

Annual Report



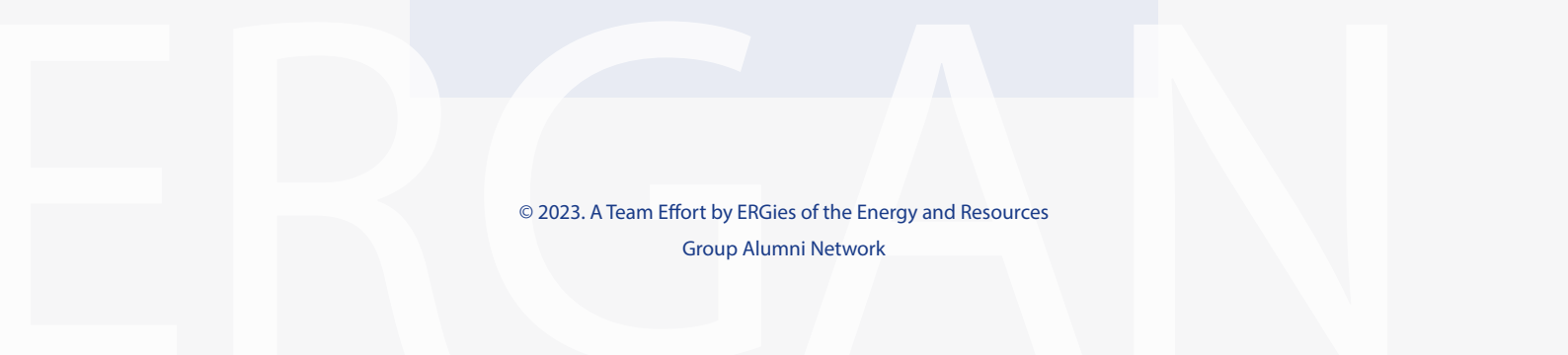
2023

ERGAN

Energy and Resources
Group Alumni Network

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Letter from the President

Dear Fellow ERGies,

I hope you have all gotten a good start to the new year.

I'm excited to introduce to everyone our newest board members. In July, Lindsey Fransen (MS '08) joined us as our Secretary. In January, Maggie Winslow (PhD '02) joined us as our Special Projects Officer and Sara Murillo as Student-Alumni Relations Chair. Jamie Fine (MS '98, PhD '03) will be joining us as Communications Chair later this spring. I'm looking forward to the new ideas and fresh perspective they bring to the team. A big thank you to former Secretary Froy Sifuentes (MS '11, PhD '18), Special Projects Officer Chad White (MS '99, PhD '08), and Webmaster John Galloway for staying on during our member transition. I also want to congratulate and thank Diana Dombrowski (MS '23), former Alumni-Student Relations Chair who graduated this past spring.

A highlight of this past year was the ERGAN-sponsored post-colloquium happy hour in March, as a way to connect students and alumni. 50+ ERGies from around the Bay Area gathered on campus for food, drinks, and fellowship. Current Master's student bios were sent to everyone beforehand, and students chatted with alumni through several rounds of "speed networking." We hosted another one this February, which featured alumni Deepa Lounsbury as speaker.

We have had to focus some of our time this year on building out a new website. The cost of the platform we use to host ergies.org and manage our database, Wild Apricot, keeps increasing—it will soon reach a price point that is too high for the modest income ERGAN collects through dues. We have been working towards transitioning to another platform, or rather, a collection of web services connected through square space or other similar product. This project will continue in 2024 and we welcome any alumni who have expertise in this

area to share their wisdom with us.

We are excited to kick off celebrations for ERG's 50th Anniversary in the spring of 2024! ERGAN plans on hosting an "ERGies through the Ages" panel: a lively discussion among alumni representing each decade of ERG. We will also be planning gatherings in different locations, so that ERGies that don't live in the Bay Area can still get together in person. We'll be calling on our regional coordinators to help out with this, so stay tuned!

This will be the last letter I write to you as ERGAN's President. My second term on the board will end in March and I feel it is now time to pass the baton on to someone else. When I first took on this role, I was looking for a way to stay connected professionally while taking some time off work to raise my kids. I have certainly achieved that goal, but also so much more. I have reconnected with ERG faculty and alumni from my days as an ERG student, but I have also met so many wonderful ERGies from other generations. My fellow board members have impressed and inspired me with their dedication to ERG and its mission. And I feel comforted and hopeful knowing that I am part of a community who believes in and is working towards a sustainable future. If you are looking for a little bit of hope and community and can give a few hours of your time each month, I highly encourage you to consider stepping into the ERGAN President role. Please reach out to me if you're interested.

Thank you to everyone who has helped ERGAN continue to thrive over the past four years. Wishing you all the best in 2024!



Rashmi Sahai, MS '12
president@ergies.org

ERGIAN

Letter from the Chair of ERG

Fellow ERGies:

2023

was an eventful year full of positive changes for ERG. Our biggest news is the addition of Paige Weber to our faculty, as our newest assistant professor. Paige is an environmental economist who works on environmental justice, air quality, and decarbonization. With her applied interests and expertise in causal inference methods, she fills a critical need at ERG.

We've also taken another step toward improving the financial security of our graduate students, with the piloting of a 5-year funding guarantee for our PhD students. While we still need our PhD students to search for their own funding, we are now guaranteeing that if those efforts fail, ERG will fill in what's missing to ensure they receive tuition, benefits, and a competitive stipend. This year we've also managed to cover non-resident tuition for all our master's students, and they have been uniformly successful in finding fellowships, teaching, or research appointments to support their education.

In the next year we will kick off our 50th anniversary celebration. Our age, like so many things about ERG, is a bit hard to pin down. John Holdren was hired in 1973, ERG received degree-granting status in 1974, and we admitted our first students in 1975. So, we've decided to spend a year celebrating our 50th, beginning with our Annual Lecture this Spring, followed by a few outreach events in the Summer and Fall, and wrapping up with our 2025 Annual Lecture. We have dreams of producing audio (and possibly video) recordings of ERGies through the years; please feel free to reach out to me if you're interested in leading or supporting this initiative.

