# AGU 2019 Annual Report



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Letter from the President

#### Letter from the President

Looking back on the 100 years since AGU's founding in 1919, I think of AGU's strategic vision to inspire a community of Earth and space scientists to come together in advancing and communicating science for a sustainable future. The AGU community has discovered so much in the last 100 years and this knowledge underpins much of our vision for the future. Building on these discoveries and our vision looking forward, the organization wide efforts undertaken as part of our Centennial have focused on preparing the Earth and space sciences community for future success.

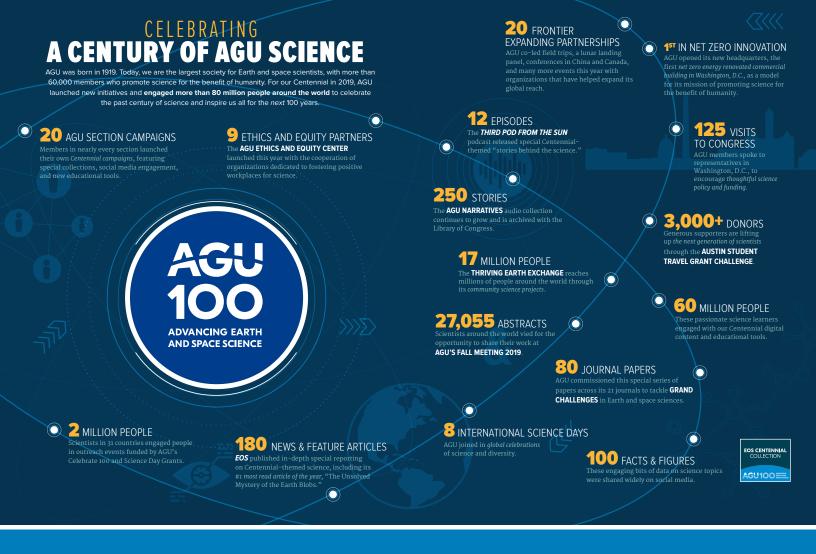
- We are leading in the advancement of science through several key initiatives to increase diversity in the geosciences namely the launch of our Ethics and Equity Center and the AGU Bridge Program which aims to increase the number of underrepresented students obtaining a graduate degree in the geosciences.
- We are supporting the future of science and future scientists through programs like the Austin Endowment for Student Travel – which sends more students to Fall Meeting and the Centennial Grants program – which demonstrated how small innovation grants have the power to ignite our scientific community and expand g the audience of science enthusiasts.
- We are pioneering a sustainable future as Washington, D.C.'s first net zero commercial renovation building and won the inaugural Clean Energy D.C. Award.
- We are expanding access to our programming to reach a global and diverse audience through the addition of even more virtual options and programming for our meetings – including virtual poster sessions and livestreaming of sessions – more than any other major Earth and space sciences meeting. We are offering two-way engagement opportunities to allow for participation virtually, from anywhere in the world, increasing diversity of research and thought leadership.

These efforts drove massive engagement from the broader Earth and space sciences community that shaped the future of the organization as we look to address scientific and societal challenges while advancing the next 100 years of scientific discovery.

I am inspired by what the Earth and space sciences field has accomplished through this Centennial year for the age of our home planet to impacts of human caused climate change. I am confident that the next 100 years for AGU and our community will remain successful through new discoveries and solutions-based science. Together we will build a thriving, sustainable and equitable future supported by scientific discovery, innovation and action.

-Robin Bell, AGU President

R.C. E. Boll



## **AGU'S CENTENNIAL RESOLUTION**

In recognition of its Centennial anniversary, I rise to offer my congratulations and appreciation to the American Geophysical Union, also known as the AGU. Since December 1919, the AGU has played an instrumental role in supporting international cooperation while also fostering American leadership in the fields of Earth and space science. Senator MURKOWSKI and I introduced a resolution in honor of this critical milestone, and I am pleased to see the Senate pass it today.

The AGU is a prime example of our Nation's commitment to a vision of shared peace and prosperity, and 116th Congress 1st Session

In the Senate of the United States

December 19, 2019

Congratulating the American Geophysical Union on the Occasion of its Centennial

by serving as a key forum for gifted geophysicists from across the world, it is an example of our positive role in the international community for advancing knowledge. In the century since its founding, the AGU has connected countless geophysicists to facilitate information sharing, peer review and innovation.

