



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS**  
**UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE**

## **The IUGG Electronic Journal**

**Volume 20 No. 3 (1 March 2020)**

This monthly newsletter is intended to keep IUGG Members and individual scientists informed about the activities of the Union, its Associations and interdisciplinary bodies, and the actions of the IUGG Secretariat, Bureau, and Executive Committee. Past issues are posted on the IUGG [website](#). E-Journals may be forwarded to those who will benefit from the information. Your comments are welcome.

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### **1. IUGG – The People at the Forefront (V)**

#### **Stephen McNutt, Bureau Member 2019-2023**

I grew up in Connecticut, a state with a rich heritage of science and engineering. My father worked for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, and I was lucky enough to get a scholarship from the company to attend college at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. There I majored in Earth and Environmental Science. My senior year I took a class in Volcanology, which was being taught for the first time. For my term paper I selected the topic of volcanic earthquakes, and got exposure to what would become my major life's research work.

After college I worked for two years as a research assistant at Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory (now Earth Observatory). The first year was in oceanography and the second in the Alaska project. There I did data reduction in seismology including analyses of seismograms from Pavlof Volcano. I applied and got accepted as a graduate student at



*Installing equipment on an antenna mast,  
Dillingham, Alaska*

Lamont, continuing with the Alaska project under the supervision of Klaus Jacob. I completed my PhD thesis on Pavlof and graduated in May 1985.



*Me standing in front of the building at Kennedy Space Center where the Saturn V rockets were assembled*

My timing was good and I got a job with the California Division of Mines and Geology (now California Geological Survey) to monitor earthquake activity at Long Valley caldera, which was the most prolific seismic zone in the state in the 1980's. After 7 years there I moved to Fairbanks, Alaska in 1991 to become a research professor.

Alaska is a dream job if one is interested in earthquakes and volcanoes. It produces about 15 percent of the world's earthquakes and 10 percent of the world's volcanic eruptions each year. My position was half time with the Alaska Volcano Observatory, a joint effort between the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the USGS (federal government) and the ADGGS (state government). We were successful in increasing instrumentation and eventually monitored 31 volcanoes. We even forecast a few eruptions! A main concern driving the research and monitoring was aviation and the effects of volcanic ash on modern jet engines. About 95 percent of the air freight from Asia to North America and 20,000 passengers a day fly over Alaskan air space.

The year 1999 was a big year both personally and professionally. We completed the first edition of the Encyclopedia of Volcanoes, for which I served as an Associate Editor. I was selected to be the Secretary-General for IAVCEI, and served two terms from 1999 to 2007. There I became immersed in the research world of the IUGG family. Finally, in November 1999 my son was born, a period on the end of the family sentence for the last millennium.

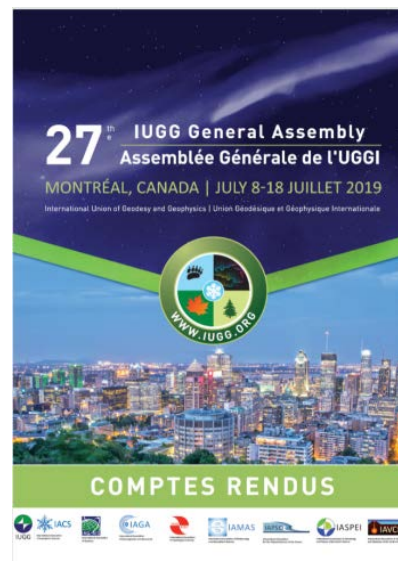
In addition to volcano seismology, I also worked on infrasound (frequencies below 20 Hz) and volcanic lightning. All three are useful to detect and quantify processes related to volcanic eruptions. The lightning work was somewhat pioneering and I am pleased to see that lightning detection is now a monitoring component of many observatories.

After 21 years in Alaska I accepted a position at the University of South Florida in 2012. That was a huge move! 4500 miles and they tell me I am still in the same country! There are not very many natural earthquakes in Florida (!) so I have been involved in projects recording rocket launches at Kennedy Space Center and quarry blasts in Miami. Luckily seismology and infrasound offer many applications. Work continues in volcano seismology, focused on Central America and the Caribbean with a few projects left over from Alaska.

I was the Chairman of the US National Committee for IUGG from 2017 to 2019 and also US National Representative. I was pleased to be elected to the IUGG Bureau at the IUGG General Assembly in Montreal and I look forward to serving the Union for the next 4 years.

## 2. IUGG2019 – Comptes Rendus

The Comptes Rendus of the 27th IUGG General Assembly (IUGG2019) are now available [here](#). Thanks to all who helped to compile the proceedings of the General Assembly!



## 3. IUGG Centennial Celebration Day – Video Recordings



The video recordings of the IUGG Centennial Celebration Day which was celebrated at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France on 29 July 2019 are now available for [download](#). [Pictures](#) and the [program](#) of the Day are also available.