ERG is also in the process of its 10-year academic program review and strategic planning initiative. This is a valuable time for us to reflect on our successes and challenges, and to look forward to how we can grow over the next decade. We already have a good sense for some of our biggest accomplishments: we've hired 5 new faculty, we've expanded our capacity for graduate student funding, and we developed and acted on one of Berkeley's first strategic plans for equity, inclusion and diversity. Going forward, we are planning to take a fresh look at our curriculum, grow our capacity for student fellowships, and structure new faculty requests around the greatest interdisciplinary research and education needs of the coming decades.

You, our alumni, continued to enrich our community in important ways. We saw you at events, including Cathy Koshland's 2023 Annual Lecture, our Spring alumni happy hour, and our December Winter Gathering. Several of you participated in our graduate student mentoring program, and over one hundred people contributed to Big Give in March 2023, raising over \$36,000. Combined with other recurring and one time gifts through the rest of the year, ERG raised an incredible \$60,000 in small donations in the 22-23 academic year, all of which went toward supporting our students and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Thank you.

I'm looking forward to the year ahead and seeing many of you at all the events we have planned. Please reach out to me with any comments or questions!



Duncan Callaway
Acting Chair, ERG

January 15, 2024

Year in Review

Here's what we've been up to in 2023.

Programs

Transition to new Web Platform: The cost of the web service platform we use to host ergies.org is quite high, eating up two thirds of our revenue every year (see more details in the Financials section of this report, on page 17). Wild Apricot, the company that provides this platform, keeps increasing its fees to a point that will soon become unsustainable for ERGAN. As a result, the ERGAN Board is working towards transitioning to another platform, or rather, a collection of web services connected through square space or similar site. We welcome any alumni who have expertise in this area to share their wisdom with us.

Alumni Mentorship Program: ERGAN wrapped up its inaugural alumni-to-alumni mentorship program in November. After a year of meeting with their mentor, mentees gained career guidance and the chance to discuss ideas and challenges in a safe and confidential space. Mentors deepened their connection to ERG by getting to know a new alum and enjoyed the opportunity for interesting conversations and sharing insights. A new round of matches will kick off in February.

"It was energizing to work with mentees who are seeking to make a difference. I also recognised and appreciated more how much I have learned in the decades of my professional experience that others had yet to learn." -Will Rifkin, ERG Alum Mentor

"I learned a lot about my sector of interest. I was also able to troubleshoot specific, nearer-term problems as I transitioned jobs. During a period of big transition, it was great to have regular meetings with both mentors." -Cecilia Springer, ERG Alum Mentee

Career Development Check-Ins: In October 2023, ERGAN DEI Chair, Chris Hyun, facilitated the mentor program for current ERG students. ERG alum, Catherine Van Dyke (MA'23), who participated in the Spring 2023 pilot program and started a new job immediately after graduation, helped facilitate the weekly group check-ins with five current Master's and PhD students. If you'd like to help mentor current ERG students in 2024, contact Chris (chrish@berkeley.edu).

"This program provided a great structure and incentive for me to proactively get my sh*t together to prepare to hit the job market. This is an invaluable service to ERG students," Fall 2023 student participant

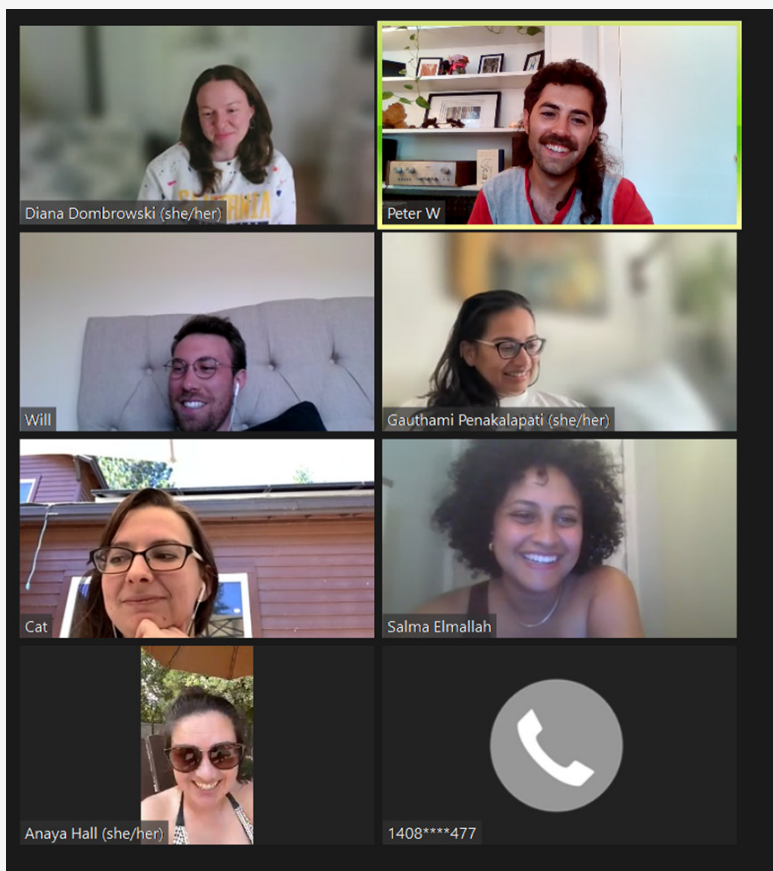
Network Resources: To keep the network alive, ERGAN maintains a number of resources on an ongoing basis. This includes the ERGAN website, ergies.org, which features a job board and a directory of members, which you can search based on geographic region, industry, and research interest. We also share updates through an email newsletter and LinkedIn. Individual ERGies are highlighted through alumni spotlights in the newsletters and in this annual report. As the cost of hosting our online resources on the Wild Apricot platform keeps increasing, we will likely change platforms, which may impact the resources that ERGAN offers.

