

BSG Outreach and Education Committee

Report, AGM, September 2024

Marjorie Sweeting Prize

8 submissions were received with an extended deadline of the 30th November owing to the UCU marking boycott. The quality once again was very high and it was a pleasure to award the prize to Athena Eftychiou for their dissertation 'Investigating the impact of the 2009 Mt Redoubt eruption on the geomorphology and dynamics of Drift River, Cook Inlet, Alaska' completed while at University College London. The call for submissions for the 2024 prize is currently open and will close on the 30th September.

Geomorphological Outreach Grant

No applications were received for the September round of funding (£1000 available), but three applications were received for the February round (£1000 available). These were reviewed by members of the BSG Executive Committee due to the Outreach and Education Committee Chair and Secretary having conflicts of interest. One award was made to Dewi Roberts, to fund 'Fluvial geomorphology in action: enhancing geomorphological communication through video'. This will provide high-quality resources that can be placed on our website as educational resources for teachers and students. The next round will close on the 30th September.

Website/Social media

A series of social media posts were released during International Geomorphology Week, raising awareness of the digital geomorphological resources produced with BSG support in recent years. The collaborative project between the BSG, QRA and RGS to raise awareness of inspirational women in physical geography was also promoted on International Women's Day. Blog posts have also been received from some previous award winners and posted on the website.

Geographical Association

The BSG sponsored the GA's Physical Geography student photo competition and benefitted from promotion in various ways as a result (e.g. on the GA website and newsletter). The winners can be viewed here (<https://geography.org.uk/get-connected/get-involved-1-student-activities/physical-geography-student-photo-competition/2023-winners-announced/>). We have committed to supporting this competition again this year.

The Committee Chair attended the GA Conference at the University of Manchester (4th – 6th April) as an exhibitor. For the conference, a new print run of '10 Reasons Why Geomorphology is Important' was produced, as well as a series of four postcards for teachers promoting the society and the '10 reasons' booklet (see website). Attendance was very beneficial in terms of making links with other organisations and reaching teachers.

Time for Geography

A new, inspiring video aimed at promoting the BSG and encouraging school students to consider where geomorphology might take them in their future education and careers was produced in collaboration with Time for Geography. The video showcases the important role of geomorphology in society by enhancing students' understanding of the processes that shape the Earth's surface and highlighting how geomorphology contributes to building a more informed, prosperous, and sustainable society. This video is used as BSG's promotional video on the Time for Geography platform. This was shared on social media (specifically X: <https://x.com/timeforgeog/status/1754475757575811565>) and can also be viewed on the society's website.

In tandem, call-to-action clips were produced, now shown prior to Time for Geography videos e.g. (e.g. <https://timeforgeography.co.uk/videos-list/plate-tectonics/divergent-constructive-plate-margins/>). Since January 2024, these two "bookend" videos have been shown daily in school classrooms across the UK and overseas.

We are currently collaborating on a number of educational videos featuring BSG members. We are currently working with Time for Geography to confirm these collaborative links to the BSG membership, so that they may be highlighted on the Time for Geography platform.

We also have a planned collaboration with the Time for Geography and Aberystwyth University to develop Time for Geography's most requested video: Why do rivers meander?

Time for Geography are currently developing a proposal for a new project in 2024-2025 aimed at supporting Welsh medium geography students, co-funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, led by Dr Rhian Meara of Swansea University, and involving other BSG members.

These resources have had the following reach:

Promotional video total audience: 59,000

Promotional video total classroom audience: 54,000

Promotional video number of plays: 4,658

Percentage of plays in school classrooms: 70 %

Total views of British Society for Geomorphology partner-branded web pages and social media posts: 110,752

Geomorphology Biographies

We are planning to produce biographies of geomorphologists from the academic (postgraduate and more established) and professional contexts for sharing primarily with schools but also with the wider public. We would encourage members to contact the Committee (hmg@aber.ac.uk) if they are interested in contributing.

Links to other organisations

Links have been made with the Geological Society to discuss potential collaborations in outreach and education and sharing best practice.

Windsor Workshop

Thanks to Lucy Clarke (Nottingham Trent University) for organising the BSG Windsor Workshop (training for 1st year PhD students who started in 2024) held at Cumberland Lodge, Great Windsor Park, London, 4-7 December 2023. There were 24 attendees from six European countries and 16 UK institutions. IAG provided grant support to three non-UK students from Europe. Thanks to John Wainright (Durham University), and two newly appointed co-ordinators, Emma Shuttleworth (University of Manchester) and Jo Old (Environment Agency), as well as external speakers, for their contributions to the running of the course.

Feedback from attendees was positive (Overall how would you rate this event: Excellent / Very Good: 95%). 100% felt that staff running the event and external speakers added value / knowledge.

This year the workshop will be held between the 2-5 December with potential for up to 30 students. This year will be the 30th anniversary of this event and the organisers are open to ideas to celebrate this – please contact Lucy.Clarke@ntu.ac.uk. The expression of interest will open in October 2024 – please advertise to new starters.

Committee Membership

The committee thanks Ethan Lee for their service as Postgraduate Representative over the past three years and have welcomed Aaditya Kapil (Northumbria University) as the new Postgraduate Representative. We also thank Hannah Williams (University of Wales Trinity St Davids) for her work over four years as Committee Secretary.

Hywel Griffiths