2026 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS CEREMONY

Colorado Convention Center
Bluebird 1B
Denver, Colorado
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
6:00 pm CDT

The Scientific community looks to the SEPM Foundation to meet the challenges in educational, scientific and charitable activities.

SEPM Foundation Funds

General Fund (est. 1984)

Harleton Fund (est. 1984) to support scientific publications

Dr Paul Potter Fund (est. 2022) to support student travel

Eric Mountjoy Fund (est. 2018) to encourage research conferences, symposia, and publications in the fields of carbonate rocks, diagenesis, and stratigraphy.

Endowments Support Student Research

Robert J. and Ruth A. Weimer Grant Endowment (est. 1995) to provide support for graduate student research within sedimentary geology.

John E. Sanders Grant Endowment (est. 1999) to support graduate student research in the areas of coastal or environmental geology)

S. George Pemberton Endowment (est. 2019) to support education and research opportunities that expand upon the field of ichnology and its integration with sedimentology and stratigraphy.

Paul Potter Endowment (est. 2020) to support research opportunities in continental to shallow marine siliciclastic sediments and sedimentary successions.

Endowments Supporting Student Travel

Kenneth Hsü Student Travel Endowment (est. 1986) provides travel support to student participating in SEPM activities

Endowments Supporting Student Research or Travel

Grover and Sally Murray Educational Endowment (est. 1986) to support SEPM educational activities

Gerald M. Friedman Endowment (est. 2002) provides support to graduate students in sedimentary geology

Endowments Supporting Other Activities

SEPM Endowment (est. 1986)

Arnold and Lieneke Bouma Endowment (est. 2016) to support the attendance of students and early career participants at a Bouma conference.

Lloyd C. Pray and Philip W. Choquette Carbonate Endowment (est. 2019) to support field trips, workshops, short courses, and field courses that focus on the study of carbonate rocks and have a field component.

Managed by SEPM Foundation

Garry Jones and Brian O'Neill Memorial Endowment for NAMS Student Research (est. 1999) provides support for graduate research in the area of micropaleontology.

Gulf Coast Section Fund

Medal Endowments

William H. Twenhofel Medal Fund for excellence in sedimentary geology

Raymond C. Moore Medal Fund for excellence in paleontology.

Francis P. Shepard Medal Fund for excellence in marine geology.

Francis J. Pettijohn Medal Fund for excellence in sedimentology.

James L. Wilson Medal Fund for excellence in Sedimentary Geology Research by a Young Scientist

If you would like to contribute to the SEPM Foundation please contact SEPM Headquarters for more information.

James Lee Wilson Award

For Excellence in Sedimentary Geology Research by a Young Scientist

Kelsey R. Moore



Kelsey Moore's prestigious career has its roots in Smith College (graduating in 2015), where she quickly distinguished herself as a star among geology majors. During her early research, she became a leader in the lab, making several important microfossil discoveries, including pyritized fossils of cyanobacteria and a global distribution of testate microfossils in Sturtian cap carbonates that have shaped how we now interpret the biosphere in the aftermath of Snowball Earth. Kelsey moved on to graduate work at MIT, working primarily with Dr. Tanja Bosak, and received her degree there in 2020. She was incredibly well regarded during her time at MIT, with a reputation for being an excellent and thoughtful researcher, mentor to junior graduate students, and the first person to establish a Woman in science group (Women in Course XII [WiXII]) in the EAPS department. With her new geobiological tools, she created lab experiments to test how fossils could be preserved in ancient oceans and applied this experimental work to interpretations of microbial preservation on Proterozoic tidal flats. In recognition for her exceptional research, she was awarded the Graduate Women of Excellence award at MIT in 2017. She next landed as a postdoctoral fellow between JPL and Caltech, and there, she used her skill set to understand mechanisms of preservation to exploration of life on Mars. As a member of the Mars Mission Scientists team, she engaged in how to best look for biosignatures on Mars. She was subsequently awarded an NSF postdoctoral fellowship to work at Johns Hopkins and has spent the last few years developing several new projects with Drs. Emmy Smith and Maya Gomes, including work in Kazakhstan focusing on exploring microfossil preservation in the Chichkan Formation and reinterpreting the depositional setting.