## 4. Report on celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the membership of the Slovenian National Committee in the IUGG

The [Slovenian Association of Geodesy and Geophysics](#) (SZGG) was founded in 1993 and was formally accepted by the IUGG in 1995 at the General Assembly in Boulder CO, USA. The SZGG organises regular annual meetings which are held at the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering of the University of Ljubljana. In addition to the regular annual meeting of the SZGG on 30 January 2020 the Slovenian National Committee of IUGG organised a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of their membership in IUGG. We are pleased that the event was attended also by the directors of the Slovenian Environment Agency, Lilijana Kozlovič and the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, Milan Brajnik, representatives from institutions where SZGG members work and promote IUGG activities as well as by the special guest, the Secretary General of the IUGG, Alexander Rudloff. During the anniversary meeting IUGG activities were presented (Alexander Rudloff), followed by an overview of more than 25 years of history of the SZGG (Jože Rakovec), and concluded with short presentations of the IACS, IAG, IAGA, IAHS, IAMAS, IAPSO, and IASPEI activities in Slovenia. On this occasion, the [25<sup>th</sup> issue of the SZGG proceedings](#) (in Slovene) was published, including contributions on the research performed in 2019 in the field of geodesy and geophysics, and the history of SZGG activities.



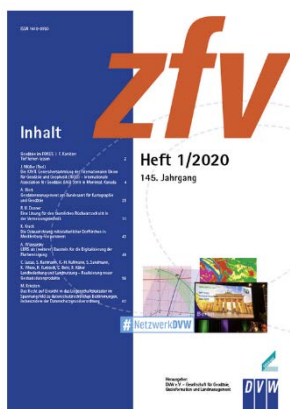


*Participants of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the membership of the Slovenian National Committee in the IUGG  
(photo: Igor Karničnik)*

Prior to the Anniversary meeting, on 29 January 2020, Alexander Rudloff visited several institutions where the SZGG members work, namely the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, the Slovenian Environment Agency and the Jožef Stefan Institute. The day finished with a meeting hosted by the dean of the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, Matjaž Mikoš. The meetings were a great opportunity to present more detail of the Slovenian activities in the field of geodesy and geophysics, and to exchange valuable information between SZGG members and the Secretary General of the IUGG.

Polona Vreča, President of the Slovenian National Committee for IUGG

## 5. Report (in German) about IUGG2019



Jürgen Müller, President of the German National Committee for IUGG, published an [article](#) (in German) in *zfv* – *Zeitschrift für Geodäsie, Geoinformation und Landmanagement* concerning the 27th IUGG General Assembly 2019 in Montreal, Canada, from the IAG perspective. The article contains contributions from many colleagues from the geodesy community. *zfv* is a bimonthly journal published by DVW – the German Association for Geodesy, Geoinformation and Land Management.

## 6. Announcement: 9th VERSIM Workshop



The 9th VERSIM Workshop will be held in the Uji Campus of Kyoto University, Japan, from 23 to 27 March 2020. VERSIM is the joint IAGA-URSI working group on [VLF/ELF Remote Sensing of the Ionosphere and Magnetosphere](#). In addition to all traditional VERSIM topics, results of recent space missions such as Arase, MMS, and Van Allen Probes will be presented. In Kyoto, the cherry blossoms usually bloom at the end of March or the beginning of April with mild weather. The program and other useful information about the meeting can be found [here](#).

## 7. Postponement of the 36th International Geological Congress

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) regrettably informs that the Government of India has decided to postpone the [36th International Geological Congress](#) (36th IGC) due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID - 19). In view of this, IUGS has decided to postpone all IUGS related activities being scheduled at the 36th IGC including the IUGS-IGC council meeting, receptions, EC meetings and award ceremony etc. Alternative arrangements of these activities are under consideration and will be informed subsequently.



36TH INTERNATIONAL  
GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS  
2 - 8 MARCH 2020, DELHI, INDIA

## 8. Meeting calendar

2020

### March

- 10-12, IUGG, UNESCO-IOC, Paris, France, [Workshop on Sea Level Data Archaeology](#)
- 16-20, AGU, Flagstaff AZ, USA, [Chapman Conference on Distributed Volcanism and Distributed Volcanic Hazards](#)
- 22-28, IAG, Annapolis MD, USA, [11th IVS General Meeting](#)
- 23-27, IAGA, URSI, Kyoto, Japan, [9th VLF/ELF Remote Sensing of the Ionosphere and Magnetosphere VERSIM](#)
- 31, IUGG, SCOR, Valparaiso, Chile, Surface Ocean - Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) South America Community Workshop

## **May**

- 3-8, EGU, Vienna, Austria, [EGU General Assembly 2020](#)
- 4-15, ICTP, Trieste, Italy, [Tenth ICTP Workshop on the Theory and Use of Regional Climate Models](#)
- 11-22, ICTP, Addis Ababa, [Integrating climate data, predictions and projections into health planning](#)
- 12-14, IASPEI, GFZ, Potsdam, Germany, [Cermak7 – 7th International Meeting on Heat Flow and the Geothermal Field](#)
- 23-27, IAVCEI, Heraklion, Greece, [Cities on Volcanoes 11](#)
- 23-28, AGU, JpGU, Chiba, Japan, [JpGU – AGU Joint Meeting 2020. For a Borderless World of Geoscience](#)
- 25-29, COSPAR, IAGA, Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil, [VIII SBGEA & VIII SimFAST Joint Symposium](#)

2021

## **Association Scientific Assemblies**

- 15-19 February, Rotorua, New Zealand, [IAVCEI Scientific Assembly](#)
- 28 June – 2 July, Montpellier, France, IAHS Scientific Assembly
- 28 June – 5 July, Beijing, China, IAG Scientific Assembly
- 18-23 July, Busan, Rep. of Korea, [IACS-IAMAS-IAPSO Joint Scientific Assembly](#)
- 22-27 August, Hyderabad, India, [IAGA-IASPEI Joint Scientific Assembly](#)

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Editors: Tom Beer, Franz Kuglitsch, Chris Rizos, and Alexander Rudloff (Editor-in-Chief).

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