ERGAN

Cohort Book Clubs: Two ERG Cohorts have formed book clubs to stay connected. Here's a little more on what they have been up to:

"The forever Twobies (Masters '19) are coming on to year four of their virtual book club. We meet about once a quarter. Someone offers up three book options and the group votes which one to read. This year we read some spooky stuff, *The Haunting of Hill House*; some heavy stuff, *Conversations with Friends*; and some intrepid stuff, *Exit West*. People's backgrounds changed throughout the year as many folks graduated with their PhD and are turning a page, while others have been working but are moving to a new setting. New characters are popping up too - little ones, with their whole arc still ahead of them. The next book? We'll see, still waiting on Anaya (ahem) to send out those three book options." --Peter Worley (MS '19)

"The recent ERG graduates from May 2023 have started a bookclub to keep in touch with each other as they leave the Berkeley campus. The book club meets quarterly on Zoom and so far we've read *Happy-Go-Lucky* by David Sedaris and *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Daré. We're grateful to Diana Dombrowski for getting us organized with the idea, since it's been a fun opportunity to share thoughts on books, in addition to catching up on what's new personally and professionally with each other. It was an especially fun way to meet Ry's new puppy, Zinnie!" --Catherine Van Dyke (MA '23)



The Forever Twobies book club meets virtually once per quarter.

Events

Big Give

ERGAN supported Berkeley's Big Give effort this past March by reaching out directly to alumni, both groups and individuals. ERG received 119 gifts, most of which came from alumni, and raised over \$36,000. The funds raised by the Big Give go directly to students, especially underrepresented students and those in need. A big thank you to all alumni who donated!

ERGAN-Sponsored Happy Hour & Speed Networking

50+ ERGies from around the Bay Area gathered for food, drinks, and fellowship at ERG in March 2023. Current Master's student bios were sent to everyone beforehand, and students chatted with alum through several rounds of "speed networking," using color-coded name tags. We hosted another one this February, which featured alumni Deepa Lounsbury as speaker. For more info, contact ERGAN DEI Chair, Chris Hyun (chrish@berkeley.edu).



Annual Lecture and Happy Hour

On April 13th, Catherine Koshland delivered her lecture "Lighting the way with interdisciplinary research: UC Berkeley and ERG" for ERG's 29th Annual Lecture on Energy and the Environment. Cathy retired in 2022 as the Wood-Calvert Professor, Emerita, in the College of Engineering, and an emerita professor of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health, and in the Energy and Resources Group, and the Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, Emerita. Cathy continues to give to ERG and campus, bringing her wisdom and time to governance.

Events

Ergies at AGU 2023



Kripa Jagannathan (PhD'19), Chris Hyun (PhD'20), Julia Szinai (PhD'21), and Grace Wu (PhD'18) pose with ERGie spirit at the AGU Meeting (San Francisco, Dec 2023)



ERG happy hour at AGU23 organized by Kripa Jagannathan (PhD'19) and Chris Hyun (PhD'20) (San Francisco, Dec 2023)



ERGies gather for an informal lunch during AGU23 (San Francisco, Dec 2023)

Events

ERG Annual Events

ERG hosted the following annual events with just as much gusto as years past. Alumni are always welcome. Thanks to alum, Carter Brooks, for decorating many of these events with his ubiquitous ice sculptures.

April: Talent Show & Silent Auction

May: ERG Commencement

August: Welcome Back Town Hall & Dinner at Dick's

December: Winter Gathering



Welcome Back Town Hall & Dinner at Dick's

Professor Emeritus Dick Norgaard and ERG alumna Nancy Rader brought back the traditional back-to-school pizza party on their deck in the Berkeley hills. Professor John Harte initiated a new group of ERGies to the shortcuts and backroads

ERGies in Focus

ERGAN's Newest Members

Please join the ERGAN Board in welcoming these ERGies as new alumni network members. Learn more about their accomplishments and interests in the [ERG Commencement Guide](#).



Congratulations!

Master's graduates!

Ry Andresen
Portia Peasah Awuah
Colette Brown
Nica Campbell
Javiera Canales Valenzuela
Diana Dombrowski
Cora Kingdon
Victor B. Reyes
Lynn Shiyayo
Chelsi Sparti
Catherine Van Dyke

PhD graduates!

Nicholas Depsky
Salma Elmallah
Will Gorman
Gauthami Penakalapati
Phillippe Phanivong
Valeri Nicol Vásquez

Alumni Updates

The list below provides a breadth of professional updates from the ERG community. Thanks to those of you who shared your accomplishments with us!

On the cover... Four ERG alums playing bluegrass and Irish music in Gold Hill, Colorado.



Peter Gleick on mandolin

Marcus Moench on banjo

James Newcomb on Irish whistles

Michael Shepard on guitar.

Rob Stern

(MS (pending thesis) 1982)



Now Executive Secretariat National Nuclear Security Administration Energy Systems Acquisition and Advisory Board readying all executive gateway approvals of capital asset infrastructure and construction projects (over \$40 B active portfolio) throughout the NNSA complex. Lead analyst for portfolio performance and lead coordinator for certification of NNSA's Federal Project Directors (project managers).

Recently noted my 43rd anniversary of Federal Civil Service (EPA and DOE/NNSA). Always happy to discuss pros/cons of working for the Feds and evolving issues in nuclear construction projects and environmental remediation.

Benjamin Mandel

(MS 2014)

In 2023 Ben assumed a new role at CALSTART, where he has worked since 2018, as Vice President, Strategic Initiatives. In this capacity, Ben leads strategic planning across the organization and oversees business development activities for both government and private (philanthropy) revenue. Partnerships and cross-functional, big-picture thinking are core components of amplifying CALSTART's impact and attaining aggressive national transportation decarbonization targets as soon as 2030. Any ERGies wishing to learn more about this work or exploring collaboration opportunities are encouraged to connect with Ben (bmandel@calstart.org).