Kelsey has established herself as an expert in using environmental constraints provided by the rock record to shape her experimental work, enabling her to uniquely address sedimentary processes in controlled laboratory settings. With her numerous experimental projects and host of field endeavors, it is quite clear that Kelsey is a once-in-a-generation sedimentary geobiologist, unique among Earth historians with her research skills, aptitudes and scientific questions that are challenging long-held assumptions about microbial preservation and the distribution of ancient life on Earth. She recently received the Doris Curtis Outstanding Woman in Science Award (GSA) in October 2023 in recognition of all that she brings to science. It isn't often that you come across a person who is not only tremendously gifted in research but is also so willing and excited to share that knowledge with others, but Kelsey is the full package and incredibly deserving of the James Lee Wilson Award.

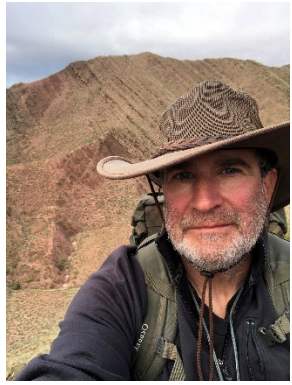
Biographer: Sara Pruss

Citation: *Kelsey Moore is an exemplary sedimentary geobiologist, answering questions that span time and space. Her work lends a mechanistic understanding to processes that shape our sedimentary record, from the Modern marine realm to billion year-old rocks to ancient Martian sedimentary settings. Her questions are diverse and rooted in understanding the co-evolution of life and environments, and with her burgeoning research career and diverse interests, she has many more important contributions to make to the field of sedimentary geobiology.*

Francis J. Pettijohn Medal

For Sustained Excellence in Sedimentology

Alan J. Kaufman



Dr. Alan J. Kaufman is an internationally renowned pioneer and one of the most transformative figures in chemostratigraphy. Over a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades, he has fundamentally reshaped how Earth scientists read the sedimentary record to reconstruct the co-evolution of Earth's environment and life. His visionary contributions—particularly the application of stable isotope systems in sedimentary archives—have redefined the analytical and conceptual foundations of stratigraphy.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Dr. Kaufman was among the first to demonstrate, with exceptional clarity and rigor, that carbon isotope variations preserved in Precambrian sedimentary rocks can serve as robust stratigraphic markers and powerful proxies for global environmental change. At a time when such approaches were still in their infancy, his work provided the intellectual framework that established carbon isotope chemostratigraphy as a central discipline in geobiology and biogeochemistry. With more than 30,000 citations, his influence is both profound and far-reaching, placing him among the most impactful sedimentary geochemists of his generation.

Beyond methodological innovation, Dr. Kaufman has made extraordinary contributions to understanding Earth's deep-time evolution. His research spans critical intervals in Earth history, including the late Archean, Mesoproterozoic, Neoproterozoic, the Ediacaran–Cambrian transition, and the Devonian. Through high-resolution chemostratigraphic frameworks, he has illuminated first-order transitions in Earth systems, including the oxygenation of the oceans and atmosphere, major reorganizations of the global carbon cycle, and the environmental contexts that enabled the rise

and early diversification of complex life. His research is also distinguished by its truly global scope, with major field campaigns across Namibia, Brazil, Siberia, Death Valley, Australia, Newfoundland, and China. Many of the most widely used geochemical records of critical intervals in Earth history originate directly from his laboratory, setting enduring benchmarks for the field.

Equally remarkable is Dr. Kaufman's deep commitment to teaching, communication, and mentorship. At the University of Maryland, he has inspired generations of students through courses in sedimentology, stratigraphy, and biogeochemistry, as well as innovative interdisciplinary offerings such as "Once and Future Planet." His excellence as both a scholar and educator has been recognized with the University of Maryland Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award and the Board of Visitors Creative Educator Award.

In summary, Dr. Alan J. Kaufman has revolutionized chemostratigraphy, establishing it as a cornerstone approach for reconstructing Earth's deep-time environmental and biological evolution. His pioneering contributions have profoundly advanced geobiology and biogeochemistry, transforming our understanding of Earth's oceans, atmosphere, and the origins and early evolution of life.

