—to support and reward both discovery and solution-based science.

#AGU21

After a fully online Fall Meeting in 2020, we were excited to welcome people back in person and virtually for [AGU's first hybrid Fall Meeting](#) held in New Orleans, La., and online everywhere from 13 to 17 December 2021.

#AGU21 was optimized for both in-person and worldwide online participation so that attendees had numerous opportunities for interactions, including networking opportunities, impromptu live discussions, field trips, workshops and side meetings, as well as the very popular exhibit hall. We took the best of #AGU20, other past events and the latest tools and technologies to create a customizable online or in-person experience to foster learning, sharing and networking with others.

#AGU21 Highlights:

- Dr. Robert Bullard, often described as the father of environmental justice, delivered the Presidential Forum lecture on how to build trusting relationships between communities and science in support of environmental justice.
- John Kerry, the U.S.'s first Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, spoke about the grand transformation to address climate change during a plenary lecture.
- NASA scientists revealed that their spacecraft entered the Sun's corona for the first time during a press conference about the Parker Solar Probe.



Meeting Stats

 **23,895**
total attendees

23,895
total attendees

1,276
undergraduate students

13,948
online attendees

7,058
first-time attendees

9,947
in-person attendees

324
members of the press

7,127
graduate students

168
exhibitors & sponsors

114
Countries represented



 **1,833.75**
hours of scientific programming

10,410
poster presentations

11,102
iPosters created with
1M+ views

7,599
oral presentations

2,275
sessions + presenta-
tions + workshops +
town halls

1,048
eLightning
presentations

224
[Student Travel Grants](#)
Awarded

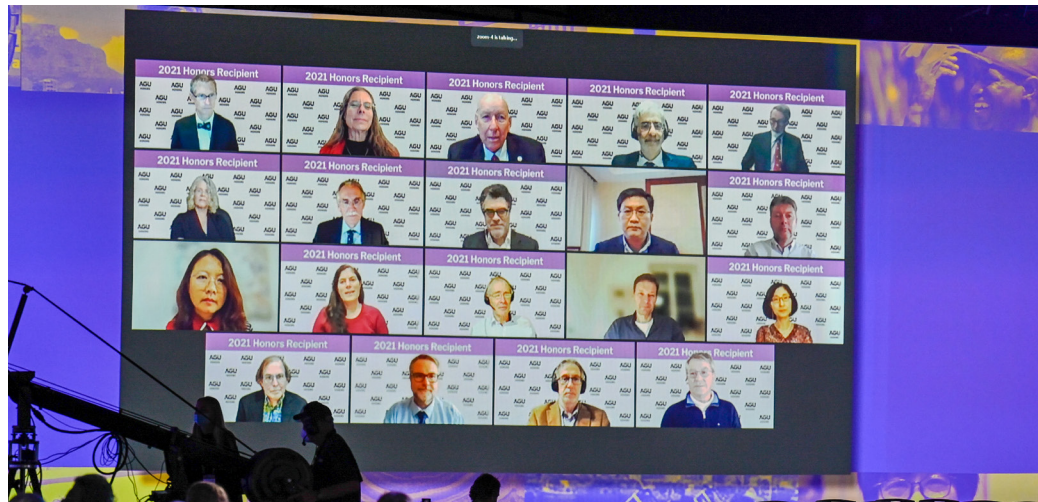


to help offset travel costs or those associated with virtual attendance such as childcare and internet support

#AGU21

- Sekou Andrews, one of the most successful spoken poets in the world, delivered a plenary lecture in which he asked the scientific community to be wavemakers.
- In a plenary address Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior and first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary, spoke on the importance of diverse perspectives in scientific fields to ensure communities are not left behind.
- Dr. Kelly Mack gave a lecture to launch AGU's LANDInG program for developing competencies in DEI leadership. She spoke on developing networks and tools for a stronger and more inclusive scientific community.
- U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm discussed achieving President Biden's goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 during a plenary lecture.
- A panel from the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) delivered a plenary on progress and prospects and the role of the larger AGU community in them.

