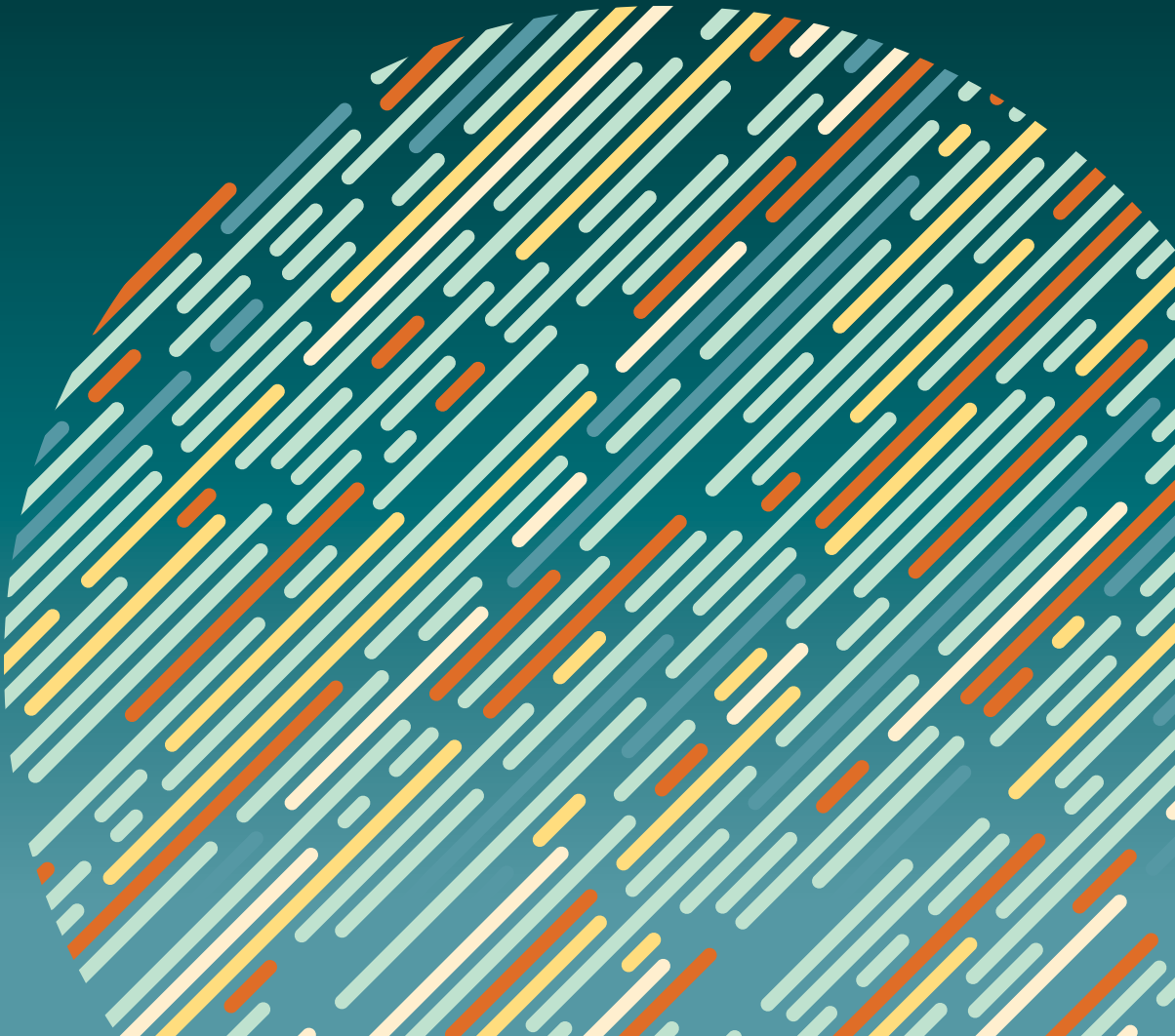




2025
Gratitude Report





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Society of America**

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Our Global Community

2,400 members in 86 countries

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SSA is more than a nonprofit organization. We are a global community dedicated to a shared mission.

Across nearly 90 countries, you—our members—sustain the monitoring networks and advance the research that keeps people safe. Your focus on this important work—and on each other—is the inspiration for this Gratitude Report.

