

ASSOCIATION OF GEOHAZARD PROFESSIONALS ELECTION CANDIDATES: TERM 2018 – 2020



Candidate for President - Ahren Bichler

Ahren has been involved with the AGHP since it was first formed in 2013 and served as Secretary from 2014 until present. He is the General Manager of Trumer Schutzbauten Canada Ltd, a company producing flexible-net structures and wire mesh products for geohazard mitigation.

Ahren worked for the British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines as a Quaternary geologist and a research assistant and lecturer at the Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany where he worked on surficial mapping related to high-alpine flood processes and rockfall in the Austrian Alps. Ahren has been involved with the compilation, review and recommendation of landslide hazard and risk mapping methods for the Geological Survey of Canada. In addition, he was part of the Asia-Link program, which brought geohazard specialists from Europe to Nepal and Bhutan to conduct knowledge sharing workshops.

Ahren holds a Master's degree in Earth and Ocean Sciences, with a focus on natural hazards, Quaternary geology and geophysics.



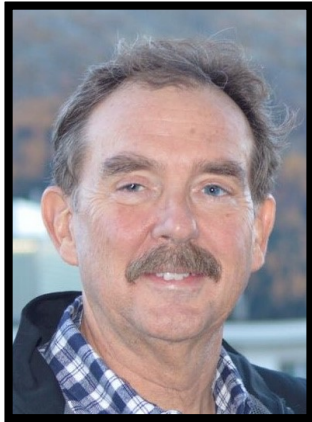
Candidate for Vice President - Colby Barrett

Colby has served the Association of Geohazard Professionals as a directing member since 2015 and co-chairs the association's Rope Access Committee. After studying Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley and Oxford University on an NROTC scholarship, Colby served as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps.

He led both infantry and scout/sniper platoons throughout the Pacific Rim and the Middle East as part of various operations including Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, where he earned

the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for outstanding performance. Colby also holds a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School and is a Registered Professional Engineer. Colby has worked in the geohazard industry for over 15 years, managing projects throughout the continental United States, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica.

He is an active geotechnical researcher in soil nailing and confined soils, holds several patents in the field, serves as a member of the Deep Foundations Institute Landslide/Slope Stabilization Committee, and won the prestigious EY Entrepreneur of The Year™ award in 2014.



Candidate for Secretary - Pierce Runnels

Pierce is currently the President and General Manager of Geobruigg North America. Geobruigg is the world leader in the manufacture of high tensile strength steel mesh made specifically for Geohazard applications. In our business we are widely involved with many members of the Geohazard community—contractors, engineers, owners, agencies and suppliers. We certainly have a vested interest in the future of the organization.

With over 20 years' experience as a licensed, Professional Engineer (PE), Pierce is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC). Pierce currently serves on the AGHP Board as Treasurer and Education Committee liaison. He is a member of ASCE and AEG and serve on the Geohazard subcommittee at ASTM as well as the Board of Directors for the Sandoval Economic Alliance, a local economic development agency.

If appointed Pierce will continue to bring a wide range of experience and industry knowledge to the AGHP.



Candidate for Treasurer – Mike Koutsourais

Mike Koutsourais, PE is a professional geotechnical engineer with over 25 years of experience in geotechnical design and construction, business and operations management, product, business and strategy development, and technical sales and marketing of geotechnical construction products.

Mike's primary experience has been working in the field of mechanically stabilized earth, soil and rock slope stabilization, retaining walls, geosynthetics and erosion control. He is responsible for the technical and marketing activities in the North American markets for the rockfall

business of Maccaferri USA. He has an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a major in geotechnical engineering and is a member of the ASTM International Committee for the Geohazard Protection Systems.



Candidate for Individual Member Representative – Martin Derby

Mr. Derby is currently a senior geohazard practice leader with Golder Associates and has over 33 years of experience in performing detailed subsurface exploration, monitoring/pipeline subsidence programs, geotechnical design for soil stabilization, and environmental remediation/construction oversight. Mr. Derby is the Chair of the

Association of Geohazard Professionals – Geohazard Monitoring and Instrumentation section, former vice chair of the Surveillance, Operations and Monitoring section of the Pipeline Research Council International (PRCI), and former chair of the ASCE – Energy and Environment Nexus Committee. Martin received his associate’s degree from civil engineering technology from Hudson Valley Community College, his bachelor’s degree in geological sciences from the University of Buffalo, and his master’s degree in geoscience from Montclair State University. Martin is currently a PhD candidate in the Geohazards program at the University at Buffalo. His research is focused on subsidence and slope/landslide monitoring with advanced remote sensing methods including InSAR and ground based InSAR. Martin is the author of several technical papers relating to geology/subsidence and monitoring, and has presented throughout North America and Europe. Martin is licensed as a professional geologist in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Alaska.