A Year to Gather, Galvanize and Grow

A Report from Janice R. Lachance, Interim Executive Director/CEO

I am honored to have the responsibility for leading AGU at this pivotal point in the history of our planet when the contributions of geosciences are urgently needed to solve problems in ethical and inclusive ways. This is a critical moment for AGU and its leaders, members, and staff. As interim CEO, I am pleased to say I am supported by a staff I consider the best in the world.

The dramatic changes in climate make everyone a citizen of science as the world realizes the imperative of addressing weather and habitat disruptions. The work of AGU scientists touches so much of daily life—from the air we breathe to the water that supports life and, increasingly, extreme weather events.

Science moves us. It informs and inspires. And, ultimately, I hope, it ignites. It kindles further study, coordinated partnership, and comprehensive action. This was the story of AGU this past year and will always be what guides our mission and purpose.

2023 was a year of important accomplishments and growth for AGU. We ventured far and wide across borders and issues. AGU continued in its commitment to broad and deep global engagement. From Vienna to Singapore, Rwanda to Panama City, and Tokyo to Dubai, our leaders and members forged important alliances especially in support of our work establishing an **Ethical Framework for Climate Intervention Research, Experimentation and Deployment.**

We also expanded the "big tent" of open science by furthering investments in open access for our journals. We grew our diversity and equity training and outreach for students and early career scientists. And we addressed the growing concern over artificial intelligence and machine learning by forming a broad coalition of partners to guide scientists and related professionals on how best to embrace and leverage this brave new world of technology.

What powers our impact? At the core of AGU are three powerful approaches that advance our mission and goals.

AGU ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES

AGU GATHERS

When scientists gather, something powerful happens. Scientists and leaders from a broad range of disciplines share their work, advance discovery, build on colleagues' research, and create a strong network for understanding, collaboration, and solutions.

Nowhere does this dynamic shine more brightly than at our annual meeting. This past year we reached near record levels of attendance at **AGU23** in San Francisco. Under the banner of our theme—Wide. Open. Science.—Earth and space scientists from 111 countries presented their work, debated theories, exchanged ideas, and solidified a sense of community and a commitment to ensuring science is open to all.

In addition to major regional scientific gatherings, AGU proudly attended the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) in Dubai. At COP28, we were an official partner at the Ocean Pavilion, organized by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. From our pavilion base of operations, we presented a wide range of speakers and panel discussions on climate, open science, environmental justice, and women's leadership in ocean sciences. Our leaders and members were also on the ground advancing our goals on climate action by conducting bilateral meetings with NGOs, governments, activists, and private sector representatives.

Gathering can take on many forms. AGU convenes smaller conferences throughout the year, affording attendees a more focused approach to pressing issues. This past summer, we held a **Chapman Conference on Climate and Health for Africa**. Recognizing that Africa is uniquely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, more than 120 participants from 24 countries convened at AGU Headquarters to share tools and strategies to address the intersectional challenges of climate change on African health, technology, and society.

AGU GALVANIZES

Gathering leads to galvanizing. Convenings worldwide create pathways that galvanize awareness, interest, and action around the critical issues facing us. And AGU elevates the discussion in a variety of profound ways.

From a slim single volume—*Terrestrial Magnetism*—that debuted in 1896, **AGU Publications** has grown to 24 journals spanning all disciplines of Earth and space sciences: a trusted powerhouse of research and information. We have further increased the power of these journals by transitioning 12 of the 24 to open access. In 2023 we added our latest title, *Machine Learning and Computation*, to our open access offerings. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers including editors, assistant editors, and peer reviewers form a mighty cadre underscoring our open science principles and ensuring that we hear from more diverse voices and fields.

In addition to our journals, AGU's award-winning science magazine, ***Eos*,** galvanizes greater understanding of the wide range of issues facing our planet. Combining *Eos*'s readership with those of our journals, digital newsletters, and social platforms, AGU reaches a worldwide community of more than half a million.

AGU Landing Post Doc Ceremony


Thriving Earth Exchange Project
Corpus Christi, Texas

Another galvanizer is AGU's **Science Policy and Government Affairs** and its work with lawmakers to enact legislation strengthening science funding. In addition, our highly popular and growing Voices for Science program trains scientists to learn more about the legislative process and how to be effective communicators and advocates.

AGU GROWS

Gathering and galvanizing lead to growth: Professional growth for AGU's members to advance their careers. Growth of their talents and professional contacts. And growth of all fields of science to encompass inclusivity, diversity, equity, and belonging for all.

Part of this growth is ensuring a safe and welcoming scientific work environment. AGU set a profound example when we declared that harassment, discrimination, and bullying will be treated as scientific misconduct under the AGU ethics policy—equivalent to the policy guidance given to the harms of fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism. We are also proud to point out that virtually every scientific organization around the world has followed our lead in embracing this policy.

We know that science is better when everyone is at the table and when we have a sustained commitment to growing that table. That is why AGU has embedded diversity and inclusion into every aspect of the organization. Our **AGU Landing Program** grows new leaders, training future champions for equity and belonging across academic institutions. The **AGU Bridge Program** collaborates with geoscience departments around the country committed to offering students from historically marginalized populations an opportunity to pursue geoscience master's and Ph.D. degrees. And AGU's **Mentoring365** program supports science in the next phase of their career journey with key network building for science professionals.

Finally, AGU grows science at the grassroots. AGU leads community participation in science through our **Thriving Earth Exchange**, which helps communities find resources, project managers, and scientific experts to address their pressing concerns. 2023 marked the program's 10th anniversary with 48 new projects launched, bringing the current active total to 162 projects supported. Over the past decade, the Thriving Earth Exchange has supported 264 projects, serving 17 million people living in 11 countries and in 45 states in the United States.

Partnership is a superpower. As AGU continues to gather, galvanize, and grow, I invite you to learn more about our programs and initiatives. We look forward to partnering with you and a future full of powerful discovery and solution science, one that heals and strengthens our planet for the next generations.

Please feel free to contact me directly at jlachance@agu.org or contact AGU's Development team at development@agu.org.

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