

THE SEISMOGRAM

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

Seismological Society of America:
Advancing Earthquake Science Worldwide

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Global Travel Grants Now Open to Student AND Early-Career Members

The biggest news for February: SSA's Global Travel Grant program, previously for students only, is now open to early-career applicants, too. Eligible members looking for financial assistance to attend seismology meetings and workshops near and far can apply for these grants of up to \$2,500 now through the end of February.

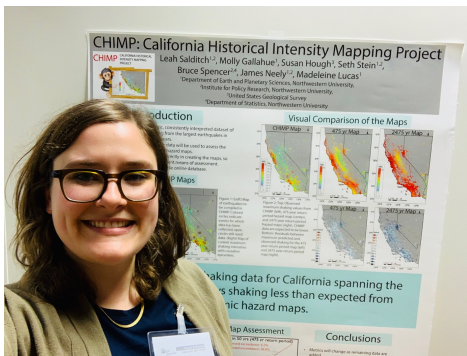
As SSA's first 15 recipients already know, Global Travel Grants help members network and share their work with colleagues worldwide.

Waheed G. Akande (University of Aberdeen) attended the 8th International Conference of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (SEE8) in Tehran, Iran, with the help of a Global Travel Grant.

"The grant afforded me the opportunity to meet with experts from different parts of the world and to learn from their recent case studies and the current trends in the seismological community," said Akande (*at right receiving a souvenir from conference Co-Chair Farokh Parsizadeh*). "The feedback which I received from the oral presentation of my work gave some insights that have helped to improve my research."



Swasti Saxena (University of Nevada, Reno) also reported that she would not have been able to afford the cost of travel to her meeting of choice, the Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology 25 meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, if not for an SSA Global Travel Grant. The meeting provided a much-needed opportunity to hone in on her areas of interest. "Since the focus of my study is really narrow," she said. "I usually have only a few relevant sessions to attend at conferences, but I had a very productive time sitting through the many significant technical sessions at this one."



For Leah Salditch (*at left*), a Global Travel Grant even led to a Northwestern University Ph.D. student, used her grant to attend the International Colloquium on Historical Earthquakes & Paleoseismology Studies in Barcelona, Spain. "I got offered a new work opportunity in Europe," she said. "That is, as soon as I can secure some grant funding!"

For more information, visit [SSA's Global Travel Grant webpage](#).

Two More Days to Have Your Say at SSA

What were you looking for when you joined the SSA community, and have you found it? Do you have any suggestions to help the Society better meet your professional

needs?

Tell SSA today by answering the [new member survey](#), which closes this Friday, 7 February. Focused on SSA's student and early-career members, the survey will help the Society deliver the programs and services you are seeking.

The survey is quick—it should take only about five to seven minutes to complete. It's confidential. And you could win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card for your time.

More Technical Session Tips

In our August issue, SSA veteran members shared their [best advice for organizing a technical session](#) at the next Annual Meeting (27-30 April in Albuquerque, New Mexico). Abstracts will be announced online tomorrow (6 February), so here are a few more tips from Allison Bent, editor-in-chief of *Seismological Research Letters*, to help make your session the best one possible.

At the conference Show up early. Make sure you know how all the equipment (timers, pointers, microphones, etc.) works. There will likely be some technical help available for emergencies during the session (and if you have any questions before the session starts). Make sure all the talks are loaded (if you notice any missing, ask if the person is in the room). Try to find out the first names of all speakers if you don't already know them--the program often has initials only.

At the beginning of the session Welcome attendees to session X, introduce yourself and your co-chair(s). Names are sufficient--we don't need your autobiography. Lay the ground rules (e.g., 15 minutes allotted, light will turn yellow after 12, and after 15 we cut you off).

During the session Introduce each talk (title, authors and speaker), and make sure the timer is reset. If the speaker doesn't appear to be getting close to the end when the light turns yellow, try to get his/her attention by waving, starting to move closer or quietly saying something such as "two minutes left." It's difficult, but if the speaker still shows no signs of stopping when the 15 minutes are up, you have the right to stop the talk (try to be firm but polite).

Questions If the speaker went overtime, you may have to skip the Q & A session and suggest that people approach the speaker later. If there is time, open the floor to questions. If five hands go up, you will have to decide who goes first. Try to confine the Q&A to the allotted time for the talk (easier said than done if the discussion is heated, but most people will thank you for keeping the session running on time). Say that in the interest of keeping to the schedule, you need to move on and the discussion can be picked up later.

End of the session At the true end of the session, thank the speakers and announce that the session is concluded. If there is a break (coffee or lunch) and the session is reconvening, remind the audience of the time. If there is a poster session, remind the audience of that (provide the poster numbers or the general area in the poster room if you can).

Seismo-gram welcomes your feedback at info@seismosoc.org



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