I am deeply thankful for every hour you've spent volunteering, every meeting you've attended and every financial gift you made to SSA that fueled our progress throughout 2025. I'm especially grateful for the dedication of our volunteer editors and reviewers, a network more than 1,000 strong. Our collective drive for excellence does more than just move the field forward. It keeps our global community connected and informed.

I also want to thank those who led new career trainings to help our colleagues adapt as our professional world continues to change. While our U.S. members lead ongoing advocacy efforts in Washington, our global community provides the scientific foundation for that work. Together, we show leaders everywhere that seismic research is essential for a safer world.

We have plenty of reasons to be optimistic. Thanks to a record-breaking gift in 2021 and the steady support of our donors, we've launched a new self-supporting endowment. This is a major milestone for our Society, one that will help us fund your scientific travel and international collaborations through SSA grants for a long time to come.



It is your ongoing dedication that truly shapes our path forward, and our latest honorees are leading the way. I invite you to read about their work on the following pages. Whether recognized for their scientific contributions or their service to our community, these award recipients are all inspiring.

And I'm happy to share that next year will bring even more inspiration as SSA just added a new Excellence in Mentoring Award to our portfolio! So please start thinking about nominations for our full suite of honors and awards for the next year, and thanks to all of you who provided so many thoughtful nominations this year.

I hope you read this report with a sense of pride in everything we've accomplished together. Thank you for being the heart of SSA.

Susan Bilek
SSA President, 2025–2026

2026 Honors

The Seismological Society of America celebrates these members for their outstanding contributions to our community and our mission to advance seismology worldwide.

Peter Shearer

HARRY FIELDING REID MEDAL

SSA's highest honor, this medal recognizes outstanding contributions to seismology or earthquake engineering.



Peter Shearer, professor of geophysics at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), is the recipient of the 2026 Harry Fielding Reid Medal.

Shearer is recognized as one of the leading observational seismologists of his generation, noted for his outstanding contributions to improving earthquake locations and other source properties and his research delineating the structure and dynamics of Earth's mantle and core.

Shearer is perhaps best known for his efforts to develop methods of precisely determining earthquake locations, which have led to further insights into fault interactions, seismic stress release and the physics behind earthquakes. He and his colleagues were some of the first to systematically reprocess whole earthquake catalogs to improve locations. Shearer's relocated earthquake catalogs and focal mechanisms for Southern California have become standards used across hundreds of studies.

Shearer pioneered the use of back-projection methods with data from large arrays of seismic stations to image detailed earthquake rupture propagation, which he and colleagues used to better

understand the magnitude 9+ Sumatra-Andaman earthquake and tsunami in 2004.

His work "stacking" thousands of seismograms from events around the globe to study the deeper layers of the Earth has confirmed significant mantle discontinuities, and his mining and analysis of large data sets have revealed small-scale heterogeneities in the mantle and core. These studies have helped to bridge seismology with geodynamics and mineral physics research in the quest for a clearer picture of Earth's dynamics and long-term evolution.

In their commendations for the Medal, Shearer's colleagues noted his enthusiasm and generosity as a mentor for students and early-career researchers. Many of his graduate and postdoctoral scholars have gone on to distinguished research careers, and his excellence in teaching was recognized by UCSD with the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in 2003.

Shearer has more than 230 peer-reviewed publications, and his textbook *Introduction to Seismology*, now in its third edition, has been cited more than 1,000 times.

During his 2018–2019 service as SSA's president, Shearer initiated the Society's fall topical meeting as well as the Awards Honors Encouragement and Ethics Committees. He has also served as a Board member and on numerous committees for SSA.

Shearer was elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in 1999, presented AGU's Gutenberg Lecture in 2005 and received its Inge Lehmann Medal in 2020. He was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2009.

"Professor Shearer's research portfolio demonstrates both depth and breadth: transforming our understanding of earthquakes, advancing the study of Earth's deep structure and expanding the frontiers of seismological inquiry," wrote one nominator.

Kevin Milner

CHARLES F. RICHTER EARLY-CAREER AWARD

This award honors early-career members' outstanding contributions to the SSA mission.



Kevin Milner, a research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Geologic Hazards Science Center, is honored for his wide-ranging, globally adopted research that has become central to seismic hazard analysis modeling.