Biographer: Huan Cui

Citation: *For pioneering and transformative contributions to geobiology and biogeochemistry, and for establishing the modern use of isotope geochemistry in sedimentary rocks to reconstruct Earth's deep-time environmental history. Dr. Alan J. Kaufman's work revolutionized chemostratigraphy and provided critical insights into the evolution of Earth's oceans, atmosphere, and early life.*

Raymond C. Moore Medal

For Sustained Excellence in Paleontology

M. Gabriela Mángano



Dr. Gabriela Mángano is an exceptionally creative, passionate, and productive scientist whose research, teaching, mentorship, outreach, and service have positively influenced the paleontologic community in a variety of ways. She has contributed immensely to the fields of ichnology, evolutionary paleoecology, functional morphology, geobiology, and integration of trace fossil analysis with sedimentology of both marine and continental settings. Through her vast production, she has provided many influential contributions that have helped to both define the field of ichnology and drive it in new directions. She has explored almost every research line within ichnology, which is clearly reflected in her extraordinarily rich production of scientific papers, books, and editorial work. Beyond her ideas and scientific accomplishments, Gabriela has made significant contributions to the global promotion of paleontology. She is an exceptional mentor, having supervised an impressive number of undergraduate and graduate students, including many from under-represented populations within the geosciences.

Gabriela is an active member of numerous professional societies related to the development of Paleontology and Sedimentary Geology. She played an instrumental role in the creation and served as the Treasurer of the International Ichnological Association (IIA). Also, has served as a Council Member of SEPM and in the Paleontological Society. Gabriela was also part of the Scientific Board of the UNESCO International Geoscience Program and is a Voting Member of International Subcommissions on Cambrian and Ordovician Stratigraphy, and a Member International Subcommission on Ediacaran Stratigraphy. She has received numerous distinctions for her significant contributions to the field of Ichnology/

Paleontology/Sedimentology, such as Honorary Membership Award from SEPM, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Exact, Physical, and Natural Sciences of Argentina, Billings Medal from the Paleontology Division of the Geological Association of Canada, Distinguished Career Award (Geobiology & Geomicrobiology Division) from the Geological Society of America, and AWG Outstanding Educator Award . Since 2021, she is the McLeod Chair in Geology and since 2022 Distinguished Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. Additionally, Gabriela has acted in numerous editorial positions and her activities as a reviewer of an incredible number of articles a year submitted to a wide diversity of journals, as well as her activities as an evaluator of numerous research projects and Ph.D. theses from different universities around the world, are also noteworthy, and should count as a significant service to the Science.

In sum, Gabriela is one of the most exceptional research scientists in our field, and she has made it her goal to increase the knowledge of organism-substrate interactions throughout the Phanerozoic.

Biographer: Noelia Carmona

Citation: *Dr. Gabriela Mángano has made exceptional contributions to our understanding of the organism-substrate interactions through space and time. Her work in integrating the fields of ichnology, evolutionary paleoecology, functional morphology, and geobiology, as well as her extensive service and her exceptional encouragement to students and young scientists has had a profound impact on the global paleontologic/ sedimentologic community.*

William R. Dickinson Award

For Excellence in Sedimentary Geology Research
by a Mid-Career Scientist

Douglas Edmonds



The 2026 SEPM Dickinson Medal Awardee is Douglas A. Edmonds, Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and holder of the Malcolm and Sylvia Boyce Chair in Geological Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington. Douglas is recognized for his insightful discoveries in how turbulent, sediment-laden flows give rise to mathematically predictable landforms of rivers, deltas, and coastlines.

Doug has succeeded so brilliantly because he focuses on the fundamental processes and connectivities of these complex earth systems. He sees the repeat patterns of river deltas and channel forms as an emergent behavior of a morphodynamic system where two phases—turbulent water and a moving bed of sediment—interact in mathematically predictable ways. Thus in a series of early papers he explained how the emergent regular pattern of delta networks arises from the local evolution of turbulent jets and their mouthbars. A surprising consequence of this evolution is an equilibrium network of unequal distributary discharges. He then showed that highly cohesive sediments form narrow, deep distributary channels with high levees that promote bird's-foot deltas, whereas less cohesive sediments form wider, shallower channels with low levees that result in fan-like deltas. More recently, Doug has used new remote sensing techniques and large-data science to tease out counterintuitive behaviors of these systems. From the morphology of about 11,000 coastal deltas worldwide Doug and colleagues discovered the surprising result that human impact on delta morphology has led to net land area gain even in the face of sea level rise. As another example, his team's discovery of two different necessary and sufficient conditions for river avulsions gets us closer to predicting this

locally catastrophic phenomenon. Doug's work has garnered over 6,000 scholarly citations, spanning the fields of sedimentology, surface processes, morphodynamics, and stratigraphy. In 2025, Edmonds was named a Guggenheim Fellow—one of only two honorees chosen in the field of Geography and Environmental Studies.

