AGU’S MISSION

• The Union fosters excellent Earth and space science research, to the benefit of humanity.

• The Union advances the Earth and space sciences by catalyzing and supporting the efforts of individual scientists within and outside the membership. As a learned society, the Union serves the public good by fostering quality in the Earth and space sciences and by publicizing the results of research.

• The Union welcomes all in academic, government, industry and other venues who share its interest in understanding the Earth, planets and their space environment, or who seek to apply this knowledge to solving problems facing society.

• The Union’s scientific mission transcends national boundaries. Individual scientists worldwide are equals in all AGU activities. Cooperative activities with partner societies of all sizes worldwide enhance the resources of all, increase the visibility of the Earth and space sciences, and serve individual scientists and students.

• The Union is its members. Dedicated volunteers represent an essential ingredient of every Union program, including publications, meetings, public education and outreach. Union staff works flexibly and responsively in partnership with volunteers to achieve Union goals and objectives.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who We Are 1
Letter From the President 2
Programs
  Meetings 3
  Public Information 4
  Public Affairs 4
  Education and Career Services 5
  Publications 6
Financial Summary 7
Award Winners and Fellows 10
Donors 11
UNION OFFICERS

President: Timothy L. Grove
President-Elect: Michael J. McPhaden
General Secretary: Carol A. Finn
International Secretary: Jaime Urrutia Fucugauchi
Past President: Timothy L. Killeen
Interim Executive Director: Robert T. Van Hook

MEMBERSHIP

Total Members 50,786

Central and South Africa 130
Canada 2152
Europe 8754
Latin America 818
North Africa and Middle East 366
South Asia 265
United States and Territories 32,520
Western Pacific 5781

Countries Represented 132
Male/Female, % 76/24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>30,426</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governmental</td>
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<td>Industry</td>
<td>4280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Provided</td>
<td>3560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>10,588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>214</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Regular Members</td>
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<td>Student Members</td>
<td>9733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Members</td>
<td>1694</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOLUNTEERS

Section and Focus Groups and Executive Committees 254
Policy, Operating, Medal, Award, and Committees of Council 247
Editors 67
Associate Editors 378
Reviewers 11,113
2008 was a year of recommitments, endings, and new beginnings. AGU has recommitted itself to the excellence that has made AGU the preeminent scientific society in the Earth and space sciences with the best journals and the best meetings. AGU’s success in these and other areas is directly attributable to the dedication of its volunteers and the support of great headquarters staff.

Success abounded in 2008. AGU published more research articles than in any prior year. Journals improved timeliness by as much as 10%. The AGU Fall Meeting boasted a record number of attendees (16,272), and AGU sponsored an unprecedented eight Chapman Conferences. Public Affairs events hosted 300 scientist participants, and Public Information organized and conducted 37 press conferences.

In 2008, Fred Spilhaus, AGU’s executive director for 39 years, announced that he would step aside. We are deeply grateful to Fred for his nearly 40 years of extraordinary leadership. He has achieved much, and his efforts have greatly contributed to AGU becoming the strong organization that it is today.

Even before Fred’s announcement, AGU had begun to focus on the future. The Future Focus Task Force (FFTF), a 15-member committee, is advising the AGU Council on three areas to strengthen AGU’s ability to execute our strategic plan. The FFTF, whose activities continue into 2009, is taking a broad look at the Union’s structure and governance, the alignment of resources and the activities supported by these resources, and the capacities we need to develop to achieve our mission and long-term goals while maintaining ourselves as a preeminent scientific society.

By helping to clarify where the Union intends to go and what leadership characteristics are needed to get us there, the FFTF is helping prepare for the succession in headquarters leadership so that the best candidate will be selected for AGU’s next executive director. To help us in our planning process, the FFTF got input from students, early-career scientists, non-U.S. members, Council members, focus group and committee chairs, and past presidents about what might increase membership relevance and expectations of AGU to strengthen outreach and communications.