The AGU Honors Tribute was attended by both in-person and online attendees during #AGU21, recognizing outstanding contributions in Earth and space sciences through research, education, communication and outreach. For more information about diversity in the Honors program, please see [AGU's Ethics, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 2021 Annual Report](#).



Watch our #AGU21 Fall Meeting playlist on YouTube.

AGU Publications

Scholarly research is more important than ever to catalyze discovery and to help solve the urgent problems our world is facing today. AGU's leadership, editors and staff remain committed to ensuring that its journals and publications are a powerful force for positive change in the world.

AGU continued on its path to **open science** by transforming [Geochemistry](#), [Geophysics](#), [Geosystems \(G-Cubed\)](#) to [open access](#). G-Cubed joins AGU's seven open-access journals: *AGU Advances*, *Earth's Future*, *Earth and Space Science*, *GeoHealth*, *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, *Perspectives of Earth and Space Scientists* and *Space Weather*. In addition, AGU began eliminating excess page fees for all open-access journals and for authors who purchase an open-access license in our other journals.

As we increase access to our journals, AGU also wants to ensure that researchers from all regions can continue to publish with us. We offer **automatic waivers and discounts** for authors in low- and middle-income countries covered under the Research4Life initiative in our open-access journals. Many institutions also cover completely or offer discounts on open-access author publishing charges in AGU journals. In addition, anyone not included in these programs who needs a waiver can request one by emailing the journal. AGU will continue to strengthen these inclusivity efforts in 2022 as several additional titles prepare for the transformation to open access.

AGU also announced an [update to its publications corrections policy](#) that allows for more flexibility around **author name changes** that better aligns with our values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Any author can now change their name on a previously published

Commitment to Open Science and Open Data

In addition to transforming G-Cubed to open access in 2021:

- AGU journal editors, staff and community members developed and released a comprehensive **Data and Software Sharing Guidance** for authors in July.
- Working closely with AGU's data team and journal editors, we **launched a data citation pilot in GeoHealth** to ensure uniformity in our ongoing data transparency efforts, to include tags for data types and explicit citation formatting to ensure credit and proper indexing.
- **98%** of all AGU research articles published in 2021 had a Data Availability Statement, up from 51% in 2020.

AGU publication for any reason, including but not limited to marriage, divorce, religious conversion and alignment of gender identity.

AGU journals received 17,474 submissions in 2021. Although this was a 3.8% decrease from 2020, the number of articles reaching the quality necessary for publication increased 14.9% over 2020 to 8,227 articles. **Most corresponding authors in 2021 were from China** (36%, up from 32% in 2020) **and then the United States** (25%, down from 27% in 2020). In partnership with Wiley, AGU hosted two workshops in China—at the 6th Conference on Earth System Science in Shanghai in July and the Forum on Big Data in Earth Sciences by the International Union of Geological Sciences in Hangzhou in September—along with four webinars presented in English and Mandarin. For more information on journal demographics, see [AGU's Ethics, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 2021 Annual Report](#).

AGU Publications

COMMUNITY SCIENCE EXCHANGE

In 2021, AGU announced a partnership to form a portal for fostering community science. The [Community Science Exchange](#) is an initiative that aims to develop and promote leading practices, resources and information around community science. The platform includes a new transdisciplinary, open-access journal, [Community Science](#), as well as a related knowledge exchange for sharing diverse materials connected to community science. A generous fee waiver program will ensure that anyone whose contributions are accepted in the journal will be able to publish their work.

Community Science Exchange Partners

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- American Meteorological Society (AMS)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Citizen Science Association (CSA)
- Unión Geofísica Mexicana (UGM)

The Community Science Exchange aims to “democratize science—making science a valued, accessible, and meaningful way of solving problems that affect all communities.”

— Jean Schensul, Deputy Editor, Knowledge Exchange



Advancing Science

AGU continues to be a voice for the global science community—advocating for science-based solutions to the challenges that face our society, supporting investment in high-quality and high-impact research, and celebrating the impressive work by our community.

