

Martha Grantham
Vice President, Atlantic Geoscience Society
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1st January 2019

Dear Martha

Dr. Elisabeth Kusters
Nominee for the Laing Ferguson award

We would like to nominate Dr. Elisabeth Kusters for the Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS) Distinguished Service Laing Ferguson award. Dr. Kusters certainly meets and exceeds the criteria for the award not only for her service here in Atlantic Canada, across Canada, but also in the Netherlands and the US.

“This Award shall be given in recognition of exceptional and altruistic contributions to the Atlantic Geoscience Society and/or to foster public appreciation of Atlantic geoscience over a long period of time”.

Since her arrival in Nova Scotia she has been a tireless advocate of geoscience. She has actively served our Society including President in 2012. Recent work in Atlantic Canada includes:
Chair of the Joggins Fossil Institute’s Science Advisory Committee 2012-2019
Member of the Joggins Fossil Institute’s Board of Directors 2012-2019, Vice-Chair 2018-2019
Co-Chair of AGS Colloquium session on Recent and Current Research at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs UNESCO World Heritage Site (2012)
Co-organizer of the AGS-sponsored Joggins Research Symposium (2018)
Mentor to Dr. Melissa Grey (and many others) from 2009 – current!

Dr. Kusters began her career in the Netherlands as a geologist specializing in sedimentology, then after completing her BSc and MSc she moved to the US and work for the Louisiana Geological Survey in the Mississippi Delta and completed her PhD on parameters of peat formation in the Mississippi Delta. She then worked for the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology on strategic gas reserves and then I moved back to the Netherlands to teach sedimentology and marine geology at Utrecht University. Shortly after receiving tenure she joined a government think tank on higher education reform, and then became Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at an International Graduate School for Geoinformatics and Earth Observation (www.itc.nl). In 2002 she moved to Wolfville and has worked as an independent and consultant. She has been an adjunct prof (sedimentology and stratigraphy) at Acadia and Dalhousie universities. She was executive director of Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences. At the CFES she worked hard to contribute to defragmenting Canadian earth science. She has run many field schools for the petroleum industry in Nova Scotia and PEI.

The interview of Dr. Kusters on the CFES website (<https://www.cfes-fcst.ca/single-post/2017/05/30/Experienced-Geoscientist-Dr-Elisabeth-Kusters>) summarises her career as a scientist.

I don't think I chose earth science – it chose me. I was a tomboy, I was raised in a family of highly educated outdoor lovers and readers (although not scientists). My parents had friends who were field

biologists, so when they joined us for hikes, the hikes became ever more interesting and I realized that learning to understand nature (not just enjoy it) was appealing. I could have become a biologist just as well, it happened to become geology (as it was called then). I also loved working in the Dutch tidal sea (the "Waddensea") and of course in my own back yard, in Minas Basin, a side arm of the Bay of Fundy, with the highest tides in the world... I am a backyard geologist, I am most happy when I can work in the area that I call home.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Melissa Grey, Director of Science, Joggins Fossil Institute (Seconder)

Professor Robert Raeside, Acadia University (Seconder)

Professor Grant Wach, Dalhousie University (Nominator)



Dr. Elisabeth Kusters

Education

BSc Geology, Groningen University, Groningen, Netherlands

MSc Geomorphology & Quaternary Science, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands,

PhD Marine Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA

Dr. Kusters is an excellent communicator in print, radio, TV and the web/. She has a very impressive website, Earth Science Society with regular blogs <https://earthsciencesociety.com/change> and regularly posts updates on a range of topics from the geology of the Maritimes, tidal and solar energy, climate change, and her life and career as a woman scientist. She does not shy away from contentious issues. It really is a fascinating to read.

Refereed Publications

Raeside, R. and E.C. Kusters, 2012, [The Grand Old Duke of York](#): Present-day and Future Canadian Geoscience Education and Labour Market Trends. Geoscience Canada, vol 39 no. 3, p. 112-122.

Kusters, E.C., 2009, [The Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences: 2008 highlights](#). Geoscience Canada, v. 36 no. 2, p. 49-54.

Groot, R. and E.C. Kusters, 2003, [An Economic Model for the dissemination of national geological survey products and services](#). In: M. Rosenbaum and A.K. Turner (eds.), New Paradigms in Subsurface Prediction, Springer, p. 201-216

Kusters, E.C., G. J. van der Zwaan and F. J. Jorissen, 2000, [Production, preservation and prediction of source rock facies in deltaic settings](#). International Journal of Coal Geology, v. 43, p. 13-26.

Chmura, G.L. and E.C. Kusters, 1994, [Storm deposition and 137Cs accumulation in fine-grained marsh sediments of the Mississippi Delta Plain](#). Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science, v. 39, no. 1, p. 33-44

Kusters, E.C. and J.R. Suter, 1993, [Facies relationships and systems tracts in the late Holocene Mississippi Delta Plain](#). Journal of Sedimentary Petrology, v. 63, no. 4, p. 727-733.

Kusters, E.C., G.L. Chmura and A. Bailey, 1987, [Sedimentary and botanical factors influencing peat accumulation in the Mississippi Delta](#). Journal of the Geological Society of London, v. 144, p. 423-434

Kusters, E.C., 1987, [Parameters of Peat formation in the Mississippi Delta](#). PhD Thesis, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA

Kusters, E.C., and A. Bailey, 1983, [Characteristics of Peat deposits in the Mississippi Delta Plain](#). Transactions Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, v. 33, p. 311-325