Ben and his wife Stephanie welcomed their first child, Margot Lea Mandel, in July 2023.

Karen Herter

(2006)

Karen's consulting firm, Herter Energy Research Solutions, has been awarded a three-year contract to support the California Energy Commission in the development of Flexible Demand Appliance Standards. Authorized via Senate Bill 49, the new appliance standards



will facilitate the deployment of cost-effective technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by scheduling, shifting, or curtailing appliance operations with consumer consent.

Karen has moved to San Luis Obispo County with her daughter and 8-pound minpinchi.

More information on Flexible Demand Appliance Standards here:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/energy-commission-proceedings/flexible-demand-appliances>

Chris Greacen

(PhD 2004)



Still mostly working to help scale up deployment of mini grids for energy access, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa. More recently have been working in Nepal to sort out technical issues related to grid-interconnection of formerly isolated micro-hydropower projects and on a separate project doing analysis on the potential for Nepal to use more grid-connected solar PV to offset its high reliance on hydropower. I mostly work with the World Bank, and some with GIZ. I'm serving as a volunteer on San Juan County's Climate Resilience Citizen Advisory Committee. Chom (ERG MS '99) and I live on Lopez Island but are in Thailand until mid-Feb. She's working on decarbonizing the Thai grid (see her update).

With the kids in college, I was free to hike the southern portion of the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington State! Yay for the forests and mountains of the Pacific Northwest.

Wrote a chapter in a big-ass World Bank book on mini grids: "Mini Grids for Half a Billion People: Market Outlook and Handbook for Decision Makers" available for free download here:

https://esmap.org/Mini_Grids_for_Half_a_Billion_People_The_Report



Arthur Mallet Dias

(MS 2022)

I am relocating to Boston in January 2024 to be close to Victoria, who got an exciting new job there (sustainable design at Gensler). We would love to meet ERGies in the area! (I'll still be working at LBNL, though remotely, on appliance efficiency standards.)

Sam Arons

(MS 2007)

Sam has joined EV truck charging startup Gage Zero, leading business development.

Sam and his family moved to Oakland (Upper Rockridge.)

Cecilia Springer

(MS 2016, PhD 2019)

I moved to a small consulting company called Global Efficiency Intelligence, working on industrial decarbonization. I remain a non-resident fellow at Boston University and an affiliate at LBNL, and have relocated from Boston to the DC area. I would love to connect with ERGies working in the industry sector. Also, I tremendously enjoyed and benefited from the ERGAN mentoring program over the past year!

Jesse Tatum

(PhD 1988)

Recently retired from teaching in “alternative education” at high school level in Vermont. Completing book manuscript titled: Finding a Way Through-- An Outsider’s View of Alternative Education in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom.

Zack Subin

(PhD 2012)

This summer I got the opportunity to come “back” to Berkeley (in quotes because it is still a split between working at home in SF and a downtown Oakland office-- though now an increased share of the latter-- good news for the BART system! I am an Associate Research Director focusing on climate & housing for Berkeley’s Turner Center for Housing Innovation. I hope to see you all more frequently on and off campus, and please share ideas for collaboration!

Rafael Friedmann

(PhD 2016)

Consultant to California utilities on how to advance the energy transition to cleaner sources of energy. Work with the Emerging Technologies Coordinating Council, and with SCE’s Planning and Coordination group.

Continue as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chile California Council--a NPO that supports knowledge exchanges between individuals and institutions addressing problems that are common to both areas.

Zoe Chafe

(MS 2010, PhD 2016)

At C40 Cities, I work with just under 100 megacities to bring together air quality management, climate action planning, and public health. Over the past few years, my team put together tools to help cities understand and share the air quality and health benefits of climate action. This year, our African Cities for Clean Air initiative has taken off, with 10 cities committing to specific air quality improvements, 5 cities co-designing and implementing technical assistance projects, and a series of communications & analytic trainings for city staff. We’re also launching a new initiative to blend data, stakeholder engagement, and technical assistance with air quality policy development (Breathe Cities). I haven’t completely left the clean cooking/heating world: many cities are recognizing that household emissions persist, even in urban areas, and are interested in tackling this source. I’m right at the science/policy interface, where there is lots of room for new collaboration; please reach out if you’re interested in chatting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3F6mq20QOcE&t=95s>

Pierce Edward Cornelius Otlhogile-Gordon

(MS 2014, Ph.D. 2018)

(1) Built online course; Equity Intuition, a six-week survey course in building strategic development capacities for building equitable changemaking endeavors.

<https://movingbeyond.co/lab>

(2) Contributed to Two books:

Closing the Loop: Systems Thinking for Designers, by Sheryl Cababa

<https://www.amazon.com/Closing-Loop-Systems-Thinking-Designers/dp/1959029886>

and

An Anthology of Blackness: the State of Black Design, Edited by Terresa Moses and Omari Souza

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262048668/an-anthology-of-blackness/>

