

University of Alabama
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Arizona
Arizona State University
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Auburn University
Baylor University
Boise State University
Boston College
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
California State University, East Bay
California State Polytechnic Univ, Pomona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
Carnegie Institution of Washington
Central Washington University
University of Colorado, Boulder
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia University
University of Connecticut
Cornell University
University of Delaware
Duke University
Florida International University
University of Florida
University of South Florida
University of Georgia
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
Idaho State University
IGPP/Lawrence Livermore Nat. Laboratory
IGPP/Los Alamos National Laboratory
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Indiana University
Indiana Univ-Purdue University Fort Wayne
James Madison University
Kansas State University
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
Lamar University
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Lehigh University
Louisiana State University
Macalester College
University of Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Memphis
University of Miami
Miami University
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri at Columbia
Missouri University of Science and Tech
Montana Tech of the University of Montana
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
New Mexico Inst. of Mining & Technology
New Mexico State University
University of New Mexico
University of New Orleans
Binghamton University
Stony Brook University
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oklahoma State University
The University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
University of Rochester
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey
Saint Louis University
San Diego State University
San Jose State University
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Syracuse University
University of Tennessee
Texas A&M University
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at El Paso
Texas Tech University
University of Tulsa
University of Utah
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
University of Washington
Washington University, St. Louis
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
Western Washington University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Wright State University
University of Wyoming
Yale University



IRIS President Update – Spring 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Today is the third anniversary of my appointment as President of IRIS. It has been a busy three years! We are still waiting for the outcome of NSF's review of our proposal to manage, in collaboration with UNAVCO, the NSF's "National Geophysical Observatory for Geoscience" or N GEO for short. N GEO effectively combines the facilities that have operated under SAGE and GAGE into a single national facility, although it allows for multiple awardees to manage different parts of the facility. We submitted our N GEO proposal last December. Last week NSF held a Programmatic Review of the N GEO proposals and we had an opportunity to respond to questions the panel had about our proposal. Our proposal is also undergoing an independent Cost Review by NSF. We are not sure when NSF will inform us of the outcome of the review – it could be as early as this summer or as late as the Fall. As soon as we have any additional information, we will let you know. Because this is a competitive renewal and we are aware of competing proposals, we have kept our proposal fairly closely held. Once the NSF review is completed, we will post the IRIS N GEO proposal on the IRIS website.

Another issue on everyone's mind is potential funding reductions for NSF and other federal agencies. As I write this letter, more than half way through the fiscal year, we are still on a Continuing Resolution and federal agencies still do not have an FY17 budget. However, according to news reports, Congressional negotiators have reached an agreement on a spending package for the remainder of this fiscal year. Although details are not yet available, my expectation is that FY17 funding will be at or near current levels for most federal agencies with some increase in funding for "border security" and military operations. Fortunately, most of IRIS's funding for the current year is already in-hand, however, the prospects for FY18 are considerably more uncertain. On March 16th the Trump administration released its FY18 "Budget Blueprint" that proposed \$54B in cuts to domestic discretionary spending and called for substantial cuts to research funding at NIH, EPA, NOAA, DOE and NASA. NSF was not mentioned in the Budget Blueprint, but a reduction of at least 10% is likely. A more detailed FY18 budget request will be released by the White House in mid-May. Congress will, of course, have the final say on the FY18 budget, so let your representatives in Congress know if you are not happy with what the administration proposes.

While the N GEO proposal and budget issues have demanded much of our attention these past few months, there are many other things going on. Our joint effort with the USGS to replace the VBB borehole sensors at about 40 GSN sites, and to make other infrastructure repairs, is moving ahead. Testing of the Kinematics STS-6A and Nanometrics T360BH VBB borehole sensors is continuing and showing excellent results; the Nanometrics T360 vault sensor is

also being evaluated for use by the GSN. Overall, the GSN will obtain a total of 114 new sensors, including 87 VBB borehole sensors, 8 BB borehole sensors, 14 VBB vault sensors and 5 BB vault sensors.

During the first quarter of 2017, the PASSCAL Instrument Center supported 12 new field experiments while continuing to support 50 continuing experiments from the previous year. As part of the GEOICE project, the PASSCAL Polar Facility has been conducting in-field testing of the Meridian Compacts and Meridian 120s at South Pole Station and near McMurdo Station in Antarctica. At both locations, the polar version of the Trillium 120PH seismometer was installed in January for winter-over testing. The Community Wavefields Demonstration Experiment in Oklahoma made a big splash at the recent SSA meeting in Denver in a session on Innovative Geophone Array Seismology. This session included 10 talks and 15-20 posters with a significant number of those presentations using data from the Wavefields Experiment. About 20,000 (!!!) events ranging from M2.2 to M-1.5 occurred under the array during the experiment.

We are gearing up for the final field season to deploy Transportable Array stations in Alaska. Seventy-nine stations are planned for deployment this summer, mostly in western Alaska (see www.usarray.org/alaska). The final station count will be ~271 stations, including 195 new stations, 26 upgraded stations, and 50 existing stations. Plans call for operating the complete network through the Spring of 2019 when removal of stations will begin. IRIS Data Services is working on putting all of _US-TA data from the lower 48 states and the Wavefields Experiment on a single “data brick”, providing a convenient way to get a copy of these massive datasets.

In other program news, IRIS Data Services will be holding a Data Workshop in Pretoria, South Africa in August. This year’s USArray Short Course will be held August 7-11th at Indiana University and will focus on processing and analysis of the Oklahoma Wavefields dataset. The 2017 OBS Symposium is planned for Sept. 18-19th in Portland, Maine (<http://www.obsip.org/about/2017-obs-symposium/>).

With the EarthScope program winding down, the final EarthScope National Meeting will be held in Anchorage, May 16-18th, 2017. Conference highlights include the opportunity to showcase the latest EarthScope research in oral and poster sessions, hear firsthand results of the pioneering TA deployment in Alaska, and look back at the most important accomplishments of the EarthScope program. There will also be an opportunity the Monday before the meeting to visit IRIS’s Alaska Operations Center from which the TA deployment in Alaska is staged. RSVP to Danielle Sumy (sumy@iris.edu) if you are interested. Early career scientists are strongly encouraged to attend!

If you have any questions about items discussed in this letter, don’t hesitate to contact me. I will be at the EarthScope National Meeting, so feel free to button-hole me there too.

Regards,

Bob Detrick, IRIS President