



AGU
American Geophysical Union
Natural Hazards Focus Group Spring News

Dear Colleagues,

I'd like to bring you up-to-date regarding a number of activities associated with the Natural Hazards Focus Group. As you'll see when reading the topics below, we need a number of volunteers, and we're particularly keen on having new people make a contribution. This is a chance for you to become active within the Focus Group and AGU.

Best regards,

*Rick Murnane
AGU Focus Group President, Natural Hazards*

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1. Nominations for Awards

- The Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture
- Natural Hazards Focus Group Award for Graduate Research

2. Volunteer Opportunities

- AGU meeting program committee
- Natural Hazards Focus Group awards committee

3. Student Members

- What would you like to see happen?

4. NHFG Business Items

- Fall business meeting
- New leadership
- Giving

5. AGU Business

- Meeting of the Americas
- 2013 AGU Fall Meeting

1. Nominations for Awards

The NH-FG is seeking nominations for the Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture and the Natural Hazards Focus Group Award for Graduate Research.

- The **Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture** is given annually to an individual “for original contributions to the basic knowledge of natural hazards and/or disaster risks.” The lecture will be presented by the awardee at the AGU Fall Meeting of the year of the award. The deadline for nominations is **25 May 2013**. For more information, please visit the [NH-FG Web site](#).

- The **Natural Hazards Focus Group Award for Graduate Research** recognizes one or more promising young scientists for outstanding contributions achieved during their Ph.D. research. The deadline for nominations is **25 May 2013**. The major criterion in the evaluation of candidates nominated to this award is the impact (or potential impact) of the research on the field of natural hazards. The award consists of \$500 for support of travel to the AGU Fall meeting, a certificate, and recognition at the Natural Hazards Reception. For more information, please visit the [NH-FG Web site](#).

2. Volunteer Opportunities

We invite nominations (including self-nominations) for the Awards committee. For now we are considering a two-year term for a committee that would help with the process for the Gilbert White Award, the AGU Fellows Nominations, and the Graduate Research Award. Early Career members and women and minorities are especially encouraged. We are keen to increase the appeal and engagement of the Natural Hazards focus group across the AGU sections, and will encourage participation from sections currently not well represented. In addition, we are seeking an additional new volunteer to serve on the AGU program committee for meetings. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Rick Murnane](#).

3. Student Members

I am particularly interested in broadening the participation of student members within the Focus Group. I would appreciate hearing from students, as well as other Focus Group members, with ideas on how to better engage student members. Possible activities could include a special student luncheon with an invited speaker, and/or engaging with past Outstanding Student Presentation Award winners. Please contact [Rick Murnane](#) with any ideas you might have.

4. NH-FG Business Items

The annual business meeting was held at the Fall Meeting on 5 December 2012. The [NH-FG meeting minutes can be found on the NH-FG Web site](#). Among the notable events for the group are:

1. The first recipient of the new Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture in Natural Hazards was Ross Stein, U.S. Geological Survey;
2. The 2012 AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Graduate Research Award went to James Belanger, Georgia Institute of Technology.
3. The 2011 AGU Outstanding Student Paper Award in Natural Hazards went to: Jonas von Ruette (ETH Zurich), Themistoklis Stefanakis (ENS de Cachan), and Michael Verrier (San Diego State University).

If you haven't already heard, the elected officers starting the 2013 year are:

Rick Murnane, President
Upmanu Lall, President-elect
Ning Lin, Secretary

I would also like to remind NH-FG members of the possibility to [make a directed donation to support the NH-FG activities](#), such as the Award for Graduate Research, associated with our Group.

5. AGU Business

- 2013 Meeting of the Americas: Plan to attend the [Meeting of the Americas](#), 14–17 May, held in Cancun, Mexico.

- Fall Meeting: Planning for the 2013 Fall Meeting is now in process. Please mark the meeting dates, 9–13 December, on your calendar and bookmark the [2013 Fall Meeting Web site](#) so that you can easily find meeting updates. Abstract submissions will open on **17 June 2013**. If you have any questions, please contact the [AGU Meetings Department](#).