



Society for American Archaeology

— Geoarchaeology Interest Group M.A./M.S. Research Award —

Current Committee Charge: The committee solicits proposals and selects recipients for the Geoarchaeology Interest Group M.A./M.S. Research Award. The award is presented in support of thesis research with emphasis on the field and/or laboratory parts of this research for graduate students at the Master's level in the earth sciences and archaeology.

Committee Composition: Committee composition is one chair and at least four members (This committee also solicits proposals and selects recipients for the Douglas C. Kellogg Fund for Geoarchaeological Research).

Term Length: Term length is three years. Individuals ending their terms cycle off the committee at the close of the Business Meeting held during the annual SAA Meeting, and new appointees begin their terms at this time.

Award Cycle: Not applicable.

Committee Chair and End of Term: Susan M. Mentzer [2017]

***Committee Chair Contact Information:** Susan M. Mentzer, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Institute for Archaeological Sciences, Rümelinstr. 23, 72070 Tübingen, Germany, Tel: +49 7071-29-77060, Email: susan.mentzer@ifu.uni-tuebingen.de

Committee Members and Ends of Terms: Cynthia M. Fadem [2017], Richard H. Wilshusen [2017], Christian Wells [2018], Teresa Wriston [2018]

Committee on Awards Chair: Heather A. Lapham [2016]

Board Liaison to Award Committees: Tobi Brimsek

Award Description: The Geoarchaeology Interest Group M.A./M.S. Research Award provides support for thesis research, with emphasis on fieldwork and/or laboratory analyses, for graduate students in the earth sciences and archaeology.

Who Is Eligible to Submit Nominations or Apply for the Award: Recipients of the Geoarchaeology Interest Group M.A./M.S. Research Award will be students who are (1) actively pursuing the M.A. or M.S. degree in earth sciences or archaeology (please indicate which on application); and (2) applying earth science methods to archaeological research.

Nomination/Submission Materials Required: The application should consist of (1) a research proposal no more than three pages in length (excluding references) that describes the research project and its potential contributions to **American archaeology**, (2) a curriculum vita, and (3) two letters of support, including one from the thesis committee chair that certifies that the student is conducting the proposed research along with the expected date of completion of the degree. Electronic submissions as pdfs sent to the award committee chair are preferred. **File names must include the applicants surname or last name. The award (Geoarchaeology Interest Group M.A./M.S. Research Award) must be clearly indicated in the proposal title.**

***Nomination/Submission Deadline:** December 4, 2015

Other Special Requirements: None

Selection or Evaluation Criteria: The committee reads the proposals and selects the best one based on relative merit. Important questions for evaluation include the following: Does the proposal seek to do interesting and novel research? Are the methods and theory sound and applicable? Is the proposal well written and coherent? Can what the proposal seeks to do be accomplished in the stated time?

Committee Deliberation Process (e.g., dates, venue): After each committee member reads and evaluates each application, the committee meets and votes electronically. A simple majority is sufficient; if there is a deadlock the chair provides the tie-breaking vote.

Nature of Award (e.g., monetary, medal, symposium): The awardee receives \$500. As the fund grows, the award amount may increase as the annual interest increases. In addition, the awardee is recognized by the SAA through a plaque presented during the business meeting held at the Annual Meeting, a citation in *The SAA Archaeological Record*, and acknowledgment on the awards page of the SAA Website.

Awardees

2015 Alexander Delgado

Mr. Alexander Delgado, a student of the University of South Florida, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Geoarchaeology Interest Group M.A./M.S. Award. Mr. Delgado's proposed work focuses on a Woodland period plaza at the site of Crystal River (Florida, USA). Using a combination of geophysical survey, analysis of microartifacts extracted from cores, and phosphorus measurements, Mr. Delgado will attempt to recover traces of human activity from an otherwise debris-free open space. Mr. Delgado's research tests the potential of remote sampling techniques in a monumental context, and if successful, will contribute to understanding the function(s) of the earliest plaza in eastern North America.

2014 Brendan S. Fenerty

Brendan Fenerty's research tackles the issue of site formation and stratigraphic integrity at the submerged sinkhole site of Page-Ladson in Florida's well-known Aucilla River. The site, having produced stone artifacts and the potentially human-modified remains of a mastodon, figures prominently in the debate on the origin and timing of initial human occupation of the Americas. The radiocarbon dates from the site span ca. 18,400 ^{14}C yr B.P. to ca. 8,200 ^{14}C yr B.P. Fenerty's masters project will focus on the stratigraphic context of artifacts recently discovered in stratigraphy dating to 12,450 ^{14}C yr B.P. He will rely on a series of innovative techniques including multi-sensored core logging and multiscalar sedimentological analyses to detect depositional and post-depositional processes to refine the chronostratigraphic sequence at Page-Ladson.