– Sen. Ben Cardin, U.S. Senate in his introduction of AGU's Centennial resolution introduced by himself and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Dec. 19, 2019.



Living Our Mission — Net Zero Energy

#### Living Our Mission — Net Zero Energy

In an effort to live our mission and be a leader in the movement to combat climate change, AGU's headquarters became the first-ever net zero energy renovation of a commercial building in Washington, D.C. Incorporating numerous innovative technologies that focus on four key engineering principles — reduction, reclamation, absorption and generation — our net zero energy headquarters builds on our legacy and embodies the spirit and values of scientific discovery.

## Reused more than 5,000 bricks

after carefully removing and cleaning them during construction.

96%

Reused nearly 96 percent of the existing walls, floors and roof materials.



Recycled more than 85 percent of construction waste.

# Crushed old windows, broken bricks and sinks and toilets

to make the flooring and the surface of the main conference room table.



#### Living Our Mission – Net Zero Energy

The newly renovated building was the location D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser chose to sign the Clean Energy DC Act, which sets an ambitious mandate that the District move to 100 percent renewable electricity by the year 2032.

AGU continues to shape the future of the green building industry by providing tours to thousands of architects and the public to share our sustainable building and its features.

AGU utilizes a municipal sewer heat exchange system that uses energy extracted from wastewater to provide cooling and heating – reducing AGU's carbon footprint.



# AGU Honored With Clean Energy DC Award

In April 2019, the Washington, D.C. Department of Energy and Environment honored AGU with the first-ever Clean Energy D.C. Award, for our commitment to sustainability throughout the headquarters building renovation.



Fostering Scientific Connections — AGU Fall Meeting

#### Fostering Scientific Connections – AGU Fall Meeting

AGU capped off our Centennial year with our successful and well attended Fall Meeting. Fall Meeting continues to serve as a place for connecting with scientists across all disciplines and showcasing the research and ideas that will foster the next century of scientific discovery.

In addition to the increased attendance, this year featured Centennial Central, an innovative new hub of member-driven programming, which included a mix of invited speakers, plenaries, short panel presentations and networking area. Thanks to these diverse content offerings, over 10,000 attendees engaged with Centennial Central. The AGU Council lead in developing the compelling Centennial Central programming covering topics from diversity to the origin of the planets.

To build on this success, AGU, in partnership with the Fall Meeting Programming Committee, has created a new Fall Meeting 2020 session type calling for a meeting-within-a-meeting format inspired by the Centennial Central programming in 2019.

While hosting the largest gathering of Earth and space scientists, AGU made the meeting more accessible to those new to the Earth and space sciences community. During the abstract phase, the Mentoring365 platform was tailored to match first-time abstract submitters with seasoned Fall Meeting attendees – resulting in double-digit growth in usage for Mentoring365 and 131 first-time abstract submissions. The resources created for both mentors and mentees will be expanded in 2020.