Milner's career began at the Statewide California Earthquake Center, where he served as the lead developer of OpenSHA, an open-source computations platform now used for seismic hazard analysis modeling around the world.

His research contributions—and numerous publications—related to seismic hazard analysis include advanced computational infrastructure open-source tool development, testing earthquake forecasting and early-warning systems, quantification of epistemic uncertainty in hazard and risk models, and development of the National Seismic Hazard Model in the U.S. and New Zealand.

Groundbreaking research in physics-based rupture modeling and multi-fault connectivity studies are among the many career accomplishments noted by his nominators, who pointed out that Milner's 2021 BSSA paper, *Toward Physics-Based Nonergodic PSHA: A Prototype Fully Deterministic Seismic Hazard Model for Southern California*, represents the first complete physics-based probabilistic seismic hazard analysis for Southern California.

Milner is also well-known for his work in developing and promoting the accessibility of open-source computational tools through GitHub that have made global earthquake forecasting and seismic hazard analysis more collaborative and transparent.

Milner's nominators noted his positive and calm way of working, along with his eagerness to collaborate and consider new ideas. They described his unique

ability to begin with foundational observations, move to the development and distribution of computational and modeling tools, and to understand and acknowledge the societal impacts of his ongoing studies. Milner's grasp of the full range of research, they added, is particularly important in seismic risk studies.

This award is supported in part by generous donations to the William B. Joyner Memorial Fund.

Lisa Wald

FRANK PRESS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

This award honors outstanding contributions to the advancement of public safety or public information relating to seismology.



For her groundbreaking work in creating the earthquake information hub of the Earthquake Hazards Program of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Lisa Wald is the recipient of the 2026 Frank Press Public Service Award.

Wald began work at the USGS in 1987 in Pasadena, California, as a geophysicist and outreach director before becoming science communications and web content manager at the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado, in 2002.

Wald taught herself HTML in the 1990s to build earthquake.usgs.gov, ushering in the internet era for the Survey. She was a key architect of the Earthquake Notification Service (ENS), which today allows users to receive custom automated earthquake event alerts, PAGER notifications about earthquake damage and fatality estimates, aftershock forecasts and more.

In 2015, Wald helped to produce the first U.S. Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Toolkit to aid federal agencies in carrying out citizen science and crowdsourcing projects. She was invited by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to be the web designer on the toolkit team.

Before her retirement from the USGS in 2024, Wald created a wide range of digital products for students, educators and the public. She was also on the receiving end of all email inquiries sent to eq_questions@usgs.gov for almost two decades, personally answering each and every one of an estimated 1,000 emails per year. In their commendations of Wald, her colleagues noted her service in providing communications tutorials and advice for generations of scientists in and out of the federal government.

Ruth Harris

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO SSA AWARD

This award honors individuals for their outstanding service to SSA.



For her decades of thoughtful Society leadership and energetic committee participation, Ruth Harris is the recipient of the 2026 Distinguished Service to SSA Award.

Harris, a senior research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey, joined SSA in 1987. She was first elected as an SSA Board member in 1997. She served as SSA vice president from 2005–2007, and twice as SSA president, from 2015–2016 and from 2023–2024.

In their nomination of Harris for the award, former SSA presidents described her as “an all-around thoughtful leader.” They cited an impressive list of contributions that include the creation of SSA’s Annual Meeting Student Presentation Awards Program, for which she remains a regular reviewer. They also noted Harris’ support for the development of open-access options for the *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America (BSSA)* and *Seismological Research Letters (SRL)*, and her invaluable institutional knowledge and support during the 2015 transition to a new executive director for the Society.

Nearly every SSA committee has benefited from Harris’ active participation, including the Management Committee, the Publications

Committee, the Board of Director’s Nominations Committee, the Officer Nominations Committee, the Investment Committee, the Executive Committee, the Student Awards Committee, the Membership Committee, the Frank Press Public Service Award Committee, the COSMOS/EERI/SSA Bolt Medal Committee and the 2001 Annual Meeting Committee.

Harris also served as guest editor for the BSSA Special Issue on the 2004 Parkfield Earthquake and Prediction Experiment, and has shared her insight and expertise with our community as an associate editor of *The Seismic Record* since 2021.

