

Board Nominees

Marco Maneta

Affiliation and Role: Director of Flood Modeling First Street, NYC; Adjunct Professor, Geosciences Department, University of Montana



What experience or expertise do you bring in these areas?

Throughout my career as a scientist in both academia and industry, I have held leadership positions dedicated to fostering high-performing teams through sound governance, strategic oversight, and responsible resource management. As a Professor and Principal Investigator, I secured competitive funding and provided strategic direction for several multi-institutional research projects, coordinating activities and resource allocation among collaborators at universities and government agencies. These experiences strengthened my ability to align complex collaborations with long-term objectives and ensure financial and operational accountability.

In my past role as Principal Scientist at Jupiter Intelligence and currently as Director of Flood Modeling at First Street, the two leading companies in the field of global climate risk analytics, I contribute to the organization's strategic planning, guide resource allocation to advance these plans, and ensure the team of scientists I direct work efficiently with a shared vision that is aligned with company priorities and goals. In these roles I obtained a first-hand understanding of the institutional, operational, and governance realities faced by hydrologists in academia and the private sector.

How would you contribute to our goals in our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan? As a long-standing member of the hydrologic science community and former CUAHSI representative for the University of Montana, I share CUAHSI's mission and values. My career spans academia and the private sector, giving me a broad perspective on how research, education, and industry intersect. I bring experience from the growing climate technology ("climate tech") sector, where innovation is reshaping hydrologic science but also requiring innovation in the way hydrologists are trained in undergraduate and graduate hydrologic programs. As a board member, I hope to strengthen CUAHSI's engagement with private industry, help align training with emerging workforce needs, and support strategic initiatives that foster a more connected, inclusive, and forward-looking water science community.

Dr. Tao Wen

Affiliation and role: Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Services, Syracuse University



Brief Description of Affiliation/Experience: I am deeply committed to advancing collaborative water science and strengthening the institutions that make this work possible. As Chair of CUAHSI's Education & Outreach Committee (now restructured as the Education & Outreach Advisory Committee), I have gained practical experience in governance, strategic planning, and resource allocation, particularly through close collaboration with CUAHSI staff. I have led multi-institutional, federally funded projects that built new research infrastructure, developed open data platforms, and created training programs — all of which required careful financial stewardship and long-term vision. My work often brings together scientists, educators, community partners, and agencies to co-develop solutions, a

perspective I would bring to the Board. If elected, I will approach decisions with curiosity, transparency, and a focus on sustainability, helping CUAHSI continue to grow as a catalyst for innovation and an inclusive home for the water science community.

How would you contribute to our goals in our 2023–2028 Strategic Plan? I envision CUAHSI as a central hub where data, technology, and people across the water community come together to tackle pressing challenges. I will work to grow and strengthen this community by building bridges across disciplines, sectors, and career stages, and by engaging PUIs, MSIs, and historically underserved groups. My research and leadership experience in open data and workforce development will help advance the tools and resources needed to support end-to-end water science. Above all, I hope to help shape a future in which CUAHSI meets both today's needs and tomorrow's — sustaining a vibrant, connected, and impactful water community.

J.P. Gannon

Affiliation and Role: Collegiate Associate Professor, Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech



Brief Description of Affiliation/Experience: I have three years of experience on the CUAHSI board. In those three years I have learned a lot about the organization and how to be an effective board member. I feel specifically well suited to help provide strategic direction and oversight and to keep us focused on the strategic plan, as I was a part of the development of the 2023-2029 strategic plan early on in my board tenure.

How would you contribute to our goals in our 2023–2028 Strategic Plan? I look forward to contributing however I can to the strategic plan. I think I am most well suited to contribute to the goals related to open, living educational content. I have been making open teaching resources (apps, videos, text) for over 6 years, and teaching for over 11. From that experience, I think I have begun to develop an idea of what is needed and what is helpful for professionals, instructors, and students. I look forward to continuing to use this experience to help provide feedback and direction to the development of CUAHSI's educational resources.

Hoori Ajami

Affiliation and Role: Professor of Groundwater Hydrology, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of California, Riverside



Brief Description of Affiliation/Experience: I have served on the CUAHSI Board of Directors since January 2023, a period that coincided with the development of CUAHSI's 2023–2028 Strategic Plan. During this process, I actively engaged with board members and CUAHSI staff to help define the organization's strategic priorities and long-term vision. As a board member, I have served as the liaison to the Education and Outreach Committee, contributing to discussions on CUAHSI's award programs and participating in the review of graduate student applications. I have also served on the Executive Committee, providing strategic oversight of CUAHSI's activities and initiatives, and advancing governance and community engagement.

How would you contribute to our goals in our 2023–2028 Strategic Plan? If re-elected, I look forward to continuing to strengthen CUAHSI’s strategic planning, broaden community participation, and help secure the resources and partnerships needed to advance CUAHSI’s mission in serving the water science community and ensuring long-term sustainability of the organization. I am very enthusiastic about this opportunity and looking forward to serve CUAHSI and the Water Science community if selected.

Andrew Guswa

Affiliation and Role: L. Clark Seelye Professor of Engineering, Smith College



Brief Description of Affiliation/Experience: It has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for CUAHSI for the past three years. In addition to collaborating with my fellow Board members on strategic thinking and direction, I have served as the chair of our audit and finance subcommittee. That committee has worked closely with our Executive Director (Jordan Read) to address overdue audits, communicate their findings, and make recommendations to ensure that CUAHSI has effective and sustainable finance and governance processes. My administrative experience beyond CUAHSI includes serving as the director of Smith College’s Picker Engineering Program from 2016-2024 and as the founding director of Smith’s Center for the Environment, Ecological Design, and Sustainability from 2010-2015. My responsibilities included development and oversight of curriculum and co-curricular programming, mentoring of faculty and staff, management of our financial resources, and communication of our goals and strengths to students, alumni, employers, and potential donors.

How would you contribute to our goals in our 2023–2028 Strategic Plan? I helped to develop the current strategic plan in my first year as a Board member, and I look forward to continuing to advance those goals during a second term. In particular, I would bring the knowledge and skills that I developed on our audit and finance subcommittee to further “Refine our governance and business model for sustainability.” Additionally, I will bring my perspective as a faculty member from a Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI) to help CUAHSI “Grow our Water Community” and, specifically, to design new approaches to engaging with PUIs.