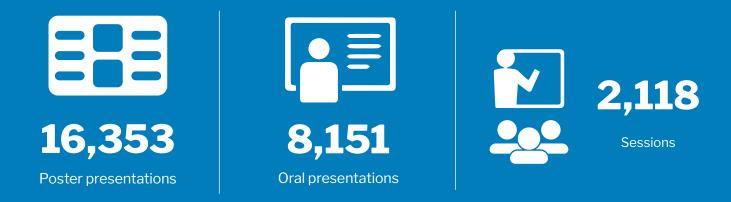


## **Fall Meeting by the Numbers**





**27,047**Abstracts submitted



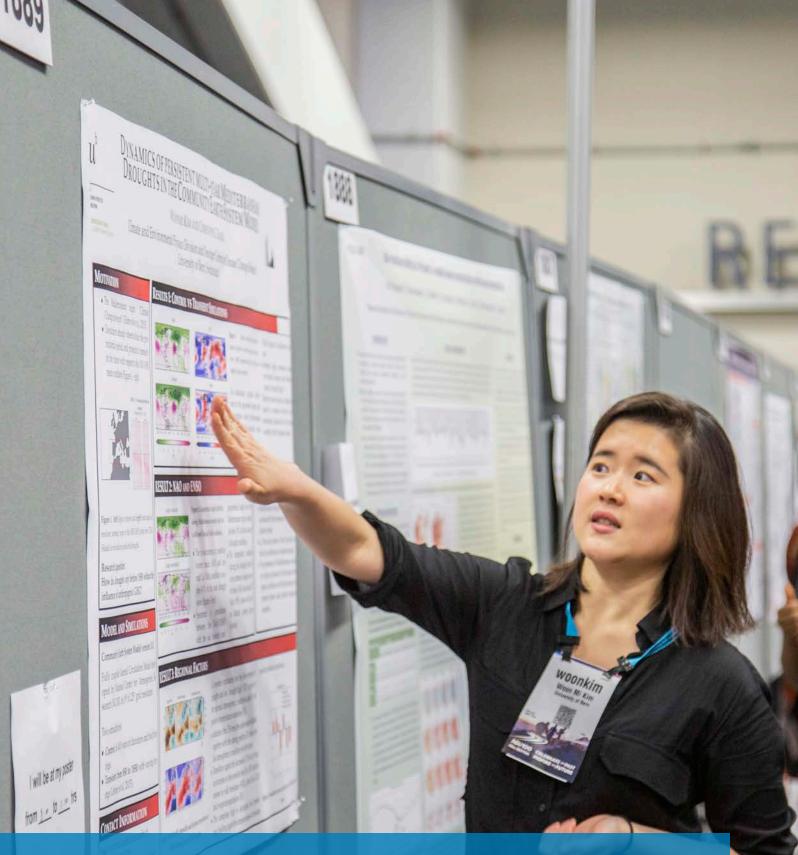


967 eLightning presentations



340 Exhibits





Supporting Open Science – Open Access

#### Supporting Open Science – Open Access

AGU continues to advance our mission of furthering scientific discovery through our support of open science and the growth of the AGU journal portfolio.

AGU launched two open access journals in our Centennial year, AGU Advances – our flagship journal publishing full-length, high-impact research articles across all of the Earth and space sciences, and Perspectives of Earth and Space Scientists – a project grown from Centennial that captures the professional and personal stories of science, as related by AGU Fellows and invited authors.

Furthering our support of open science, the AGU journal Space Weather became open access at the end of 2019, with all articles available to freely read, download and share.



AGU Journal **GeoHealth receives two PROSE Awards** for Best New Journal in Science, Technology and Medicine and the Award for Excellence in Physical Sciences and Mathematics.



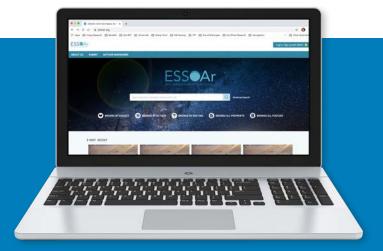
#### Supporting Open Science – Open Access

AGU added access to the Digital Library, a collection of digitized journal content through 1996, some of which goes back more than 100 years, as a new member benefit.

As the publishing landscape shifts, AGU is well poised to continue serving our scientific community through our ongoing commitment to ensuring science is accessible to those who need it.

# AGU supports open science through:

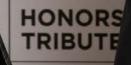
- Offering free access to 96 percent of content published in AGU journals
- Publishing seven open access journals
- Opening papers within two years of publication
- Including access to the back files of AGU journals (via the AGU Digital Library) as an added benefit for AGU members
- Providing open access options for all AGU journals
- Complying with Plan S through transitional deals



- Allowing authors to post the "version of record" into their institutional repository with availability to the public six months after publication
- Supporting Research4Life, a program providing free or lowcost access to AGU publications at institutions in low-middle income countries
- Founding the Earth and Space Science Open Archive (ESSOAr)



## Promoting Diversity — Making Science More Inclusive



#### Promoting Diversity—Making Science More Inclusive

As one of the first scientific societies to define bullying and harassment as a form of scientific misconduct, AGU is expanding our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts because this is critical for not only the mission of AGU but the advancement of science over the next 100 years.

In that spirit of furthering our commitment to diversity and equality in the geosciences, we launched the AGU Ethics and Equity Center in early 2019. The Center is a hub that provides

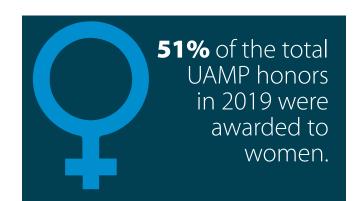
AGU members, partnering organizations and our colleagues in the Earth and space sciences with the resources to educate, promote and ensure responsible scientific conduct in the workplace. In addition, there are resources available to help organizations establish tools and best practices to foster a positive work climate in science.