Francisco José Sánchez-Sesma

WILLIAM B. JOYNER MEMORIAL LECTURER



Awarded by SSA and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), this lectureship honors William B. Joyner’s career at the USGS and his commitment to continuing communication and education at the interface between research findings of earthquake science and the practical realities of earthquake engineering.

Francisco José Sánchez-Sesma, professor of Engineering and Geophysics at the Universidad Autónoma de Mexico, is the 2026 recipient of the William B. Joyner Lecture Award.

His Joyner Lecture, “Seismic Wave Propagation in Complex Geological Domains: From Site Effects in Ground Motion to Diffuse Fields in Passive Seismology,” will reflect on decades of research aimed at understanding and modeling seismic wave propagation in complex geological media and its manifestations in ground motion, from strong shaking during large earthquakes to weak ambient vibrations such as microtremors and seismic noise.

Sánchez-Sesma’s contributions to theory and method throughout his career have made a significant impact on seismic hazard assessment in earthquake

engineering, aided by his early background as a structural engineer. He is best known for his contributions to methods, such as the Indirect Boundary Element Method, for studying seismic wave propagation, especially amplification of seismic waves by complex 3D surface geological structures.

His mastery of mathematical formulations, his development of new techniques of numerical simulations of wave propagation and techniques for data processing for seismic imaging were noted in his nomination for the Joyner award.

Beyond his numerous contributions to the global practice of seismology and earthquake engineering, Sánchez-Sesma has demonstrated significant science and engineering leadership throughout Latin America.

Eduardo Miranda

COSMOS/EERI/SSA BRUCE BOLT MEDAL



Honoring the legacy of Bruce Alan Bolt and awarded jointly by the Consortium of Strong Motion Observations Systems (COSMOS), EERI and SSA, this medal recognizes the promotion and use of strong-motion earthquake data and leadership in the transfer of scientific and engineering knowledge into practice or policy that has led to improved seismic safety.

Eduardo Miranda, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University, is the 2026 recipient of the Bruce Bolt Medal. He is recognized for his contributions in developing new ground motion models and intensity measures, refining damping modification factors and improving methods for assessing seismic demands on structures and nonstructural components. His work has shaped seismic design provisions, and he has emphasized the use of strong-motion data in both research and teaching.

For nearly four decades, Miranda has made extensive use of strong motion records, both installed on the ground surface and on structures, in his research. His

research contributions span a broad range of topics, including improved estimation of seismic demands for structures built on soft soils and development of parameters to estimate seismic demands on structures behaving nonlinearly from peak elastic response, such as strength reduction factors, inelastic displacement ratios, residual drift demands and assessment of seismic demands on nonstructural components. He has also significantly contributed to developments in ground motion modeling, including models for estimating peak inelastic displacement, new intensity measures strongly correlated to structural collapse, intra-event variability of spatial correlation and, more recently, ground motion directionality.

Help SSA Honor Outstanding Community Members

Celebrate your colleagues' contributions to seismology by submitting SSA Honors nominations.

Most nominations—including the new Excellence in Mentoring Award—are due by **30 September**.

Nominations for the Bruce Bolt Medal and the William B. Joyner Memorial Lecturer must be submitted by **30 June**.

→ For more information, visit seismosoc.org/awards

2025: Standing Together, Supporting Science

Together our members helped one another adapt to significant changes in the scientific career landscape and advance the SSA mission through their participation in more than 25 hours of complimentary courses/mentoring sessions.

Many traveled to our Annual Meeting and Fall Topical Conference to continue scientific exchange while generous donations helped student and early-career members attend these meetings as well as those hosted by other scientific organizations.

Because of you, SSA ended the year prepared to offer even more support to members across our global community.



A Voice for Seismology

Thank you for advocating for our field and its future

- **SSA organized visits to Capitol Hill** for our 2025 Annual Meeting attendees, supporting meaningful exchanges between members and policymakers to further the SSA mission. The Society also hosted a briefing on Government Relations issues to help our U.S. members understand and join ongoing advocacy efforts for federally funded science.
- **Throughout the year, SSA conducted dozens of outreach efforts to advocate for seismology support at the highest levels of U.S. government, including visits to offices on Capitol Hill,** letters to Congress and a new policy statement on the link between seismic research/monitoring and U.S. defense.
- **SSA supported Johanna Villagomez's participation in Geosciences Congressional Visits Day as a Government Relations Policy Fellow,** training her on the policymaking process and connecting her with officials to advocate for seismology during the two-day event in Washington, D.C. The fellowship also included ongoing service on the Society's Government Relations Committee.

