



Newsletter - January 2016



Message from the Chair and President of the Society

The BSG had a busy year in 2015, although we don't have space to list everything in this newsletter, here are some highlights.

Our lively and colourful new website was launched in April and we are still adding material to it.

The Stormy Geomorphology fixed term working group organised a very successful one-day meeting in May at the RGS-IBG. The event attracted a large attendance from both academia and industry, and the Visualising Geomorphology working group held their first meeting in June.

This year, for the first time, the BSG was represented at the Cheltenham Science Festival as part of our growing programme of outreach events – the stall was messy, busy and fun! More details on this and other upcoming outreach activities can be found below.

The University of Southampton hosted this year's annual conference (see below for more details) and a diverse range of research topics focusing on environments from the Amazon Basin to the Namib Desert and all points in between was presented. The 37 oral and 48 poster presentations included invited/medal papers from Keith Richards, Paul Carling, Liram Goren, Kirstie Fryirs and Michelle Johnson. Don't miss next year's meeting in Plymouth (5th – 7th September).

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this such a successful year.

Jo Bullard (Chair) and Mike Kirkby (President)



Winner of the 2015 BSG photo competition.

Jerome Mayaud (Oxford)
Dune horn—Skeleton Coast, Namibia

To see all the entries to this year's photo competition, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

AGM Success

This year's AGM was held at Southampton and was highly praised by the attendees. With nearly 100 delegates from around the World, the three day meeting saw a fantastic range of excellent talks, covering all aspects of geomorphology. Many thanks are extended to Steve Darby and the rest of the organising committee for arranging a fantastic few days. For more details see the AGM report, here.

Congratulations to this years award winners;

- Keith Richards (David Linton Award),
- Kirstie Fryirs (Gordon Warwick Medal)
- Liran Goren (Wiley Award),
- Michelle Johnson (Dick Chorley Medal for Postgraduate Research)



Keith Richards receiving the David Linton award from the BSG President, Mike Kirkby.

Congratulations are also extended to Stuart Lane and Brian Whalley who were presented with their BSG Fellowships for their contributions to the discipline and the society. More information on the BSG Fellows can be found [here](#).

Nominations for next year's Dick Chorley Medal for Postgraduate Research are now open. The deadline for nominations is **1st February 2016**. Nominations can be made online [here](#).

Next year's AGM will be held in Plymouth, with provisional dates of the week commencing 5th September 2016.



Stuart Lane receives his BSG Fellow from the BSG President, Mike Kirkby.

Outreach Activities and News

Outreach Activities

Next year the BSG will be running outreach activities at the following events:

- National Science and Engineering Week (14th - 18th March)
- Cheltenham Science Festival
- World Environment Day (5th June)
- World Rivers Day (25th September)
- International GIS day (19th November)



If you would like to get involved with any of these events, please contact Dr Annie Ockelford (A.Ockelford@hull.ac.uk) or Dr Lynda Yorke (L.Yorke@bangor.ac.uk).

BSG Webinars

In addition to these events, the BSG will be running a series of webinars aimed at promoting knowledge transfer between academia and industry. Currently, confirmed speakers include Prof. Nick Clifford (Kings College, London) and Dr. Jeff Warburton (University of Durham). In addition, a separate webinar series will focus on supporting the new A Level syllabus. Confirmed speakers on this series include Dr Martin Austin (Bangor University), Prof. Stephen Tooth (Aberystwyth University) and Dr. Simon Cook (Manchester Metropolitan University).

If you are undertaking exciting geomorphological work and think you can inspire people working in industry or A Level students and would like to give a webinar, then please contact the outreach committee.

New Industry Representative

We are pleased to announce that Dr Helen Reid of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has joined the Outreach Committee as an industry representative. Helen will work with the outreach committee to help the transfer of science from academia to applied geomorphologists within industry and to ensure the best use of up-to-date science and techniques within industry.

Outreach Grant

The new BSG Outreach Grant is also available in the 2016 grants round (for more information on the grant awards offered by the BSG, please see below). The Outreach Grant covers costs of up to £1000 to full members who would like to organize geomorphological outreach activities involving schools, the general public or industry. For more information, please see the [website](#), or contact Annie Ockelford (A.Ockelford@hull.ac.uk).

Marjorie Sweeting Dissertation Prize 2015

This year, we received 19 nominations for the Marjorie Sweeting Dissertation Prize. The field was extremely strong, with dissertation projects covering a host of geomorphological areas from moraines to mapping dunes on Mars.

The committee chose the dissertation entitled "Rock-slope Failures in the Northwest Highlands and Outer Hebrides of Scotland: Spatial Distribution, Characteristics and Lithological Comparisons" by James Cave (BSc. Geography, University of Saint Andrews) as the winner of this year's prize.

The dissertation was praised for being an all-round excellent piece of work that was well executed. James' prize comprises an award of £200, plus funded attendance at the BSG Annual Conference (to be held at the University of Plymouth, Sept 2016).