PROMOTING OUR SCIENCE

Top media outlets include:

- Forbes
- BBC News
- CNN
- Washington Post
- New York Times
- US News & World Report
- The Times-Picayune & New Orleans Advocate
- The Hill
- NBC News
- ABC News
- Chicago Tribune

Notable journal coverage:

Interstellar object 'Oumuamua is likely a piece of a Pluto-like planet, 16 March 2021 ([JGR Planets](#))

- [BBC News](#), [New York Times](#), [Der Spiegel](#),

152 news stories from 120 outlets

U.S.-wide, non-white neighborhoods are hotter than white ones, 13 July 2021 ([Earth's Future](#))

- [E&E News](#), [KPBS](#), [KOED](#); **195 news stories**

from 162 outlets.

Earth is dimming due to climate change,

29 August 2021 ([Geophysical Research Letters](#))

- [CNN](#), [BBC News](#), [Science News](#); **202 news stories from 158 outlets**

Notable Fall Meeting 2021 coverage:

Tornadoes:

- Study: Winter tornadoes to get more powerful as world warms. [AP](#), Seth Borenstein 13 December

Thwaites glacier:

- Oregon scientists say major Antarctic Glacier on verge of collapse. [Oregon Public Radio](#), Jes Burns 16 December
- Crucial Antarctic ice shelf could fail within five years, scientists say. [Washington Post](#), Sarah Kaplan 13 December
- Antarctic ice shelf could crack, raise seas by feet within decade, scientists warn. [NBC News](#) Tim Fitzsimons 15 December

- Also: NY Post, The Guardian, CNN, Scientific American, Nature News, Business Insider, National Geographic, The Hill

Climate change:

- Climate change has destabilized the Earth's poles, putting the rest of the planet in peril. [Washington Post](#) Sarah Kaplan 14 December
- Opinion: Humanity should not test whether Antarctica's ice will hold out. [Washington Post](#) 19 December
- 2021 brought a wave of extreme weather disasters. Scientists say worse lies ahead. [Washington Post](#), Sarah Kaplan and Brady Dennis 17 December
- Alaska Science Forum: News of the Arctic from New Orleans. [Juneau Empire](#), Ned Rozell 17 December

Parker Solar Probe:

- NASA's Parker Solar Probe becomes first spacecraft to 'touch' the sun. [CNN](#), Ashley Strickland 14 December
- A NASA spacecraft has flown into the sun's atmosphere for the first time in history. [NPR News](#), Joe Hernandez 15 December
- Also: Smithsonian, The Guardian, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post



39M
Social Media Impressions

+46% over 2020



25,300
News mentions of AGU and AGU science

Nobel-Worthy Science

AGU is proud to have in its membership [two of the three scientists awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics](#). **Syukuro Manabe** and **Klaus Hasselmann** will add the Nobel to their long list of recognitions:



Syukuro Manabe

- AGU Fellow
- AGU Bowie Medal
- AGU Revelle Medal

Klaus Hasselmann

- AGU Fellow
- AGU Macelwane Medal

Manabe and Hasselmann “laid the foundation of our knowledge of the Earth’s climate and how humanity influences it.”

— The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the Nobel Prizes

Partner broadly with other organizations and sectors to address scientific and societal challenges

We understand that the scientific and societal challenges facing our planet, humanity and the environment cannot be addressed solely by the scientific community. Through AGU's global partnerships, along with initiatives such as the Thriving Earth Exchange, Mentoring365, Sharing Science, *Eos*, and our ongoing science policy outreach, we are committed to cultivating a culture of trust in evidence-based science, to co-creating knowledge with communities that use that knowledge, and to helping AGU members effectively address societal challenges through solution-based science, science policy, communication and outreach.

Global Partnerships

COP26 IN GLASGOW

When the United Nations Climate Change Conference, [COP26](#), convened in Glasgow, Scotland, in November, AGU was there to meet with world leaders to advocate for science-based solutions. In addition, the editors-in-chief of every AGU journal issued a [call to climate action](#) to the COP26 attendees. AGU also participated in the “Cities are Key to the Climate Solution” summit, where we collaborated with Optica and several other partners to showcase a pilot urban air quality monitoring project as part of the Global Environmental Measurement and Monitoring (GEMM) initiative.