(3) Contributed to Forbes article, through colleague/contributor Aparna Rae

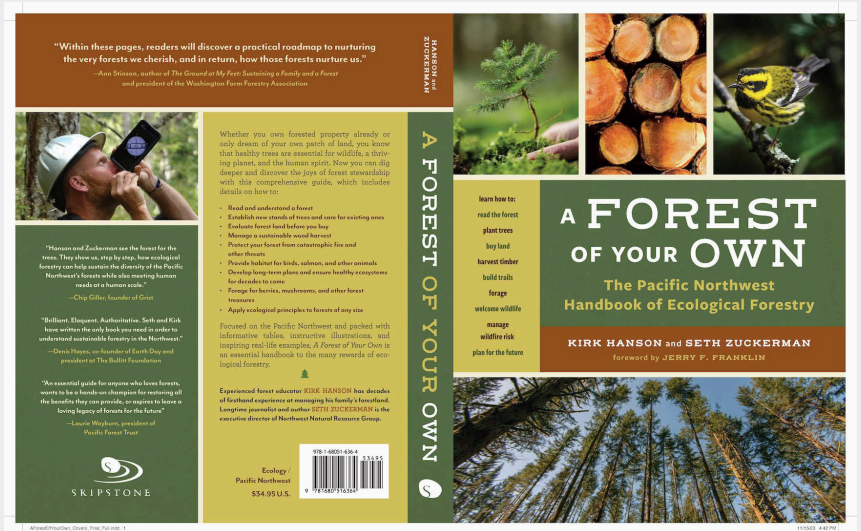
Unraveling Four Common Roadblocks To Workplace Equity And Inclusion: A Conversation With Dr. Pierce Otlhogile-Gordon

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/aparnarae/2023/08/03/unraveling-four-common-roadblocks-to-workplace-equity-and-inclusion-a-conversation-with-dr-pierce-otlhogile-gordon/>

Seth Zuckerman

(MS 1990)

This spring, Mountaineers Books will publish a book I co-authored: *A Forest of Your Own: The Pacific Northwest Handbook of Ecological Forestry*. We are aiming to do for forest ownership what *How to Grow More Vegetables* did for organic gardening. Written with a colleague from the NGO I direct, Northwest Natural Resource Group, nnr.org



Ian Bolliger

(PhD 2020)

Over the course of the year, I was fortunate to participate as a “Technical Contributor” to the economics chapter of the 5th National Climate Assessment, which was released in November. It was the first time the NCA had an Econ chapter, and the author team that collaborated on this effort involved many UC Berkeley grads and current students, highlighting the university’s strong expertise in this field.

In January, I left my current position building physical climate risk models at BlackRock to start a new job as the Principal Quantitative Engineer at Reask. Reask is a startup developing climate-informed extreme weather risk models to aid the insurance industry, facilities operations, investment risk management, and other users. I’ll be working to build economic impact models on top of their physical hazard projections.

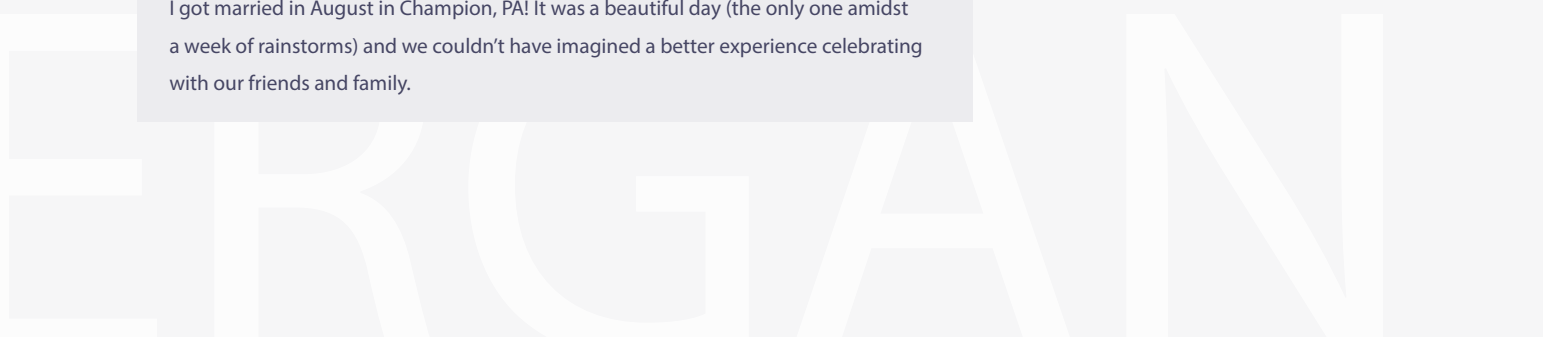


I got married in August in Champion, PA! It was a beautiful day (the only one amidst a week of rainstorms) and we couldn’t have imagined a better experience celebrating with our friends and family.

Taylor Keep

(MS 2011)

In February I joined SPAN as a product leader working on home electrification. We left Berkeley in June and moved to Mountain View to live across the street from my brother. I would love to connect with peninsula ERGies out there!



Nicholas Martin

(MS 1999)

I just hit my 10-year mark working for Xcel Energy in Minneapolis, MN. It has been an interesting run, as Xcel is working hard to move our system to 100% carbon-free electricity, offer lower-carbon natural gas alternatives, and support the transition to electrified transportation. While I still do a lot to support decarbonization planning, for the last couple years I've been in community relations and most of my time is focused on equity and environmental justice related projects, working with BIPOC and Native partner organizations in the Twin Cities.

Daughter Frances has just started college at Wellesley (MA), where she's doing a lot of political science etc. My son Earl is a junior in high school and really into the intersection of engineering and arts. Rachel is continuing work toward launching her own business, focused on anti-racism training.

All my free time goes to two bands: Potential New Boyfriend (<https://potentialnewboyfriend.com/music>), a country and Western swing band I started a couple years ago, and the Eclectics (<https://eclecticsbluegrass.com>), a bluegrass trio.

Matt St.Clair

(MA 2003)

Served as a panel moderator at the White House Forum on Campus and Community-Scale Climate Change Solutions in March 2023.

Jason Burwen

(MA 2011)

After almost a decade leading nationwide policy advocacy for the U.S. energy storage industry, I finally made the jump into the industry myself. I'm now leading policy and strategy for GridStor, a new and fast-moving battery storage developer and IPP with projects across the country.

We just commissioned our first project, 60 MW / 160 MWh in Goleta, CA, with more to come--be in touch if you ever want to talk storage or work on it with me.