Building on all of these strengths, AGU’s future looks strong, exciting, and vibrant.

—Tim Grove, President, AGU
E-mail: tlgrove@MIT.edu
MEETINGS

AGU sponsored four major meetings and held a record eight Chapman Conferences in 2008. The Meetings Program is supported by a host of member volunteers performing the duties of program committee members, conveners, and presiders. Providing a high-quality scientific program and superb meeting services for participants is the first priority of the Meetings Committee. In addition to the scientific sessions, section events, AGU Council activities, an Editor’s event, and the AGU Honors program are conducted at the Joint Assembly and AGU Fall Meeting.

Sixteen percent of attendees of Joint Assembly were students, and 19% were from the outside the United States. The Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting was sponsored by a number of scientific organizations from Australia, Asia, China, and Taiwan. The program was designed around topics common to the western Pacific region. About 40% of the attendees were from Australia, and 25% were from the United States.

The Ocean Sciences meeting is a joint meeting between AGU, the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), and The Oceanography Society (TOS). ASLO was responsible for organizing the meeting in 2008.

AGU Fall Meeting, the premier meeting in the geophysical sciences community, had a record number of attendees. AGU Fall Meeting programs feature a full spectrum of topics covering the latest geophysical information. The 2008 AGU Fall Meeting had 15% more attendees than the 2007 meeting. About 92% of the attendees registered for more than 1 day. Students made up about 24% of the participants at 2008 AGU Fall Meeting, and about 27% of the attendees were from outside the United States. Countries that had more than 400 attendees included Japan, France, Germany, and Canada. A total of 11,002 papers were scheduled as poster presentations at the meeting. AGU Fall Meeting presenters are known for producing and presenting high-quality posters in a setting conducive to networking with colleagues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008 Abstracts</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Assembly</td>
<td>1588</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Sciences</td>
<td>3600</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Pacific</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGU Fall Meeting</td>
<td>15,800</td>
<td>1194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AGU’s Public Affairs program provides public policy outreach, education, and information. The program brings AGU member scientists and legislators together to ensure that the best possible Earth and space science is used in the policy-making process.

In 2008, Public Affairs facilitated the congressional visits of 31 AGU members. The AGU members came from 16 states, including Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. They met with advisers to 27 senators and 21 representatives, including Senators Barbara Boxer, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Hillary Clinton, Robert P. Casey Jr., and John McCain. On the House side, they talked with advisers to Representatives Rush Holt, Chet

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

AGU promotes public understanding and awareness of current scientific knowledge about the Earth and solar system through its Public Information program. The program disseminates information primarily by means of the mass media, mainly in the form of press releases, and press conferences and other press services at AGU-sponsored meetings. The program also encourages improved science communication by means of journalism awards, communications training for scientists, and other approaches.

In 2008, the Public Information program

- Served 195 journalists and communications officers at the AGU Fall Meeting with press conferences and other media services.
- Organized and conducted 37 press conferences on scientific and policy developments.
- Sponsored two American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mass Media Fellows (young scientists learning science communication skills by working as summer science reporters): Jonathan Hickman at WOSU-AM, Columbus, Ohio; and Brian F. Johnson at National Public Radio, Washington, D.C.
- Awarded two journalism awards for outstanding reporting: Richard Smith won the Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism–Features for his reporting on the science of oil in an Australian documentary film, “Crude.” Margaret Munro won the David Perlman Award for Excellence in Science Journalism–News for reporting on the collapse of an enormous Arctic ice shelf in a Canadian newspaper article.
- Provided science communication training to 73 scientists in collaboration with the National Science Foundation and the AAAS.
- Provided Web delivery of high-quality audio and visuals of 41 press conference presentations to off-site journalists.
- Continued annual support for production of television spots related to geophysical sciences by the American Institute of Physics program called “Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science.”
Edwards, Dennis Rehberg, and Anna Eshoo. The goal of these visits was to talk about the impact of Earth and space science on each legislator's district and to offer expertise. AGU also cosponsored four briefings, which brought expert scientists to Washington to speak to congressional members and staff. Funded in part by 1301 donations to the Capitol Cause Program, these briefings were on climate change, natural hazards, and energy issues. Among the presenters were David Applegate, Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake & Geologic Hazards, USGS; Ralph Cicerone, President of the National Academy of Sciences and former AGU President; and Tom Wigley, a senior scientist in the Climate and Global Dynamics Division of NCAR.