“We are making a plea for collective action: we must make the switch to a green economy...Rich countries must lead the way in making drastic cuts to carbon emissions and in helping low- and middle-income countries to develop sustainably. We are running out of time.” — 22 AGU Editors-in-Chief in *Geophysical Research Letters*

“We are making a plea for collective action: we must make the switch to a green economy.”

— 22 AGU Editors-in-Chief in *Geophysical Research Letters*



AGU leaders and representatives from Optica display an instrument from the Global Environmental Measurement and Monitoring (GEMM) initiative at COP26 in Glasgow.

Global Partnerships

A FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE OCEANS

In 2021, the United Nations launched the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. In June, the UN formally endorsed three contributions that AGU is involved in as part of this worldwide initiative:

- The Global Ecosystem for Ocean Solutions, a program collaboration with Ocean Visions and several other partners
- The Ocean Sciences Meeting, in collaboration with The Oceanography Society (TOS) and the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO)
- AGU's Mentoring365 program

GLOBAL GEOSCIENCE SOCIETIES INITIATIVE

At AGU's Fall Meeting 2020, President Susan Lozier identified an opportunity for geoscience organizations to invest in real action together. Previously, a broad group of these organizations would convene annually or biannually at their respective annual meetings to discuss common operational challenges or membership needs. In June 2021, AGU convened these societies formally under the Global Geoscience Societies Initiative to present a unifying vision.

The Initiative's purpose is to better leverage the strength of the geoscience societies around the world to drive impact for our communities. The group has formed four task teams, each of which meets once a month: Support Early Career and Student Communities, Inclusion and Representation in Geoscience, Advocate for the Earth and Space Sciences in Global and Domestic Policies, and Public Engagement and Outreach. AGU is very excited about this



AGU President Susan Lozier and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry in conversation during #AGU21.

new way for us to collaborate closely with our global community and better converge on common opportunities.

#AGU21 GLOBAL EVENTS

AGU's Fall Meeting is an international convening of Earth and space scientists, so in addition to the important research presented, global leaders convene at the event to discuss the critical role of science in the solution to societal challenges.

At #AGU21, John Kerry, the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, led a fireside chat on integrating discussions of climate into science diplomacy. Six Global Cafes created welcome spaces for attendees to organize regionally rather than by discipline and network with members of AGU's Global Engagement Committee. We also gathered leaders in four roundtables at a Sustainable Development Goals' Stage to discuss how the Earth and space science community can contribute

to issues surrounding clean water and sanitation, hunger, industry and infrastructure, and sustainable cities.

AGU POSITION STATEMENTS

AGU's Council updated four position statements to represent the evolving voices and priorities of our global community:

- [Robust government investment in Earth and space science research is essential for a resilient, sustainable society](#)
- [The responsibilities and rights of scientists](#)
- [The importance of exploring Earth and space science throughout the educational experience](#)
- [Teaching climate change and evolution is essential to understand our past and shape our future](#)

Eos: Science News by AGU

Eos publishes high-quality Earth and space science reporting alongside scientist-authored articles for a global, public readership.

Eos's global reach

- A growing cadre of writers from around the globe reports on science and environmental news for *Eos* in their regions, including Africa (Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda), Asia (India, Japan), and Latin America (Brazil, Colombia, Mexico).
- Reporting by Latin American journalists has led to significant audience growth in those regions, including a 20% rise in Brazil, 58% rise in Mexico, and over 200% growth in Colombia.
- Published 70+ article translations in Spanish through a partnership with Planeteando, leading to a 182% rise in its Spanish-speaking audience, according to primary web browser language.
- Launched simplified Chinese translations, leading to a 63% audience growth in China.

“We need good science to be portrayed well to the public and AGU can continue to lead this charge.”

— Scientist who served as a source for an *Eos* news story.