Recognizing the need to recruit a diverse and inclusive group of students to carry us forward into the next 100 years of scientific advancement, the AGU Bridge Program, part of the Inclusive Graduate Education Network, was initiated in 2019 to develop, adopt and share inclusive practices for recruiting, admitting and retaining women and underrepresented minorities obtaining geosciences graduate degrees. In its first year, 20 percent of the 250 active Earth and space sciences graduate programs in the United States applied for partnership with the program, and we look forward to welcoming the first student applicants in 2020.

"As I reflect on my 33 years of membership in AGU, the increasing awareness of **the value of diversity within the organization over that time is promising.** With the concrete suggestions and recommendations of the Committee, **I'm optimistic we can make significant progress towards instituting more inclusive practices** and achieving D&I goals within AGU and across the profession."

-Dr. Lisa White, chair of the AGU Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee





#### Promoting Diversity—Making Science More Inclusive

Over the past year, we made a collaborative and multitiered effort to increase the diversity of the Honors program. For example, we realized that implicit bias was skewing the numbers of women nominated for AGU Honors, the Council Leadership Team and the AGU Council worked together to engage our community, deepen the nomination pool and including bias training as part of the selection committee process. In 2019, 18 women earned Union Awards, Medals, and Prizes compared to 5 the year before.







Standing Up For Science – Engaging Communities

## Standing Up For Science — Engaging Communities

As we conclude our Centennial year, the issues we face as a scientific community have grown larger, from the challenges of climate change to the assault on scientific facts and research. It is even more important to engage our elected officials, policy makers and members of the public to build support and create change.

To highlight the role that science plays to help address and mitigate issues such as flooding in communities across the United States, AGU released a report titled Surging Waters: Science

Empowering Communities in the Face of Flooding. This report, reviewed by leading experts, demonstrates how science is integral to solutions that will mitigate destructive impacts on people and property in the future.

In November 2019, AGU's Thriving Earth Exchange launched the 100th community science project since the program's inception six years ago. The first 100 projects have brought incredible experiences, lessons and—most importantly—concrete impacts in communities around the world. They have provided point-by-point plans to help cities dramatically reduce carbon emissions; equipped residents to fight risky developments that would exacerbate flooding and endanger neighborhoods; produced low-cost environmental monitoring tools to help communities hold polluters accountable; and created community resources that help people improve their physical, social and economic environments.

AGU's programs Sharing Science and Voices for Science amplify scientists' voices by building powerful dialogues, as well as providing resources and training.

AGU supported our members as they attended **150 meetings with congressional representatives** in 2019.



## **Thriving Earth Exchange by the numbers:**





Projects



293

Community Leaders



331 Scientists



Impacted

24 Million +

### Standing Up For Science — Engaging Communities

In 2019, 3,500 AGU members honed their skills In science communication activities through programming from the Sharing Science team Including speaking engagements, workshops and webinars. In this Centennial year, the Sharing Science program also launched Sci & Tell – a special audio series being released in partnership with Third Pod from the Sun, AGU's podcast. This special series was developed out of the AGU Narratives Project, an initiative of AGU Centennial programming, designed to capture and document stories of our AGU members, their impact on science and to serve as role models for students and early career scientists. As of December 2019, three episodes were publicly available and six more episodes will be released in 2020.

AGU also launched the second cohort of our Voices for Science initiative, a program started in 2018 to train scientists to communicate the value and impact of Earth and space sciences to key decision makers, journalists and public audiences. The 2019-2020 program included 35 advocates who, over the year, conducted over 560 outreach actions, directly engaged with more than 12,700 people and indirectly influenced over 8 million people. This is in addition to the 12,500 people and 700 outreach actions of the inaugural Voices for Science candidates. We look forward to building on this incredible success to recruit an even larger class of advocates in the future.



The combined audience of AGU social properties is +225K

#### **Promoting Science – Media Attention**

Over the last year, AGU has been a stalwart supporter of our scientists and members – ensuring that research stays in the news and at the forefront - garnering 30,000 + mentions in the media, including BBC, The Guardian, United Press International, Agence France-Presse, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, National Geographic, The Associated Press, Reuters, USA Today, NPR, Politico, ABC News, The Atlantic, Popular Science, San Francisco Chronicle and Scientific American.

In addition to traditional media outlets, AGU supports a robust social media presence, with a combined audience of over 225,000 followers. Over the course of 2019, AGU increased followers on all social channels, including an impressive 67 percent growth on the AGU Instagram platform, a 42 percent increase on LinkedIn and 32 percent increase in growth on YouTube. Adding a video component to AGU press releases was highly successful, one in particular of an audio recording of a solar storm resulted in one of our top tweets with more than 32,000 total impressions.