Elias Lazarus

(PhD 2023)

Graduated! Started as a postdoc at Stanford, Jan 1st 2024. Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship

<https://energypostdoc.stanford.edu/meet-our-fellows/our-inaugural-cohort>

Eric Cutter

(MS 2001)

Joined the Partner ranks in 2023 at Energy and Environmental Economics (E3) in San Francisco after 18 years. Enjoying working with several fellow ERGies there. Still working on getting the grid resource out of distributed energy resources and developing cool tools for geospatial allocation of DERs for regulatory policy and utility distribution planning for electrification and the clean energy transition.

Kathleen and I are starting on our first year as empty nesters. Daughter Anya will graduate next year from Berkeley with a Forestry degree from CNR, yea! Daegan is a freshman back east and loving his first year, including running cross country. After holding points for the permit application for 25 years, finally organized and guided a private rafting trip down the Grand Canyon in June.



Thomas Panella

(MS 1997)

Starting a new practice group at the Asian Development Bank as the Director for Natural Capital and Climate under the Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Group.

Jesse Tatum

(PhD 1988)

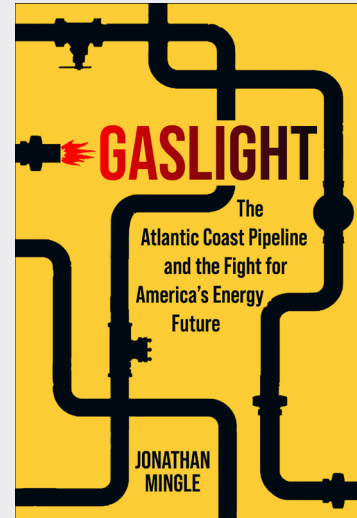
Never got tenure as a professor in the field of Science, Technology, and Society, ending at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Published and published (two academic press books, many papers). Perished anyway. Last 20 years have been teaching in high school “alternative education” programs working with kids who can’t function effectively (behavioral and academic difficulties) in the classroom in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom (Canadian border). Entirely engaging work. Quite rewarding if also quite stressful. Calls on everything I’ve got in my interdisciplinary arsenal! Now (age 71) semi-retired.

The hallmark of our time is complicity. Trying to make my escape, I’m trying to move to the point where we might make it through if everyone lived as I do. Minimal electricity use (about 3 kWh/day). Small PV array. Second hand Chevy Bolt shared with my sister-in-law next door. PV array roughly covers my home and transportation electricity use. Heat entirely with wood I cut and split by hand (about 1.5 cords/year) from around my very small house. Outdoor shower from bread box water heater only when there’s no freeze threat. Electric boost bicycle even (some) in the winter. Hey, it all keeps me amused in retirement!

Jonathan Mingle

(MS 2009)

My book GASLIGHT: The Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Fight for America’s Energy Future will be published by Island Press in May 2024. It tells the story of the six-year-long grassroots struggle to stop Dominion Energy from building a 600-mile gas pipeline across West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina. It’s also a deep dive into the gas and utilities industries’ long campaign to position gas as a “clean reliable bridge fuel” – and a sustained examination of the stakes of that narrative’s persistence for the climate and for environmental justice.



<https://bookshop.org/p/books/gaslight-the-atlantic-coast-pipeline-and-the-fight-for-america-s-energy-future-jonathan-mingle/20880380?ean=9781642832488>

The book grew out of my year as an Alicia Patterson Foundation Fellow in 2020/2021, reporting on the political, legal and grassroots battles over new natural gas (aka methane) infrastructure, and its local impacts and global climate consequences.

This past year I wrote about the floods that ravaged my home state of Vermont in July for the New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/13/opinion/floods-vermont-new-york-heat-climate-change.html>

... And for The New York Review of Books, I wrote about how the insurance industry is finally pricing climate risk into homeowners premiums, threatening to burst a new housing bubble:

<https://www.nybooks.com/online/2023/11/11/the-crash-to-come-insurance-climate/>

Sharachchandra (Sharad) Lele

(PhD 1993)

This year has been a wonderful year in terms of translating my research on forest governance into real change on the ground, with our work in central India resulting in 56 villages getting rights to manage their customary forest land in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh state, and helping 2 ‘forest villages’ in Dindori district to gradually come out of the neo-colonial Forest Department. Zindabad! (Freedom!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KRmcAlsVvA>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/ht-insight/climate-change/never-ending-injustice-forest-villages-of-madhya-pradesh-101684495490903.html>

Coming Attractions

We hope you will join us for our upcoming activities in 2023.
If you have ideas, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

ERG's 50th Anniversary Kick off: We are excited to kick off celebrations for ERG's 50th Anniversary in the spring of 2024! ERGAN plans on hosting an "ERGies through the Ages" panel: a lively discussion among alumni representing each decade of ERG. We will also be planning gatherings in different locations, so that ERGies that don't live in the Bay Area can still get together in person. We'll be calling on our regional coordinators to help out with this, so stay tuned!

Recruitment of New ERGAN President: After two terms as ERGAN's president, Rashmi will be cycling off this March. If you're interested in taking the reins for the next two years, email Rashmi at president@ergies.org.

Mentorship Programs, Continued: ERGAN is kicking off another round of its alumni-to-alumni mentorship program. The program aims to connect ERGies across generations, help navigate career transitions, and offer safe and confidential spaces for dialogue. It's a one-year commitment, starting this March. Mentee-mentor pairs will be matched based on personal identity, location, career path, and what they hope to get out of the program.

Your Idea: Let us know how we can best connect with you! All ERGies are automatically part of this wonderful, diverse alumni network. If there is a program or event you would like to see, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can email us directly at president@ergies.org.