Award-winning science news

2021 EXCEL AWARDS

Association Media & Publishing

“[Creating Spaces for Geoscientists with Disabilities to Thrive](#)” by AGU members Anita M. Marshall and Sean Thatcher—Best Feature Article on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

“[Modeling Under Pressure](#)” by Mark Betancourt—Best Feature Article, General

Eos.org—Editorial Excellence

Eos.org by the Numbers



4M
page views



33%
rise in readership



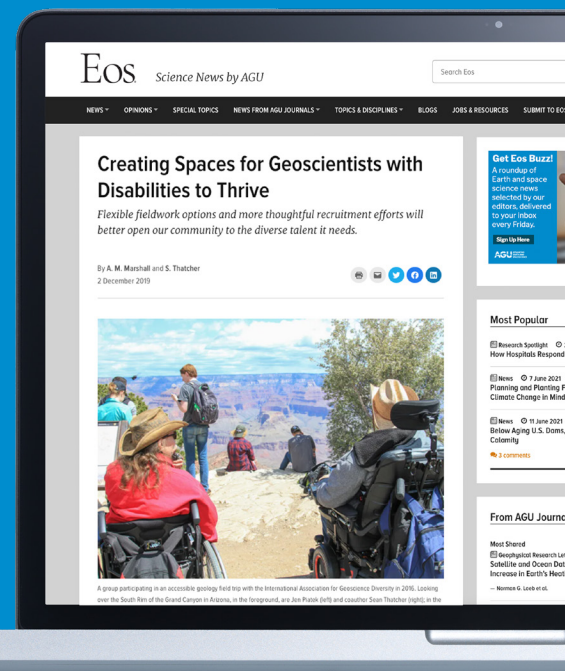
7.2M
Twitter impressions



1.5M
Google referrals



Launched
on Apple News



Science in Our Communities

THRIVING EARTH EXCHANGE

The [Thriving Earth Exchange](#) launched 52 new projects in 2021. These projects create concrete local impacts for communities struggling with a variety of environmental challenges. We also launched the [Neighborhood Fund](#), providing seed money for projects to buy instruments, host community meetings or otherwise advance their work.

SCIENCE POLICY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

In January 2021, President Joe Biden was sworn in and immediately began releasing his administration's vision for the future of U.S. science. AGU seized the opportunity to speak out and usher in a new era of trust in science, with statements on [Biden's climate plan](#), nominations of an [experienced team of scientists](#) to guide his work—including AGU Fellow and Hess Medalist Maria Zuber—and elevating the Office of Science and Technology Policy Director to a cabinet-level position, and, crucially,

the [executive order](#) to have the U.S. rejoin the Paris Accord and the World Health Organization. AGU and its partners also effectively campaigned to have the U.S. EPA commit to diversifying Federal Advisory Boards, and AGU participated in a roundtable about welcoming Afghani scientists into the scientific community with Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Eric Lander.

After announcing these climate change priorities, several bills were introduced to the U.S. Congress that would provide significant funding for expanding research and results in climate change solutions. To garner support for this critical funding, the National Science Foundation contacted AGU and several other societies to rapidly convene our respective communities and provide robust input and innovative ideas to inform a potential implementation strategy.



Read our Report to NSF on AGU Community Recommendations and Ideas Regarding Implementing Climate Change Solutions.



Community leads Amy Stelly and Tamah Yisrael pointing out the I-10 corridor in the 7th Ward, New Orleans. Their organization, Claiborne Avenue Alliance, worked with Thriving Earth Exchange to evaluate the impacts of Highway I-10 that runs above Claiborne Avenue. Their work contributed to a national conversation with New Orleans at its center.

Science in Our Communities

In addition, AGU supported its community in making over 2,500 connections with policymakers in 2021, including over 100 virtual meetings. AGU also received over 20 requests for information from decision-makers, weighing in on issues such as funding for science, innovation, wildfires and broadening participation in STEM. AGU hosted over 44 trainings, workshops and webinars for AGU members, covering topics as diverse as policy issues related to scientific integrity, how to engage with new legislators and how to create a policy one-pager.