Supporting The Future — New Initiatives And Opportunities

## Supporting The Future – New Initiatives And Opportunities

#### **Digital Transformation Initiative**

In 2016, AGU started to build the digital capacity to support our updated affiliation, engagement and meetings strategies by leveraging AGU's content assets at the core of digital collaboration, engagement and networking.

Over the last three years, AGU has replaced its sprawling historical web infrastructure with a modern platform.

In the spring of 2019, the Fall Meeting 2019 site launched on the new Sitecore digital experience platform. After AGU handled a historic number of abstract submissions, membership renewals and donations, it streamlined the 70-plus legacy websites into this singular system.

In 2020, we will continue along this path, in concert with the vision of the new strategic plan.

#### **Centennial Grants**

To mark our Centennial year, AGU initiated the Centennial Grants program. These grants supported projects demonstrating innovation, collaboration, impact and sustainability in promoting the value of the Earth and space sciences to the public. Awards ranged in size from less than \$1,000 to \$10,000. Projects spanned the spectrum and globe from public education and outreach to mentoring underrepresented groups to community science to art. As a result of these efforts, over 1 million people were engaged in Earth and space sciences.

Over the year, AGU awarded \$787,000 to support 155 grants in 31 countries worldwide, with over 55 percent of projects taking place outside of the U.S. and U.S territories.

## **Centennial Grants**

- Awarded \$787,000
- Funded **155 projects** in 31 countries
- Supported 81 international programs
- Reached over 2 million individuals





## Supporting The Future – New Initiatives And Opportunities

#### **Grand Challenges**

AGU published a special collection of papers across AGU journals, exploring where major research and discovery are needed to address fundamental questions in our understanding of Earth and space sciences. AGU's commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge through these Grand Challenges publications - paired with strong public support for scientific research and collaboration - is essential to the research community's ability to embark on the next transformative era of the Earth and space sciences.

Each of the dozens of topics addressed in the Grand Challenge special collection have a direct impact on or benefit to society. This collection reviews the current state of knowledge, while also focusing on the future by describing major unanswered questions and challenges and discussing what is needed to provide solutions. By making these Grand Challenges free to access and accompanied by additional information to make it accessible to the general reader, AGU will bring additional public attention to the value and importance of science.

#### Usable science for managing the risks of sea-level rise



#### **Austin Challenge**

In honor of AGU's Centennial, Jamie Austin, a volunteer leader and longtime member, pledged to match all donations up to \$1 million made to support the establishment of the Austin Endowment for Student Travel.

"I have been a member of AGU since the mid-1970s. I joined the Union as a graduate student. Nothing has been more important to me professionally through the decades than regular attendance at the Fall Meeting...In these challenging times for scientific research, an investment in the next generation is paramount. I urge all of you to join me in getting a larger cohort of young scientists to the Fall Meeting. They are our future."

- Jamie Austin

### Supporting The Future – New Initiatives And Opportunities

This historic challenge raised \$671, 845 in support through 4,100+ gifts and pledges and sent the inaugural class of 15 Austin Challenge Travel Grant recipients to Fall Meeting 2019.

Along with Jamie Austin's match, the Challenge created a \$1,343,690 endowment which will allow AGU to fund over 60 additional students to travel to the annual Fall Meeting in perpetuity.

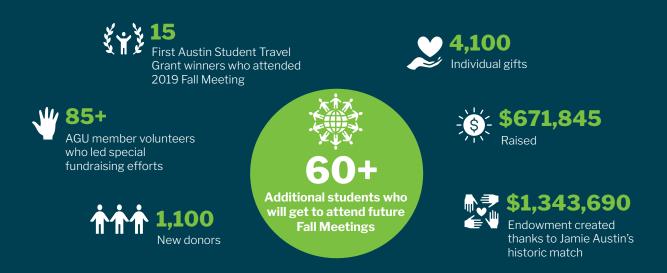
Thanks to the generosity of AGU's members, donors, Fall Meeting attendees, senior scientists, students, past student travel grant recipients and early-career scientists, the Austin Student Travel Grant Challenge created a lasting legacy for AGU's next 100 years. The Austin Student Travel Grant Challenge inspired **1100 gifts from first time AGU donors** 

"The **AGU Fall Meeting opens up many opportunities for me** including getting to know new fields of research in the environmental sciences, especially atmospheric sciences."