AGU members were given multiple opportunities to hone their communications skills during workshops with experienced science communicators. At AGU meetings, 290 scientists participated in a workshop on communicating with Congress, a Congressional Science Fellowship and Mass Media Fellowship luncheon, and a daylong workshop on communicating science.

The Union sponsored its 31st Congressional Science Fellow, Maggie Walser, an atmospheric chemist from the University of California, Irvine. Walser was selected by AGU's Committee on Public Affairs from a pool of 25 applicants. She is serving her 1-year fellowship on the staff of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

EDUCATION AND CAREER SERVICES

AGU's Education and Career Services program is responsible for supporting the growth of a diverse group of excellent Earth and space scientists to meet the needs of society and promote scientific literacy worldwide. Students represent 19% of the membership, and it is vitally important that at their first AGU meeting they experience being part of the scientific community. The AGU Student Breakfast was initiated in 2001 with this in mind. Elected Union and Section leaders talk informally with students about Section and Union activities and governance. The breakfast drew more than 300 students in 2008. A Career Luncheon, also held at the AGU Fall Meeting and attended by 200 students, provided an opportunity to interact with senior scientists working in corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies. In addition, 218 Outstanding Student Paper awards were given for presentations in 2008.

The Student Travel Grant program makes it possible for students to present their research at an AGU meeting for the first time. In 2008, 124 students received travel grants to attend the Ocean Sciences Meeting, Joint Assembly, and the AGU Fall Meeting. This represents an increase 3 times the number of travel grants awarded in the past. Two thirds of the grants were given to U.S. students. The rest were awarded to students in Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Czech Republic, Russian Federation, India, China, Taiwan, Japan, Israel, Australia, and New Zealand. Funding in 2008 was provided by Exxon Mobil, Northrop Grumman, Elsevier, Sequoia Scientific, Li-Cor Biogeosciences, Cassidy Associates, Decagon Devices, RBR Ltd., Springer, the Max Hammond Student Travel Endowment, and 197 AGU members. A campaign to endow the travel grant program was initiated in 2005 and will continue until AGU has the resources to annually fund 300 travel grants.

The AGU Fall Meeting provided an opportunity to promote our science and introduce our members to the public. Fifty teachers learned about latest discoveries from leading scientists at the annual Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshop and went home with related activities to engage students. More than 100 came to the family-oriented Exploration Station to learn and talk to scientists and educators. About 200 attended an AGU-sponsored public talk by Dr. Peter Smith about the Phoenix Mission to Mars. The event was held at the Exploratorium.
Why read AGU publications?
Why publish with AGU?

AGU Publications cover research in Earth and space sciences … on land, under the sea, and in the air … animal, rock, or mineral … from the fossils of the past to today’s latest discoveries and into the future with forecast modeling.

AGU journals are …
► Essential and current
► Rigorously peer reviewed
► Professionally edited
► Published online daily
► Disseminated in various formats
► Highly cited
► Read around the globe

AGU books are …
► Comprehensive multiauthor treatments of critical topics
► Rigorously peer reviewed
► Professionally edited
► Read around the globe

The AGU Publications program serves as an example of cost-effective, efficient, quality scientific publishing.