Sharing Science

Sharing Science Grants:

These grants supported science communication outreach ranging from creating illustrations for a children's book on Brazilian ecology to developing instructions for an app for community residents to use to monitor macroplastics in Kenya.



40
awardees



11
countries

Storytelling for the 21st-Century Scientist

9
webinar series

165
average attendance

Launched
Virtual Learning Hub for resources

Sci & Tell Podcast
12-episode
series highlighted awardees of NASA Narratives grants.



Supporting the Future of Science

MENTORING365

AGU is excited about the potential for our [Mentoring365](#) platform to advance geoscientists onto their career paths with the announcement in 2021 of a major expansion. We began by partnering with NASA, the American Astronomical Society, and the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research and joined seven other society partners. Mentoring365 signed up more than 1,900 participants by the end of 2021.

SUPPORTING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN GEOSCIENCE CAREER EVENTS

224 student members were awarded Fall Meeting Student Travel Grants, thanks to our generous AGU community donors.

Outstanding Student Presentation Awards

3,477 students participated in the Outstanding Student Presentation Awards at Fall Meeting. 127 undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. students received awards recognizing their quality research in Earth and space sciences and the ability to effectively communicate it.

AGU BRIDGE PROGRAM

In 2021, AGU welcomed 15 new collegiate departments as AGU Bridge partners, making for a total of 46 partners. The AGU Bridge Program, part of the NSF-funded Inclusive Graduate Education Network, seeks to recruit, retain and support students from historically marginalized backgrounds into geoscience graduate programs around the country.

Supporting Students

3,477

students participated in the Outstanding Student Presentation Awards

224

students awarded Fall Meeting Student Travel Grants

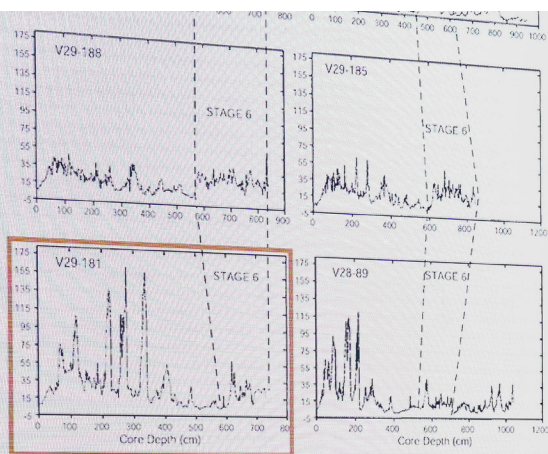


Figure 4. Downcore magnetic susceptibility records for six North Atlantic piston cores from within the ice rafted detritus belt (Ruddiman 1977). The approximate stratigraphic location of Marine Isotope Stage 6 is identified for each core. Magnetic susceptibility data are reported in SI, and are unitless.

Downing 2008



Thank You to Our Generous Donors

AGU gratefully acknowledges the donors, members and friends who supported AGU's programs and initiatives in 2021.

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(\$250+ cumulative annual giving)

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2021 Financial Summary

Statements of Financial Position

31 December	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,104,200	\$ 6,257,657
Investments	129,409,266	121,485,268
Receivables, net	4,006,222	2,923,964
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,945,344	1,935,158
Property and equipment, net	53,067,777	53,496,822
Total assets	\$ 197,532,809	\$ 186,098,869
Liabilities and net assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 9,650,852	\$ 7,107,864
Lines of credit	13,111,034	7,688,999
Deferred revenue	1,596,768	2,070,271
Accrued postretirement health benefits	2,430,000	2,598,850
Bonds payable, net	41,046,550	42,234,524
Total liabilities	67,835,204	61,700,508
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	\$ 71,267,917	\$ 70,077,015
Designated	44,593,309	41,751,175
Total net assets without donor restrictions	115,861,226	111,828,190
With donor restrictions	13,836,379	12,570,171
Total net assets	129,697,605	124,398,361
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 197,532,809	186,098,869



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