Doug earned his B.Sc. from Saint Louis University in 2003, and his M.Sc. and Ph. D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 2006 and 2009, respectively. He conducted postdoctoral research at the National Center for Earth Surface Dynamics and the Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory at the University of Minnesota with Chris Paola. He subsequently joined the faculty at Boston College's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences before arriving at Indiana University in 2012, where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 2017 and to full Professor in 2024.

Biographer: Rudy Slingerland

Citation: *In recognition of Douglas A. Edmond's insightful discoveries in how turbulent, sediment-laden flows give rise to rivers, deltas, and coastlines, thereby providing a scientific basis for sustainable management of endangered deltas and floodplains..*

William F. Twenhofel Medal

For a Career of Outstanding Contributions in Sedimentary Geology

Marjorie A. Chan



Marjorie Chan is eminently qualified to receive the Twenhofel Medal. Dr. Chan's achievements in research have enhanced our understanding of dynamic processes on Earth and Mars and changed the way people view the world around them. Her prolific 40+ year career in sedimentary geology has included field studies spanning much of the geologic record from the Proterozoic to the

Pleistocene. Marjorie is well known for her work in the rich geologic wonderland of Utah. Her studies of tidal rhythmites have shown how lunar tides were recorded in the geologic record a billion years ago. Her studies of eolian sedimentology examined marine and fluvial interactions, as well as characteristics of soft-sediment deformation. Her diagenesis research has explained why sandstones are different colors and demonstrated how iron moves through the porous rocks. In 2004 when the Mars rover first sent back surprising images of hematite spherules, scientists around the world contacted the one expert who understood similar iron-rich forms on Earth - Marjorie Chan. Her work on concretions and iron deposits in the Navajo Sandstone has implications for interpretations of groundwater on Mars, astrobiology, and extraterrestrial surficial processes.

Chan is a leader in geoconservation and geoheritage, promoting the preservation of geological areas that have important scientific significance. Dr. Chan makes her science relevant to diverse audiences including peers and colleagues, students, the public, and youth who are encouraged to be the next generation of scientists. Her research results are widely featured in venues for the public such as NPR's Science Friday, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, in addition to hundreds of invited lectures across multiple continents.

In 1982, Dr. Chan started as the first female professor in her department at a time when there were few female geoscience faculty in the country. From the very beginning she has been an exceptional role model. Marjorie started initiatives for professional geological societies that helped keep and support women in the industry pipeline. She was the mastermind who initiated GSA's "On to the Future" program which provides grants to women and students from other traditionally underrepresented groups in geoscience to attend their first professional conference. She initiated AAPG's PROWESS/Women's Network to connect and encourage women scientists.

As department chair at the University of Utah, Dr. Chan's creative leadership is evident in the impressive and award-winning ecofriendly (LEED-certified) Frederick Albert Sutton building for Geology & Geophysics, that many hail as the most spectacular Earth science building in the country. Her vision of an immersive educational environment with inspiring displays has had an important ripple effect, leading other geoscience

departments to incorporate similar accessible design concepts to convey science, and promote a more positive workplace.

It is rare that an academician has that ability to reach across the societal and cultural divides as easily as Dr. Chan. She is nationally and internationally recognized as a respected scientist because of all she has achieved, her ability to inspire students and the public, and what she stands for as an outstanding sedimentologist, STEM leader, and role model.

Biographer: David F. Wheatley

Citation: *To Marjorie A. Chan, in recognition of her distinguished career of groundbreaking research in sedimentology and planetary geology, and for her commitment to the next generation through her leadership and mentorship in geoconservation, geoheritage, women in science, and the establishment of immersive learning environments like the Frederick Albert Sutton building*

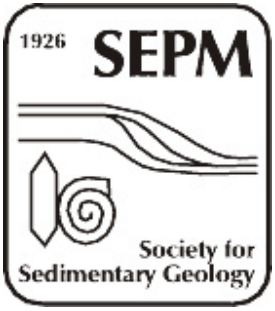
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SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology is governed by these elected officials, who volunteer their time

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The SEPM Society was formed in 1926 to promote the science of sedimentary geology through encouraging scientific research in and disseminating educational information about paleontology, sedimentary petrology, and allied disciplines; and for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes.

SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology
and
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