GSA Launches Online Journal, Appoints Science Editor

G. Randy Keller of the University of Texas at El Paso has been named the first science editor of Geosphere, GSA’s ambitious entry into electronic-only publication. Charged with setting up the journal, he will be working with the geoscience community to add this exciting new dimension to GSA’s publication efforts.

“The primary goal of this effort is to address the clear and growing need for timely publication of scientific results and data in ways that cannot be addressed by traditional formats,” Keller said. “A secondary goal is to build an interface with other efforts within the scientific community that seek improvements in access to and preservation of data along with easy access to resources such as GIS databases and modeling results.”

Keller notes that Geosphere is not intended to replace traditional formats, but rather to add to the array of scientific publications with a dynamic and evolutionary journal. “I am both excited and daunted by this challenge,” he added.

Keller envisions Geosphere as being like GSA Bulletin, the Journal of Geophysical Research, and other highly regarded journals in that he is seeking high-quality papers from a broad spectrum of geoscience disciplines and locales, the review process will be rigorous, and the goal is a high impact factor. The electronic format of Geosphere, however, allows for more flexibility in regard to color, number of pages, and types of images used to communicate ideas. The format also favors rapid publication. Keller welcomes both innovative and traditional-format papers, and he strives toward synergy with other GSA publications.

A member of GSA since 1972, Keller served as an associate editor for GSA Bulletin from 1983 to 1989 and helped edit several other journals and special volumes. Keller received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Texas Tech University, held a research position at the University of Utah, and taught at the University of Kentucky before accepting his current post at the University of Texas at El Paso. His research interests focus on integrated studies of the structure and evolution of the continental lithosphere, applications of remote sensing, geoinformatics, and applications of geophysics to studies of water and energy resources. He has helped conduct many large integrated field experiments in North America, Africa, and Europe. He has served numerous professional societies and organizations as an officer and committee member and is particularly concerned with issues involving diversity, professional opportunities and development for students, use of new technologies, and development of cyberinfrastructure.

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GSA's Geosphere:

- seeks high-quality papers from a broad spectrum of geoscience disciplines;
- maintains rigorous standards for peer review;
- strives for a high impact factor;
- is entirely electronic, and the format is extremely flexible;
- encourages innovative approaches to scientific publication, extensive use of color, animations, and interactivity;
- welcomes oversize figures (maps, cross sections, seismic sections);
- allows for the presentation and preservation of basic data, images, etc., through linkage to data archives; and
- aims to evolve with technological advances.

Submit a Paper to Geosphere

Geosphere will use an online manuscript submission and tracking system accessible through www.geosociety.org (click on “Publications Services,” then “Submit a Manuscript”) or www.gsajournals.org. The system is scheduled to be live by mid-November.