HOW A GEOLOGY ALUMNI SOCIETY AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREPARATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR A GEOSCIENCE CAREER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

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The Geology Alumni Society (with the unfortunate acronym of GAS) at the University of South Florida was established in 1997.

At that time it was envisioned as a social group to keep alumni connected but quickly became involved in fund-raising.
Around this time Richard (Skip) Davis started an endowment fund for graduate students.

This quickly became the first directed collaboration of the Society, the department and students.
There are four areas of activity where the GAS, professional community and Department interact:

1. Workshops/Expos
2. Networking and Fundraising
3. Curricula Development
4. Professional Science Masters
WORKSHOPS/EXPOS

■ Annual resume writing workshop
■ PG workshop
■ Career in Geoscience workshop – led directly to the development of an undergraduate class
■ Bi-annual Expo – variety of companies set up booths and exhibits in the nearby Geo-Park.
University of South Florida Geology Alumni Society Presents

2016 GAS
Equipment Expo

Demonstrations/Exhibits to Include:
• Groundwater Sampling Technologies
• Drilling Demonstrations
• Geophysical Instrumentation
• Florida Geological Exhibits
• Representatives from Local and State Professional and Governmental Agencies
• The Hydro-Volcano and Florida Cave
• Environmental Assessment and Remediation Technologies

When: April 27, 2016
from 1 pm to 4 pm
Where: USF GeoPark

An Event for The School of Geosciences (Geology, Geography and ESP)

• Equipment Demonstrations From the Geological, Environmental and GeoTechnical Professions
• Professionals from Local Private Industry and Governmental Agencies
• Student Resume Boards
• Job Opportunity Postings
• Networking Opportunity

• Student Research Poster Competition with Cash Awards
• Hydro Volcano Demonstration
• SWFWMD Rock Cores and Well Logging Demonstration
• The Spring Rock Breaker will follow the Expo at the on-campus Beef O’ Brady’s

For more information contact Mike Wightman: 813-690-6667 or mwightman@geoviewinc.com
NETWORKING/FUNDRAISING

- Annual Banquet – Fundraising, networking, student outreach
- MS and PhD scholarships
- Social events (Rockbreaker) – kick off the new semester
- Field School Endowment and Scholarship funds
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND COURSES

- USF alumni and other professionals have helped to develop courses and also revise and improve the undergraduate curricula and the framework for Professional Science Masters Program (PSM*).

- The PSM is a non-thesis option that is in the process of being revamped to provide 8 tracks for students to choose from:
  - Hydrogeology - Environmental Geochemistry
  - Coastal Geology - Environmental Geophysics
  - General Geology - Computational Geophysics
  - Wetlands/Hydrology - Geospatial Technology

* - in the process of being renamed Professional Geoscience Masters (PGSM)
COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE
Preparing for a Career in Geoscience

- 1-hour class, pass/fail
- Weekly visits from professionals talk about their jobs and careers

GRADUATE
Introduction to Professional Geoscience

- 3-hour class
- Required for the PGSM
- Weekly topics that delve into the nuts and bolts of being a professional geologist
Introduction to Professional Geoscience

- Be more aware of the professional geology environment surrounding them.
- Better understand the day-to-day tasks associated with a variety of geoscience careers.
- Includes a “networking” event.
- Emphasizes the importance of transferrable skills.
- Professional ethics is a constant, underlying theme.
CAPSTONES

- Directed Research (3 hours)
- Comprehensive Exam
- Internship
INTERNSHIPS

- Path toward receiving a Professional Science Masters Degree
- Local private companies and government (state and federal) agencies take on interns.
- There is a fairly high employment record following an internship.
- Fall and Spring Internship symposia
QUESTIONS?

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