“One of the most meaningful parts of my fellowship has been contributing my perspective to the review and revision of SSA policy statements. I've learned that meaningful change does not happen overnight. Advocacy requires persistence and patience for incremental progress.”

—**Johanna Villagomez**, seen here at the September 2025 Geosciences Congressional Visits Day with participant **Matthew Varela** (left)

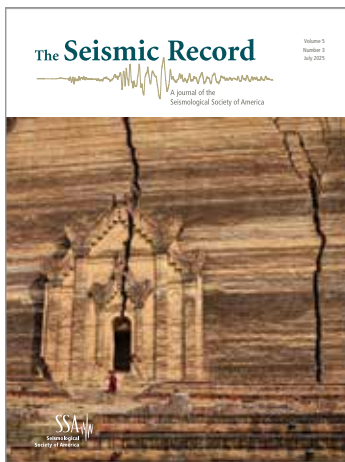
SSA Journals: Powered by You

Revenue from subscriptions and author fees allows SSA to host our twice-yearly meetings, award travel grants and advocate for seismology on Capitol Hill. Without these journals, we simply could not provide the support our community depends upon. Thank you to the authors, readers, reviewers and editors who serve as the engine behind our mission. Your research and support fuels everything we do.



Excellence and Efficiency

Thanks to our dedicated network of volunteers, SSA published nearly 500 peer-reviewed papers in 2025 with industry-leading speed. We offer a rapid-publication track via **TSR (30-day average first decision)** alongside the efficient, high-impact review process of **BSSA and SRL (50-day average)**.



Thank You, Editors, for Helping Us Reach New Heights

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Expanding Our Reach and Impact

SSA's journals continue to climb in global rankings, reflecting the high quality and increasing influence of the research we publish. In the latest Clarivate reports, our publications showed strong upward movement:

- **SRL:** Its Impact Factor rose to **3.2** (up from 2.6), securing a prestigious top-quartile spot at **#25 out of 100** in the Geochemistry & Geophysics category.
- **BSSA:** The journal climbed seven places to rank **#28 out of 100 in the same category**, with its Impact Factor rising to **2.9** (up from 2.6).
- **The Seismic Record:** Marking a major milestone, our newest journal joined Clarivate's **Emerging Sources Citation Index**, meeting all 28 criteria for editorial excellence and citation activity.

Celebrating Our Reviewers of the Year

More than 1,000 volunteers work to ensure the continued success of SSA's journals. While all of these scientists provide thoughtful analysis and guidance to our authors, SSA's Editors-in-Chief have selected seven standout volunteers as the 2025 Reviewers of the Year: **Norman Abrahamson**, **Andrea Llenos** and **Vladimir Shumila** (BSSA); **Hongrui Qiu** and **Claire Doody** (SRL); and **Daisuke Ishimura** and **Elizabeth Silber** (TSR).

These essential partners ensure our journals maintain world-class rigor, but the reviewers find the service gives back to them, too. "The process keeps me aware of important advances before they are published," says **Hongrui Qiu**. "It feels both meaningful and intellectually rewarding."

Beyond the data, reviewing fosters a culture of mentorship. **Daisuke Ishimura** notes the work has "refined how I write my own papers and how I mentor my students," while **Claire Doody** sees her service as a way to pay it forward: "As an early-career scientist, the criticism I received was instrumental to bettering my science... reviewing allows me to pass this benefit on to others."

The best part of reviewing? For **Andrea Llenos**, "it's helping authors to bring their science out into the world, where it can be used and built upon."



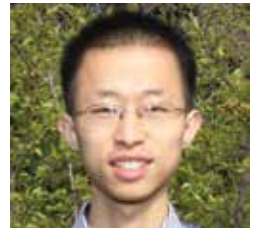
Norman Abrahamson (BSSA)



Andrea Llenos (BSSA)



Claire Doody (SRL)



Hongrui Qiu (SRL)



Daisuke Ishimura (TSR)



Elizabeth Silber (TSR)

“Science functions as an integrated system of authors, reviewers and editors. Each role carries an ethical responsibility to uphold high standards of accuracy, transparency and intellectual honesty. Reviewing is a meaningful way to fulfill that obligation in service of the broader community.”