Grant News and Deadlines

The Society is dedicated to funding novel, exciting and leading research in all aspects of Geomorphology. This year the Society has introduced two new awards. The [Geomorphological Outreach Grant](#) will fund outreach activities involving schools, the general public or industry up to £1000. The [Research Network Grant](#) will fund activities (up to £2000) to facilitate interactions between groups of researchers that will lead to the development of proposals for Research Council thematic programs and/or Discovery Science grants

In addition to these, the standard array standard research grants (up to £1000), Early Career Researcher Grants (up to £5000), postgraduate research grants (up to £1000) and funding for conference attendance and sponsorship are available. The next deadline for grant applications is **1st February 2016**. For more information on the grants awarded by the BSG, please see [here](#).

Review of September 2015 funding round

By Daniel R. Parsons (Chair Research Committee)

In September 2015 BSG funding round awarded a total value of £26603 in response to members applications. Across the round a total of 28 proposals were submitted. This included 4 full members research projects, 3 PG members research projects, 6 ECR awards, 3 BSG Conference Support and 10 PG conference attendance applications.

The Research Grants scheme received a total of 7 applications (4 full members and 3 PG members) with 4 of these proposals (1 full member and 3 PG members) funded. The success rate for PG members was thus 100% and the overall Research Grants success rate was 57%. The ECR Grants (Wiley) attracted 6 applications with over £13k awarded across the 4 successful projects. The BSG Conference Support fund received 3 proposals with all 3 funded and the PG Conference Grant fund received 10 proposals with 8 funded in the scheme. The next call for applications will come out shortly after Christmas with a February 2016 deadline - the committee look forward to applications across the schemes available to advance geomorphology activity in our dynamic community.

Research in the Spotlight

Self-organised dynamics of breaching in coastal barrier systems

(Dr. Eli Lazarus, Cardiff University)

In 2014, Dr. Eli Lazarus received a Research Grant from the BSG to fund research into breaching dynamics of coastal barrier systems. The grant from the BSG allowed Eli, along with colleague Scott Armstrong (Cardiff University), to run a set of experiments to examine the mechanisms of barrier breaching and overwash flow. By obtaining high-resolution topographic datasets after each run, the morphology of the breaches could be analysed. This has led to a new understanding of the role of self-organization in determining the timings and locations of breaching events in coastal dune systems. This new understanding is important in crucial for improved risk assessment and hazard forecasting in vulnerable coastal zones.

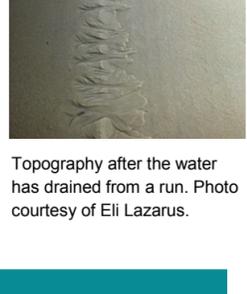


Scanning breach topography during a trial. Photo courtesy of Eli Lazarus.

More details on Eli's work can also be found on the [BSG website](#), and also on Eli's [research group blog page](#).

Related publications:

Lazarus ED, Armstrong S (2015) Self-organized pattern formation in coastal barrier washover deposits, *Geology*, 43(4), 363–366



Topography after the water has drained from a run. Photo courtesy of Eli Lazarus.

Postgraduate News

The BSG postgraduate community has, as usual, been highly active throughout the past year, promoting the Society and discipline across the country, and worldwide. For more information on how to be part of the BSG postgraduate community visit their [blog page](#). Their latest newsletter, dedicated to postgraduate activities, is available to read [here](#).

Conference Activity



EGU General Assembly in Vienna, Austria (17th–22nd April, 2016)

Every year the BSG is strongly supportive of the EGU, and is well represented by its members at the conference. This year is no exception. Some of the sessions being organised by BSG members are detailed below.

The abstract submission deadline is 13th January 2016.

BG3.3: Source to Sink: Sedimentary Carbon in the Coastal Ocean

Convenors: Craig Smeaton (University of St. Andrews), William Austin (University of St-Andrews), Hilary Kennedy (University Bangor), Evina Gontikaki (University of Aberdeen), Thomas Bianchi (University of Florida).

We welcome abstracts from researchers of any level working on aspects of coastal carbon.

For more details of the session, please visit: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2016/session/21890>

GM11.1/SSP3.17 Aeolian Processes and Landforms (10th Anniversary Edition)

Convenors: Jo Nield (Southampton), Jack Gillies (Desert Research Institute, Reno, USA), Matthew Baddock (Loughborough).

We welcome any contributions that use novel instrumentation in field studies, remote sensing at the landscape scale or innovative numerical modelling methods, are encouraged, particularly those which attempt to elucidate feedback between surface properties and sediment transport.

For more details on the session, please visit: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2016/session/21091>

SSP3.8 Fine Grained Gravity Flow Processes and Products: Insight from Outcrop, Modern Analogues and Experiments.

Convenors: Lorna Strachan (University of Auckland, NZ), Jaco Bass (Bangor University), Jim Best (University of Illinois, USA).

This is a regular e-mail from The Society to its members. If you have anything you would like to share with other members in future e-mails (e.g. conference announcements), or if you would like your BSG funded research to be the focus of the next Research in the Spotlight, please e-mail the Reports Officer, Chris Hackney (reports@geomorphology.org.uk).