

## Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee

### Position: Secretary General

**Name:** Stanley C. "Stan" Finney

**Affiliation:** California State University at Long Beach

**Nominating Organization:**  
US National Committee to IUGS



### Biography:

I was born in California, but while young I lived in many different states and in Morocco. My degrees in Geological Sciences are from the University of California at Riverside and The Ohio State University. I studied at the Swedish Museum of Natural History during my PhD, and I was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. I rose from Assistant Professor at Northern Arizona University to Associate Professor at Oklahoma State University to Professor at California State University at Long Beach, where I served as Department Chair for 21 years and will soon retire after 34 years. I held positions as Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Natural History at University of Salzburg, Austria and as Fulbright Senior Scholar at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.

My specialization is in paleobiology and stratigraphic paleontology, focusing on graptolites and Ordovician-Lower Devonian stratigraphy. My field investigations have extended the length of the Appalachians from Alabama to Newfoundland, the Ouachita and Arbuckle Mountains of Oklahoma and Arkansas, the Great Basin of Nevada and California, the Argentine Precordillera, and various localities in China, and my studies have extended far beyond graptolites and lower Paleozoic stratigraphy to include papers on thrust faults, the Anthropocene, the geotectonic and paleogeographic history of the Argentine Precordillera, stratigraphic nomenclature and much more.

As a graduate student I was exposed to the Silurian-Devonian boundary-working group during the earliest years of the International Commission on Stratigraphy. I was involved in the work of the Subcommittee on Ordovician Stratigraphy, almost since its beginning, and eventually served as chair during an 8-year term when an entirely new classification of global stages and series (and lower and upper boundaries) was established for the Ordovician System. This tenure overlapped with eight years as Vice Chair of ICS, and was followed with my serving as chair of ICS for eight years. And now I am nearing the end of a 4-year term as Secretary General of IUGS.

**Statement:**

In 1991, I was elected as a voting member by the Ordovician Subcommission. Since then, I have served continuously for 28 years in IUGS and its constituent groups; 24 years in executive positions. All this work is voluntary, unpaid, and has required an every increasing workload. Why have I done so? First, I was selected by my colleagues to do so and have been repeatedly elected by colleagues to lead them. That brings a sense of professional duty and satisfaction. But, the primary reason is that I have long enjoyed international collaborations, the goals they accomplish, and the friendships that develop with them. I have colleagues worldwide, many are special friends. Everyday I am working with others to advance agendas, solve problems, and to initiate new directions. This I enjoy. This gives me great personal satisfaction. This is my motivation for serving a second term of SG.