2008 HIGHLIGHTS
► The Digital Library, with more than 110 years of research and ~114,000 articles, was launched.
► Journal pages were improved, featuring tabbed format, most downloaded articles, e-mail abstract, and download citation enhancements.
► More articles were published in 2008 than ever before. Articles published increased by ~7% over 2007 levels. Submissions remained steady over the same period.
► Scientists benefited as time from submission to publication decreased by 10% for Geophysical Research Letters and Water Resources Research. The Journal of Geophysical Research improved by 5%.
► 67 editors, 378 associate editors, and 11,113 reviewers volunteered their time and expertise.
► The 2008 impact factor, a measure of the journal’s influence and reputation within the scientific community, improved significantly for several journals:
► >20% Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems and Space Weather
► >10% Water Resources Research, Tectonics, and Radio Science

TOP BOOK SELLERS
1. Put Your Science to Work, by Peter S. Fiske
2. Ocean Modeling in an Eddying Regime, edited by Matthew W. Hecht and Hiroyasu Hasumi
AGU completed another fiscally successful year on 31 December 2008. Despite continued declines in the American and global economy, AGU maintained income and expense levels similar to those experienced in fiscal year 2007, resulting in a net operating income of $1,320,000.

AGU’s business model has been extremely successful for many years. Revenues from profitable programs, such as Publications and Meetings, have been used to support other important (but sometimes less profitable) programmatic endeavors such as outreach and membership services. Such revenues are also used as a source of funds for the development of new programs and ongoing infrastructure improvements at AGU headquarters. This business model and a constant review of all programs has allowed management to effectively evaluate organizational needs and guide resources to those areas where they can be efficiently deployed.

Consistent with historical financial performance, the Publications and Meetings programs remained the primary sources of revenue for AGU in 2008. Publications accounted for 69% of the organization’s revenue, and Meetings generated another 17%. Both programs experienced increases in revenue over 2007, with Publications revenues gaining approximately 5% and Meetings gaining a noteworthy 15%. Membership, rental, contributions, and grant income accounts for the remaining 14% of annual revenues. While membership dues and rental income are significantly smaller portions of the AGU revenue stream, they too generated greater income in 2008 than the previous year. Grant income was down moderately; however, contribution income was significantly influenced by the downturn in the economy. Donations from corporate and individual donors alike experienced declines in excess of 40% over 2007 levels. Management had anticipated this decline and built it into the 2008 budget.

Also consistent with historical performance were AGU’s annual expenses. Publications, meetings, and general administrative expenses comprise a combined 84% of the organizations annual expenses and were within budgeted expectations for the fiscal year. Outreach, marketing, fundraising, and grant programs account for the remaining 16% of annual expenses. Of some significance, and due in part to the transition of some publications to electronic formats, was a decline in publication expenses of approximately 3%. Also noteworthy was an increase in meeting expenses of nearly 23%, which were somewhat offset by the increases in meeting revenues previously noted above.

The organization’s 2008 investment performance mirrored that of the economy and the overall stock market. While losses are never well received, in a market environment such as that experienced in 2008, some losses are realistically … unavoidable. However, management is confident that AGU’s investment portfolio is not only secure, but it is properly positioned to take advantage of future changes in the market.

With the coming year promising further challenges to the economy, AGU is actively monitoring income and expenses indicators and is ready to modify fiscal strategies to meet the changing needs of the membership.

**JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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<td>2205</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$6,584,953</td>
<td>$657,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print</td>
<td>3475</td>
<td>8106</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6,769,720</td>
<td>$415,718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic &amp; Print</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>825</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>$252,282</td>
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**BOOK SALES:**