ERGAN

Financials

FY 2022-2023 ERGAN Balance Sheet

(as of 6/30/2022)

Assets

8,250	Bank
0	PayPal
0	Cash on hand
0	Sub-total cash assets
0	Non-cash assets
8,250	Total assets

Liabilities

0	Accounts Payable
0	Other
0	Total liabilities

Net Assets

8,250 Net Assets

FY 2022-2023 ERGAN Income Statement

(as of 6/30/2022)

Revenues

3,000	Membership Dues & Donations
54	Bank interest
0	Event Registrations
0	Other cash revenue
0	Non-cash revenue
3,054	Total Revenue

Expenses

2,097	Communications (cash)
0	Communications (non-cash)
538	Events
92	Transaction fees
0	Other cash expenses
	Other non-cash expenses
2,727	Total Expenses

Net Income / Loss

327 Net Income

ERGAN

Current ERGAN Board

President



Rashmi Sahai (MS'12)

Rashmi is currently enjoying being a full-time mom, raising her five-year-old son and two-year-old daughter. She has more than seven years of experience in campus sustainability working for the University of California and Stanford University. She has expertise in sustainability metrics data gathering, analysis, and reporting; greenhouse gas accounting and REC management; resource modeling and planning; and running targeted conservation programs. Last fall she tried her hand at community advocacy for the first time, leading an effort to save 30 trees from being cut down in her neighborhood park. Unfortunately, that effort failed. :(

Secretary



Lindsey Fransen (MS'08)

After about a decade working in the “& Resources” area of ERG - water conservation and sea level rise adaptation, to be exact - Lindsey has embraced the “Energy” part and currently works at the California Energy Commission. There, she leads teams that make grants to entrepreneurs and researchers in the climate tech and clean energy space. Lindsey lives with her husband and 2 sons (8 and 5) in South Lake Tahoe, where they do all the mountain things, including year-round bike commuting (an e-cargo bike with studded snow tires got us through last winter!), dragging small children over mountain passes, summer beach nights, and lots and lots of skiing.

Treasurer



Heidi Fuchs (MS'13)

Heidi still works at LBNL, helping lead the Industrial Applications team’s energy management systems research as the resident interdisciplinary ERGie. She works to understand change at organizations with ISO 50001-based energy management systems, increase these systems’ uptake as a path to decarbonization, and advance the resilience of manufacturing water supplies. Heidi and her husband Thomas left Berkeley in 2021 for her hometown of Boulder, CO, where she’s been electrifying a 1940s house, becoming an official city Pollinator Advocate, building her Fun Aunt capacities, engaging in ecological grief work, and being outdoors.



Special Projects Officer

Chad White (MS '99, PhD '08)

Wildfire prevention and landfill diversion are creating new flows of biomass needing disposition. Chad leads a State-funded planning project in Marin County to envision and build sustainable pathways for them. He also manages a clean transportation grants team at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Purportedly, in his free time he swims, plays volleyball, and does some yoga — but not as much as he likes to believe that he does. Chad still lives in San Francisco with his partner Tom and their dog Macx. He just finished his third term as an ERGAN officer.



Student-Alumni Relations Chair

Diana Dombrowski (expected MS '23)

Diana is a master's student at ERG and holds dual degrees in Environmental Science and in History from the University of Florida. She is currently a Graduate Student Research Assistant in the Electricity Markets & Policy Group at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Diana is also Appalachian Voice's inaugural Carbon Removal Fellow and is working on a pilot project to reforest abandoned mine lands as a nature-based solution for carbon removal. She enjoys yoga, biking, bouldering, and spending time with her dog, Deuce.



Events Chair

Jessie Knapstein (MS '17)

Ms. Knapstein is a 2017 ERGie Alumni from the MS program. Professionally, Jessie joined Energy & Environmental Economics (E3) in 2019, where she helps utilities, system operators, and state agencies meet climate goals. Previously, at utility Pacific Gas & Electric, she led efforts to prepare for climate-related impacts and conducted analysis of climate and energy regulation and legislation. She has also worked for the U.S. Department of Energy on funding and commercializing energy-efficient building technologies. Ms. Knapstein holds an M.S. in Energy and Resources and a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. in Business Administration, with a minor in Physics, from the University of Florida. In her free time, Jessie enjoys squeezing dogs and camping/hiking (typical ERGie stuff).



DEI Chair

Chris Hyun (MA '15, PhD '20)

Chris (he/him) initiated ERGAN's direct work on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and became ERGAN's first DEI Chair in 2021. He serves at the California State Water Board as Climate Lead, Lead for Water Conservation Emergency Regulations, and helped draft the Board's Racial Equity Action Plan. In these roles, he ensures the Board does all it can to mitigate climate impacts, save water, and improve social equity. He is also on AGU's Science and Society Executive Committee and ERG Diversity Committee. After obtaining an environmental science degree from Banaras Hindu University in India, he joined ERG as part of the Newbies 2013 cohort (aka "the cohort that gifted the espresso machine") and received his PhD during lockdown with a designated emphasis in development engineering. He lives with his significant other ERGie, Eric, across from campus, which he considers his "front garden." He lived in India for over a decade and enjoys creative writing, karaoke, and drag.



Communications Chair

Carter Brooks (MS '06)

Carter is engaging the conceptual, emotional and existential issues facing humanity as an Artist and Philosopher of Climate Art. He is known for his installations of melting ice that bear witness to our grander cryosphere's demise. His philosophical themes include long-term thinking, and identifying and encouraging the human capacities and qualities important in the climate era. He is co-founder of Climate Earth, which provides EPDs to the construction industry and supply chain assessments to Fortune 50 companies. When not working on Climate Art, Carter is also an independent software developer, and lately has been engaged in online event production. He is father to Alison, about to graduate from UC Berkeley, with a degree in Applied Mathematics and an ERG minor!