—TSR Reviewer of the Year **Elizabeth Silber**

Your Gifts: Connecting Scientists. Creating a Safer World.

Because of your support, SSA continues to expand the reach of our competitive grants and fellowships. This funding for travel, research and professional development connects the members of our global community, ensuring that scientists at every stage in their careers have the resources to lead, innovate and achieve the breakthroughs that protect public safety worldwide.

\$88,600+

In donor-funded grants supported our members' scientific efforts in 2025

2

Paul Andrew Spudich Travel Grantees attended a seismology-advancing workshop in Japan

25

Grants helped members attend SSA's 2025 Annual Meeting and Topical Conference

13%

More Annual Meeting Travel Grants were awarded for SSA 2026 than 2025

7

Global Travel Grants helped members participate in scientific meetings hosted by other organizations worldwide



“I am particularly grateful for the travel grant’s focus on theoretical research. It is usually not easy to attend a conference just to present an unfunded result, especially for early-career scientists.”

—Paul Andrew Spudich Travel Grantee **Baoning Wu**

Gifts to the Paul Andrew Spudich Fund provided grants for **Jeena Yun** (left) and **Baoning Wu** (right) of Scripps Institution of Oceanography to network and share their research at the International Joint Workshop on Slow-to-Fast Earthquakes in Kochi, Japan. Now in its second year, the fund honors **Paul Andrew Spudich’s life and important contributions** to the study of earthquake source physics and ground motion prediction. This work is critical for refining seismic hazard assessments and improving structural resilience worldwide.

Co-chaired by **Siobhan Niklasson** (left) and **Rick Aster** (right), SSA’s fall 2025 Environmental Seismology meeting drew researchers from 16 countries.





An SSA Community Grant from the February 2025 application cycle enabled the creation of the May 2025 Training Course on Seismological Data Acquisition and Processing Using SeisComp Software in Nigeria, Africa, **which led to plans to establish a global earthquake monitoring center—a major milestone for the region.**

“This is seismology in practice. This is our humble and little way to expand its frontiers to the underrepresented communities around the world.”

—**Umar Afegbua Kadiri**,
Centre for Geodesy and
Geodynamics, Nigeria



Black Spruce Inc. President **Jon Achuff** (above, center) joined our Environmental Seismology meeting co-chairs to lead a field seminar through Rocky Mountain National Park. Participants hiked to Lake Haiyaha (10,240') to learn about the 2022 Chaos Canyon landslide's seismic and environmental impact.



Clarence Allen (1925–2021)

A Record Gift Grows

The Society is set to award nearly 50% more grants this year than in 2025, a milestone made possible by the historic \$1.6 million estate gift from our 41st president, Clarence Allen. Over the last four years, your donations and annual surpluses have doubled his initial gift to exceed our Board of Directors' \$3 million target, creating a permanent, stable fund to support your endeavors that advance seismology worldwide.

“Clarence was known for his generous spirit... as a guide to newcomers in seismology and as an advocate for policy changes that have made our world a safer place.”

— **John Townend**, past president and chair of SSA's Publications Committee

Thank You, 2025 Donors

Your generous financial gifts helped SSA continue to support our members across every career stage, discipline and geographic border.

Anonymous (33)	Marcelo Assumpção
Sean Ahdi	Richard Aster*
Tim Ahern	Laurie Baise*
Jon Ake	Susan Bilek*
Aybige Akinci	Alison Bird*
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Walter Arabasz*	Michael Brudzinski
Ralph Archuleta	Roland Burgmann*
Aysegul Askan	Paul Burton*

Removing Barriers to Scientific Progress

Thanks to donor support, all SSA programming is offered at a discount to members worldwide. The Society subsidizes participation in our meetings, journals and career development opportunities for members, especially those who demonstrate greater need for financial support.

→ To make a tax-deductible gift, visit seismosoc.org/give

Jackie Caplan-Auerbach*	Matthew Gerstenberger
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Winston Chan	Steven Gibbons
Barbara Chang	Jeffrey Given
Wu-Cheng Chi	James Goltz
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***You Rose to the Challenge!**

A special thank you to these donors for supporting SSA's end-of-year community fundraising challenge, which raised **more than \$29,000** for the professional development of seismologists.

Charles Scharnberger
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