5506
$297,281

**GIVING BY FUND TYPE**

- Student Travel: 29%
- Section and Focus Groups: 21%
- General Endowment: 4%
- Unrestricted: 29%
- Special Initiatives: 17%
Statement of Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue and support:</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>$24,876,613</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$24,876,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>6,213,196</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6,213,196</td>
</tr>
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<td>Grants and contracts</td>
<td>2,497,981</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,497,981</td>
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<td>Membership dues</td>
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<td>880,735</td>
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<td>Rental income</td>
<td>508,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>(17,552)</td>
<td>475,450</td>
<td>457,898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>691,506</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>691,506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>138,127</td>
<td>(138,127)</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>35,789,400</td>
<td>337,323</td>
<td>36,126,723</td>
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<table>
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<th>Expenses:</th>
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<td>Program services:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>15,941,356</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15,941,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>4,400,558</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>START</td>
<td>2,434,878</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,434,878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach and research support</td>
<td>1,213,820</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,213,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society activities</td>
<td>895,467</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>895,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>24,886,079</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>24,886,079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Supporting services:                     |              |                        |           |
| General and administration               | 6,865,385    | —                      | 6,865,385 |
| Building and investments                 | 1,979,339    | —                      | 1,979,339 |
| Marketing                                | 694,856      | —                      | 694,856   |
| Fundraising                              | 381,100      | —                      | 381,100   |
| **Total expenses**                       | 9,920,680    | —                      | 9,920,680 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in net assets before investment (loss) income</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>(16,420,728)</td>
<td>(1,387,237)</td>
<td>(17,807,965)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net assets:                                         |              |                        |           |
| Beginning, as previously reported                  | 60,130,031   | 5,439,915              | 65,569,946|
| Prior period adjustments                            | (2,293,979)  | —                      | (2,293,979)|
| Beginning, as restated                              | 57,836,052   | 5,439,915              | 63,275,967|
| Ending                                              | $41,415,324  | $4,052,678             | $45,468,002|
### Balance Sheet

31 December 2008

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$8,334,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables, net</td>
<td>3,490,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and deposits</td>
<td>364,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>48,911,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>8,437,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt service reserve fund and other escrows</td>
<td>675,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unamortized debt issuance cost</td>
<td>253,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid awards</td>
<td>74,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and precious stones</td>
<td>3,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$70,547,167</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$6,437,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>6,953,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable advances</td>
<td>787,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security deposits</td>
<td>20,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued post-retirement benefits</td>
<td>2,486,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest rate collar agreement</td>
<td>1,058,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>7,335,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,079,165</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Assets                                                      |          |
| Unrestricted                                                    |          |
| Designated                                                       | $35,243,143 |
| Undesignated                                                    | 6,172,181 |
| **Total Unrestricted**                                          | 41,415,324 |
| Temporarily restricted                                          | 4,052,678 |
| **Total Net Assets**                                           | **45,468,002** |

