

# THE SEISMOGRAM

News and info to help our student and early-career scientists advance their careers

Seismological Society of America:  
Advancing Earthquake Science Worldwide

ISSUE 11: 10 APRIL 2019

[View this in your Web Browser](#)

[NETWORKING ADVICE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING](#)

[GEO-CVD: AN EDUCATION IN THE POLITICS OF SCIENCE](#)

[MORE GRANTS FOR YOUR TRAVEL THAN EVER BEFORE](#)

[STAY IN TOUCH](#)

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## Networking Advice for #SSA 2019

*Alaina G. Levine, President of Quantum Success Solutions and author of "Networking for Nerds: Find, Access and Land Hidden Game-Changing Career Opportunities Everywhere" (Wiley, 2015) offers five quick tips on how to network like a pro at the 2019 SSA Annual Meeting.*

### Use the meeting as a conversation starter

"You don't need an opening line. You can use the event itself as the fuel for the conversation. Simply go up to somebody, introduce yourself and ask if they've attended the conference before, if they've seen the speaker before or what posters they've seen so far."

### Show up a few minutes early

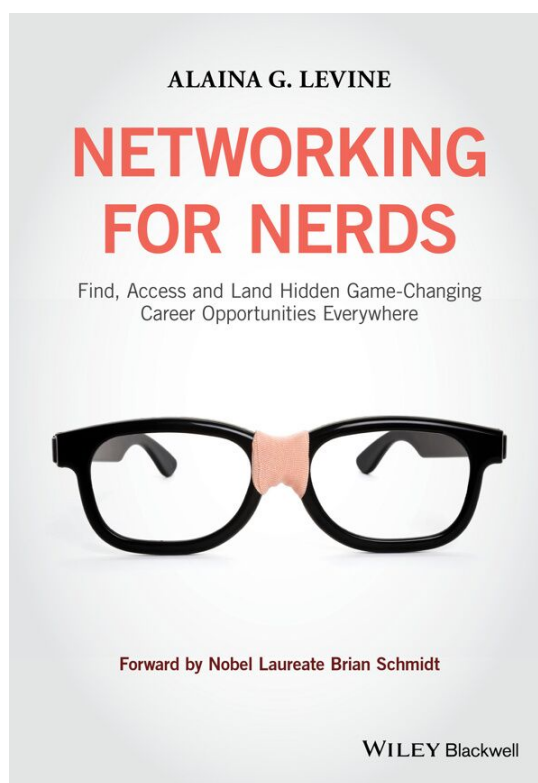
"A really good tip for introverts or networking newbies is to show up to the talks a few minutes early. There's almost always other early birds and you can sit near them, introduce yourself and ask if they've ever heard the presenter talk before. The best part of this networking is there's an expiration date on time because as soon as the speaker begins their talk, you have to shut up. At that point, I'd tell the person it was nice meeting them, ask if I could get their contact information and follow up next week."

### Keep it positive

"You never want to talk about anything negative. If someone says they work for Company X or University Y, you would never say, 'oh what a nightmare, how horrible, that must be a terrible job!'"

### Focus on what you can do for others

"You also wouldn't be talking about a tangible benefit you can get when you first meet somebody. It's not about me trying to get something from you. It's all about building a mutually beneficial partnership."



Don't pepper people with questions about how you can get a job with them. What you can say is, 'what you're working on sounds so interesting, how can I position myself for success in this field? What can I do now as an undergrad, grad student or postdoc to hone my skills, and what skills should I be honing if I wanted to work in your area or work with you in the future?'"

### **Bring people to you**

"If you're giving a talk or poster, tweet it out in advance. Invite people to come to it. And bring business cards with you and put a sticker on the back of your card with the poster or talk title, time, date and location, so that when you're meeting people you can give them your card and say, 'oh by the way, my talk or poster is happening tomorrow, here's the information, I'd love for you to come.'"

Want to learn more about networking and building your dream career? Sign up for the [\*\*Achieve Your Career Goals workshop\*\*](#) at the Annual Meeting by emailing [\*\*registration@seismosoc.org\*\*](mailto:registration@seismosoc.org).

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## **Three Reasons Why Students Should Apply for a Geo-CVD Travel Grant**

*Last year Sutton Chiorini (Miami University) and Colin Pennington (The University of Oklahoma) received travel grants to attend Geoscience Congressional Visits Day (Geo-CVD) in Washington, D.C. Here's what they got out of the event and why you should apply today!*

### **Meet with legislators and make your voice heard**

"It was really a heartening feeling to know people not only will listen, but that they want to listen," says Chiorini, who met with legislators from Ohio and West Virginia about the need to fund institutions that give grants for scientific research.

"The legislators I met with were highly receptive to what I had to say and seemed interested in how my work related to their state," she adds. "At no point did I feel dismissed or that legislators weren't interested in my story."



### **Advocate for your science**

"It was immensely rewarding to be able to advocate for seismology research and all geoscientists," Pennington recalls. He spoke to representatives from Oklahoma and his home state, Florida, and asked them to support the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act. [It was signed into law by President Trump in December].

"It also allowed me to make valuable connections with my representatives in Congress, so I can stay in touch with them and keep them informed of the great work we are doing."

### **Learn about careers in policy**

"I've never had any previous experience with policy, and a career in policy wasn't particularly high on my radar," says Chiorini. "After attending Geo-CVD, I'm certainly more interested in getting involved in policy, if not as a career then certainly at the local level."

Currently enrolled students are invited to apply by 11 July 2019 for a travel grant to attend Geo-CVD 10-11 September 2019. For more information: [\*\*seismosoc.org/us-government-relations/geocvd\*\*](https://seismosoc.org/us-government-relations/geocvd)

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## **MORE GLOBAL TRAVEL WISHES GRANTED**

Five more recipients of an SSA Global Travel Grant will soon share their work, learn from others and establish new contacts around the world. They are:

**Farnaz Kamranzad**

- Institution: University of Tehran
- Going to: 11th International Workshop on Statistical Seismology
- Held in: Hakone, Japan

**Angela G. Marusiak**

- Institution: University of Maryland, College Park
- Going to: Summer 2019 InSight Science Team Meeting
- Held in: Paris, France

**Nicolás Pinzón**

- Institution: Universidad Nacional de Colombia
- Going to: XVII Colombian Congress of Geology and IV Explorer Symposium 2019
- Held in: Santa Marta, Colombia

**Swasti Saxena**

- Institution: University of Nevada Reno
- Going to: Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology (SMiRT) 25
- Held in: Charlotte, North Carolina

**Hema Sandeep Sharma**

- Institution: University of Western Ontario
- Going to: Passive Imaging & Monitoring in Wave Physics: From Seismology to Ultrasound
- Held in: Cargèse, Corsica, France

Global Travel Grants offer eligible student members financial support to participate in meetings and workshops worldwide that relate to their study of earthquake science or seismology. Applications will be accepted once again in July.

For more information: [seismosoc.org/awards/global-travel-grant](https://seismosoc.org/awards/global-travel-grant)

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