

Leading Practices for Improving Accessibility and Inclusion in Field and Laboratory Science: A Conversation Series (Conversation # 3): Keynote and Panelists

Dr. Anita Marshall, *Keynote*

Dr. Anita Marshall is a Lecturer and researcher in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Her primary research area focuses on accessibility and engagement in geoscience field courses with her ongoing projects including the Library of Inclusive Field Technology (aka the LIFT Kit), and the GeoSPACE Accessible Planetary Geology field course. As the Executive Director of the non-profit International Association for Geoscience Diversity (theIAGD.org), Dr. Marshall works to identify and address accessibility barriers in learning and professional spaces, and serves as a mentor and advocate for geoscience students and professionals with disabilities.

Dr. Michele Cooke, *Keynote*

Dr. Michele Cooke is a Professor of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who researches fault evolution in the Earth's crust using numerical models, laboratory experiments and geophysical data. Michele's collaborative research integrates these approaches to illuminate how faults grow, which helps us constrain the hazard of damaging earthquakes. Michele has served in leadership roles in professional societies. In 2018, Michele earned the UMass Amherst College of Natural Sciences *Outstanding Research Award*. In addition to research, Michele works to strengthen inclusion and access both in the geosciences and within the broader academic community. Michele began this work in graduate school, where her leadership revising introductory field trips for greater accessibility and coordinating inclusive pedagogy workshops earned her one of Stanford University's inaugural *Lieberman fellowships*. Michele co-directs [The Mind Hears](#), an online community for deaf and hard of hearing academics and she serves on the steering committee of the *UMass Allies for Illness and Disability Access*. For her work developing geology curriculum and field trips for schools for the Deaf, Michele won the UMass Amherst *Outstanding Outreach Teaching Award*. Michele's work on improving inclusion and access led to The International Association for Geosciences Diversity's *Inclusive Geoscience Education and Research Award* in 2020.

Dr. Jennifer Piatek, *Panelist*

Dr. Jennifer Piatek (She/her) is currently a professor of planetary geology and chair of the Geological Sciences department at Central Connecticut State University. My research interests involve remote sensing of planetary surfaces, particularly in thermal infrared wavelengths and improving classroom activities through technologies such as 3D printing and panoramic imaging. I've also been a wheelchair user for over a decade, and I've been working to adapt to geology on wheels (rather than hiking boots).

Dr. Alison Olcott, *Panelist*

Dr. Alison Olcott is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geology and the Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research at the University of Kansas. She earned her PhD at the University of Southern California and her BS at the University of Chicago, with two years in between spent at the Smithsonian Museums of Natural History and American History. In one museum she built dinosaurs and in the other she taught science experiments to children in the *Hands on Science Lab*; this twin emphasis on scientific research and making science more accessible to all has remained a priority throughout her

career. She is an astrobiologist and chemical paleontologist who researches how chemical traces of life can be preserved across geological time, allowing an understanding of biological and environmental processes in places and times that do not preserve more traditional types of fossils, which in turn allows a better understanding of ancient environments and climates, both on Earth and beyond. In addition to her work at the Center for Undergraduate Research engaging, supporting and advising faculty and student from across the university, she also researches how the geosciences can be more diverse and equitable, focusing on how high impact educational processes can improve student learning, success, and retention, particularly for students from populations that are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields, and examining the LGBTQ+ experience in the geosciences, including best practices for making the field, and fieldwork, more inclusive for all.