**Total Net Assets and Liabilities**                             **$70,547,167**
2008 NEWLY ELECTED FELLOWS

Jafar Arkani-Hamed: University of Toronto, Ontario
Charles R. Bacon: USGS, Menlo Park
Gregory C. Beroza: Stanford University, Stanford
Jean Besse: Institute de Physique du Globe, Paris
Robert A. Bidigare: University of Hawaii, Honolulu
Samuel A. Bowring: MIT, Cambridge
Douglas West Burbank: University of California, Santa Barbara
Michel Campillo: University of Joseph Fourier, Grenoble
Douglas G. Capone: University of Southern California, Los Angeles
Cynthia Cattell: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
David S. Chapman: University of Utah, Salt Lake City
Dudley B. Chelton: Oregon State University, Corvallis
David J. Des Marais: NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field
Patricia M. Dove: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg
Robert A. Duncan: Oregon State University, Corvallis
R. Lawrence Edwards: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
James Ehleringer: University of Utah, Salt Lake City
Elfath A. B. Eltahir: MIT, Cambridge
Jeffrey M. Forbes: University of Colorado, Boulder
James N. Galloway: University of Virginia, Charlottesville
Ronald Greeley: Arizona State University, Tempe
Gilbert N. Hanson: Stony Brook University, Stony Brook
Akira Hasegawa: Tohoku University, Sendai
Greg Hirth: Brown University, Providence
Mihaly Horanyi: University of Colorado, Boulder
Susan Hough: USGS, Pasadena
Tetsuo Irifune: Ehime University, Matsuyama
Robert B. Jackson: Duke University, Durham
Jeffrey T. Kiehl: National Center Atmospheric Research, Boulder
James W. Kirchner: University of California, Berkeley
Ulrike Lohmann: ETH, Zurich
Anthony Tat Yin Lui: Johns Hopkins University, Laurel
Charles R. McClain: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt
Robert A. Duncan: Oregon State University, Corvallis
M. Patrick McCormick: Hampton University, Hampton
Tsugunobu Nagai: Tokyo Institute Technology, Tokyo
R. Steven Nerem: University of Colorado, Boulder
Fred Melville Phillips: New Mexico Institute of Mining & Tech, Socorro
Terry Plank: Boston University, Boston
Warren L. Prell: Brown University, Providence
Venkatachalam Ramaswamy: NOAA GFDL, Princeton
P. Suresh C. Rao: Purdue University, West Lafayette
John Belting Rundle: University of California, Davis
Jagadish Shukla: George Mason University, Calverton
Tom G. Slinger: SRI Intl, Menlo Park
Tammo S. Steenhuis: Cornell University, Ithaca
Anne M. Tréhu: Oregon State University, Corvallis
Barry Voight: Pennsylvania State Univ, University Park
Renata M. Wentzcovitch: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Toshibo Yamagata: Tokyo University, Tokyo
David T. Young: Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio
James C. Zachos: University of California, Santa Cruz

2008 MEDALISTS

William Bowie Medal: Gerald J. Wasserburg
Walter H. Bucher Medal: Mark D. Zoback
Maurice Ewing Medal: Miriam Kastner
John Adam Fleming Medal: Robert L. Parker
Harry H. Hess Medal: H. Jay Melosh
Robert E. Horton Medal: Vijay K. Gupta
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2008 Awardees

Edward A. Flinn III Award: Judy C. Holoviak
Excellence in Geophysical Education Award: The Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Program
New International Award: Laike Mariam Asfaw
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Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism: Richard Smith
David Perlman Award for Excellence in Science Journalism: Margaret Munro

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Writing to AGU president Tim Killeen in October 2007, Sunanda Basu said, “Santi and I met in October 1957…. In celebration of our 50-year partnership, we want to endow an International Early Career Award within the Space Physics and Aeronomy section.” Early in their careers, the Basus experienced challenges that scientists in developing nations still face today. That’s why they created this award. The Basus wanted the award to recognize a young scientist in a developing nation for making outstanding contributions to research in Sun-Earth systems science—their science. Equally important, they wanted the awardee to benefit from interacting with peers from many countries at AGU’s Fall Meeting. For this, the Basus gave an endowment gift of $50,000 to AGU the following January, making them the most generous donors in 2008.

Sunanda became a member at 22 when she coauthored a paper in Journal of Geophysical Research (JGR) as a master’s student at Boston University during a 2-year stay in the United States. Santimay joined AGU 6 years later. When they returned to India in the mid-1960s, he created a space physics group at the Institute of Radio Physics, Calcutta University. It was not easy. Meanwhile, Sunanda received her doctorate based on four papers published in JGR and became the first woman to get her Ph.D. in radio physics from the University of Calcutta. Faced with gender-work issues in India, Sunanda successfully applied for a National Research Council postdoctoral position at the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory near Boston, with Santimay and their only son joining her. For nearly 40 years the Basus have enjoyed very rewarding research careers in the United States while collaborating with peers around the world and helping AGU to fulfill its mission.

Yao Chen received the first Sunanda and Santimay Basu Early Career Award at the 2008 AGU Fall Meeting. The award recognizes an individual scientist in a developing nation for making outstanding contributions to research in Sun-Earth systems science that further the understanding of both plasma physical processes and their applications for the benefit of society.

THANK YOU

AGU gratefully acknowledges the 8176 gifts, grants, and pledges, both large and small, from members and friends during 2008.
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