- Antonia Fritz, Student, University of Bayreuth, Germany and Austin Travel Grant recipient



THE AUSTIN STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT CHALLENGE



Thank you for supporting the future of Earth and space science

# Austin Student Travel Grant Challenge

## **Donor Recognition**

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#### Thank you to our donors

AGU gratefully acknowledges the donors, members and friends who supported AGU's programs and initiatives in 2019.

#### **Foundation and Organizational Partners and Sponsors**

2G Enterprises	Earth Networks	Ludwig Maximilian	SkyTEM Canada Inc.
360 Live Media	Fidelity Charitable	University of Munich	Southern California
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#### Thank you to our donors

#### Financial Summary 2019

AGU's mission is to support and inspire a global community of individuals and organizations interested in advancing discovery in Earth and space sciences for the benefit of humanity and the environment. We invest the revenue from membership, publications and meetings back into our scientific community.

#### In 2019, AGU used some of these funds to support programs such as:

- Thriving Earth Exchange received \$750,000: supported 125 community science projects that engaged 331 scientists and 293 community leaders, positively affecting over 24 million individuals.
- Ethics and Equity Center received \$399,000: launched AGU Ethics and Equity Center to provide resources to educate, promote and ensure responsible scientific conduct and foster a positive workplace environment.
- Shifting Landscapes received \$245,000: supported the Sharing Science program which engaged 3,500 AGU members in science communication activities; 35 Voices for Science advocates who conducted 560 outreach programs to influence 8 million people; and research projects, including the Surging Waters report.
- Centennial Grants received \$787,000: supported 155 grants in 31 countries worldwide, with over 55% of the projects taking place outside of the U.S. and U.S territories.

## Financial Summary 2019

#### **Statements of Financial Position**

31 December	2019	2018
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,556,846	\$ 9,205,103
Investments	116,586,295	110,855,975
Receivables, net	3,305,274	3,193,146
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,889,094	1,434,897
Property and equipment, net	46,607,238	40,431,279
Total assets	\$ 182,944,747	\$ 165,120,400
Liabilities and net assets		
Liabilities	11 507 554	0.070.004
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	11,507,551	8,272,904
Deferred revenue	3,598,836	987,418
Postretirement health benefits	3,498,198	3,549,682
Bonds payable, net	42,694,605	39,602,056
Total liabilities	61,299,190	52,412,060
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	71,978,347	63,276,541
Designated	38,648,944	40,789,606
Total net assets without donor restrictions	110,627,291	104,066,147
With donor restrictions	11,018,266	8,642,193
Total net assets	121,645,557	112,708,340
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 182,944,747	\$ 165,120,400

## Financial Summary 2019

#### **Statements of Activities**

31 December	2019	2018
Activities without donor restrictions		
Revenue and support		
Publications	\$ 17,366,841	\$ 17,226,095
Meetings	15,959,007	17,949,033
Member dues	1,990,471	1,938,706
Grants and contracts	653,362	783,916
Rentals	314,290	-
	308,850	236,000
Contributions	93,273	137,070
Other	89,075	47,131
Net assets released from restrictions	312,619	362,795
Total revenue and support without donor restrictions	37,084,788	38,680,746
Expenses		
Program services		
Meetings	12,067,917	14,537,759
Marketing, communication, and digital media	11,298,246	10,015,503
Publications	10,988,324	7,827,448
Science and talent pool	4,926,674	4,530,094
Memberships	1,225,198	1,257,949
Total program services	40,506,359	38,168,753
Supporting services Fundraising and development	976 209	1 200 606
General and administration	876,298 3,048,974	1,288,686
Building	3,721,026	2,960,273 1,336,270
Total supporting services	7,646,298	5,585,229
otal expenses	\$ 48,152,657	\$ 43,753,982
Change in net assets from operations Investment income (loss)	(11,067,869)	(5,073,236)
	17,643,371	(5,284,100)
Net periodic benefit cost other than service cost	(233,048)	(239,865) 340,038
Other defined benefit and postretirement benefit changes	218,690	
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	6,561,144	(10,797,163)
Activities with donor restrictions		
Investment income (loss)	1,526,796	(565,039)
Contributions	1,161,896	727,878
Net assets released from restrictions	(312,619)	(362,795)
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	2,376,073	(199,956)
Change in net assets	8,937,217	(10,997,119)
Net assets, beginning of year	112,708,340	123,705,459



## ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE