

The 2018/2019 AEG/GSA Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer in Applied Geology: Deborah Green

I've been honored to serve as the 31st Jahns Lecturer this year. By the end of the Spring 2019 semester I had visited 43 colleges and universities in 19 states, giving more than 70 lectures, as well as meeting with students and faculty for informal discussions. I'm still answering emails from students who have sent questions and asked for mentoring since I spoke at their schools.

After the summer break, I'll be traveling throughout September to complete my lectureship. I've been especially pleased to be the second woman Jahns Lecturer, and I'm gratified by the reception from students, particularly young women excited to talk about their own opportunities in the profession.

The 2018/2019 Jahns Lectures included:

- How to Build a Geology Career You Love
- You Don't Look Like a Geologist – A Conversation on Diversity (or the Lack Thereof) in Our Profession
- Let's Talk – A Conversation on How We Communicate about Science
- A Tale of Two Waste Sites
- Always Book a Window Seat – The Lens Through Which We View the World as Geologists

“How to Build a Geology Career You Love” was requested more than twice as often as any of the other lectures, and both students and faculty seemed to appreciate hearing more about the career paths available in environmental and engineering geology. Too often we don't tell students what they can do professionally with the science they are so dedicated to learning. The two “conversation” format lectures also proved to generate rich interactions, with several schools and organizations specifically extending invitations to create those opportunities.

After attending the “Let's Talk” Jahns Lecture at an AEG Chapter meeting, Gerry Stirewalt, a long-time colleague asked me to co-convene “Speaking Their Language - Communicating Science with Non-Scientists - Who, Why, and How,” a symposium for the 2019 AEG Annual Meeting. This symposium has a great slate of presenters, and I hope to see you there.

In addition to speaking with students, I also had the chance to address members of the general public about our work, and life as an applied geologist, while participating in the Science in the City series at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. The most unusual question of my lectureship came at the end of that presentation when someone asked what rock I would describe myself as.

With 35 years of professional experience in environmental and engineering geology projects across the United States, I have worked for a large consulting firm, in industry, and as an independent consultant. Now, semi-retired from geological consulting, I've written a novel whose protagonist is an engineering geologist working on a dam with a problematic foundation. Serving as the Jahns Lecturer has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my varied career, because of the time spent with future colleagues in the profession.

I hope I've helped the students I met this year see that working in environmental and engineering geology they can make a living *and* make a difference. Thank you to AEG and GSA for this honor and opportunity.