Webmaster

John Galloway (MS'00)

John began working in the “sustainability” field before that term was in wide usage, having started in renewable energy technology and policy and most recently consulting with corporations and financial institutions on carbon management, “net zero” strategy, and setting science-based climate targets at Anthesis Group. He’s also worked in sustainability and clean energy teams at Google, San Francisco International Airport, and PG&E with specialization in distributed energy strategy, storage, and transmission and substation interconnection of renewables. Prior to ERG, John completed an Electrical Engineering degree at Georgia Institute of Technology. He likes to write and perform comedy skits, cooks, bikes, hikes, and is learning to play the Celtic harp (sorry, neighbors!).

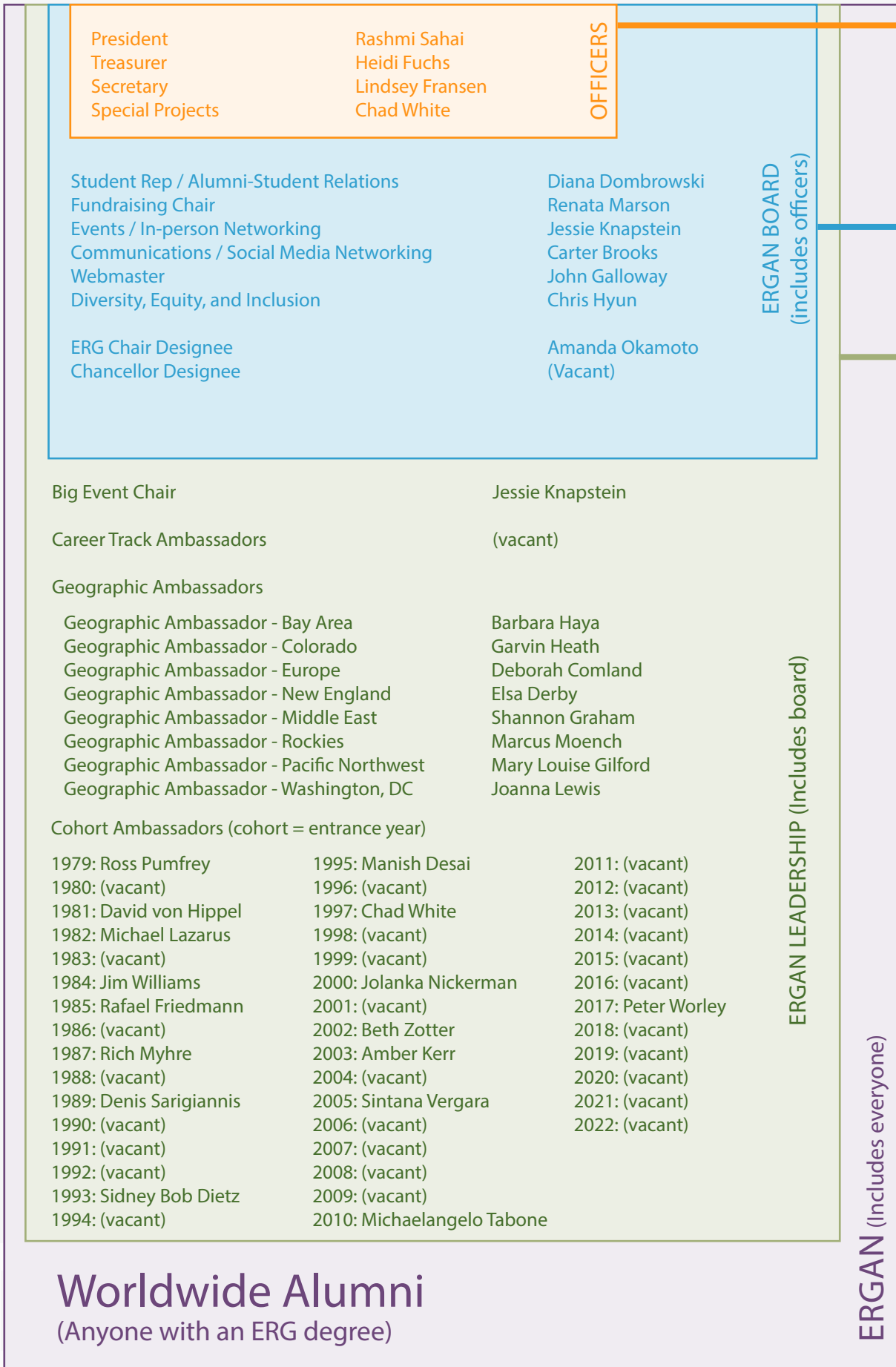


ERG Chair Designee

Amanda Okamoto

Amanda Okamoto joined the Energy and Resources Group in 2022. As Manager she provides administrative, operational, and program support for the ERG community, allowing ERG’s passionate and talented faculty and students to pursue their crucial work in sustainability and justice. Amanda received her BA in Rhetoric at Cal, and has had a wide-ranging career running projects and operations at banks, schools, and non-profits. She even worked as a cabinet maker and woodworker. She loves all the good stuff—cooking, hiking, books, swimming, family—and is always ready to try something new.

ERGAN Structure



The officers are in charge of overall administration of ERGAN. They meet monthly.

The board is in charge of the overall policy and priorities of ERGAN. They meet quarterly.

The leadership develops and executes events and helps the Board develop programs and direction for ERGAN. They meet annually.

ERGAN is a living alumni organization. Anyone who holds a degree from the Energy and Resources Group is automatically a member. The purpose of ERGAN is to support the interests of its alumni and to create a forum for ongoing engagement among ERGies. The goal is to get ERGies into contact with other Ergies at least once annually.

ERGAN (Includes everyone)

Worldwide Alumni
(Anyone with an ERG degree)

Want to get involved with ERGAN?

Want to get involved with ERGAN? Email an ambassador or contact the ERGAN Board.

Have an idea about an ERGAN event or mode of engagement? Email any of the ERGAN Officers.

ERGAN email addresses are
<name of position>@ERGies.org
For example, President@ERGies.org or
SpecialProjects@ERGies.org.