Board Nominees

Amy Burgin



Affiliation and Position: Iowa State University, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology; Professor and Department Chair

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors? (200 word limit)
I am excited to run for a second term on the CUAHSI Board of Directors because I remain strongly aligned with CUAHSI's mission to empower the water community and advance science through collaboration, infrastructure, and education. When I first ran in 2023, I was relatively new to the CUAHSI community, and the 2023 Biennial convinced me to get more involved. My first term has deepened that commitment. Serving on the Board has shown me how much our community relies on CUAHSI's data platforms and programs, and how much careful stewardship it takes to sustain them.

My research is rooted in aquatic ecosystem ecology and biogeochemistry, and I have a long history of collaborating with hydrologists, ecologists, microbiologists, and fellow biogeochemists. Those partnerships have taught me that our most pressing water questions require interdisciplinary teams, and that those teams depend on the kind of shared infrastructure and community that CUAHSI provides. As CUAHSI marks its 25th anniversary, the Board's work to strengthen governance and long-term sustainability is underway, and I would like to help see it through.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
My leadership experience spans CUAHSI governance, academic administration, team science, and nonprofit service. During my first term on the CUAHSI Board, I have served on the Executive Committee and the Community Engagement working group, which has given me a working knowledge of CUAHSI's finances and strategic priorities.

Since January 2025, I have been Professor and Chair of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology at Iowa State University, a department co-administered by two colleges. As chair, I oversee budgets, personnel, faculty hiring, and strategic planning. This work closely parallels the Board's responsibility to meet community needs while keeping the organization on sound financial footing.

I continue to lead and coordinate research on the Aquatic Intermittency effects on Microbiomes in Streams (AIMS) project, an interdisciplinary collaboration across eight institutions. AIMS has taught

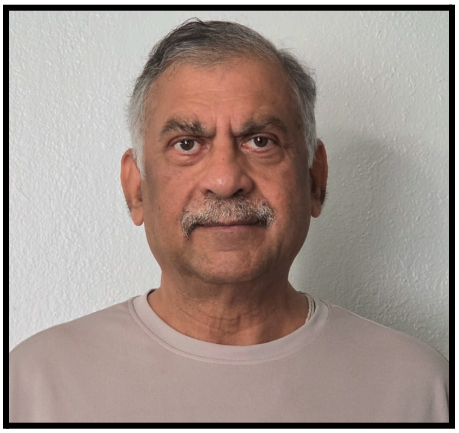
me the value of active listening and trust in team development, along with practical skills in personnel management and policy creation. Earlier in my career, I sat on the Society for Freshwater Science Board of Directors and Finance Committee, chaired its Publications Committee, and was President of the Board of Directors for Friends of the Kaw, a watershed nonprofit. These roles gave me direct experience with nonprofit financial management and board oversight.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
Much of my Board service has centered on Goal 1, growing our water community. I helped generate the proposal for CUAHSI's 25th anniversary Town Hall at AGU 2026. I am active in the Society for Freshwater Science and would keep building connections between CUAHSI and other water societies, with particular attention to researchers at primarily undergraduate, minority-serving, and other under-resourced institutions, where shared infrastructure can widen access to research.

For Goals 2 and 3, my experience building standardized protocols, data management systems, and training modules for AIMS, which archives its data in HydroShare, can inform how CUAHSI improves its resources and expands their adoption.

For Goal 4, refining our governance and business model, I would bring a department chair's perspective on balancing competing priorities with limited resources. Early in my term, I suggested using a logic model to connect CUAHSI's resources and activities to measurable outcomes. I would keep pushing for tools like this that help the Board make transparent decisions about funding and staffing.

Debasmita Misra



Affiliation and Position: Professor, Department of Civil, Geological and Environmental Engineering, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
My background and expertise is around Soil and Water Engineering (Environmental Geohydrology). Although majority of my Postdoctoral career has been devoted to academia, I have spent a few years in the industry acquiring knowledge and understanding in water contamination issues due to hydrocarbons or nuclear spent fuels. In my last 25 years in Alaska, I have focused on cold regions hydrology and frost-soil-water-plant or frost-soil-water-infrastructure problems. I have conducted field scale studies for climate change assessment, modeled soil-water-ice-contaminant dynamics using both physical and machine learning, conducted laboratory scale studies on contaminant remediation, and studied

improvement of plant health and water quality in cold regions. I have served on the Scientific Advisory Committee of a Regional Citizens Advisory Council of Alaska that strives to keep the marine body free of hydrocarbon spills and pollution. CUAHSI is community that promotes hydrologic science in an interdisciplinary way to advance awareness and knowledge about water. As an elected member of the CUAHSI Board I am interested in leading and contributing in areas that I have built my expertise in to support the education, research and outreach activities and advance science of water in a collaborative manner.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?

As an educationist, I have ample experience in sharing my knowledge and to lead research projects in watershed scales to study effect of temperature on soil and water processes, erosion and degradation of soil due to frost and water dynamics, nutrient and gas dynamics in cold regions, and contaminant transport and remediation in water bodies. I have focused on frost induced issues such as thermokarsts, water tracks, and soil piping that impacts infrastructure and erosion. I have collaborated with DEC of Alaska to develop the first TMDL for Alaskan streams due to impact of mining on water turbidity that affected fish breeding. I have collaborated with DOT of Alaska to study the impact of Aufeis that erodes road embankments and creates traffic hazards. I have created and led international teams to collaborate in studying effect of climate change in managed and unmanaged wetlands for example and other cold regions water resource issues. I have engaged with the Alaska Rural Water Association and various other community-based organizations in providing outreach on common contaminants such as Arsenic and PFAS and their health impacts. I look forward to this leadership role on the Board to broaden the scope of CUAHSI within its mission.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?

I believe in leading by example. This approach has served me immensely in creating an interdisciplinary team of researchers, indigenous inhabitants, educationists, policy makers, social scientists, economists, educationists and early career professionals from seven circumpolar countries to collaborate on pan Arctic water resources issues due to climate variability. I have collaborated with many researchers across all continents to understand the differences and commonalities in water science issues. My approach to outreach has been to listen and learn local or cultural perspectives to improve our understanding of hydrology. I believe that my approach aligns well with the mission and vision of CUAHSI. As a Board member, I will strive to grow the community and expand it to the circumpolar Arctic communities. I will make significant effort to bring communities to collaborate openly in a team approach to form a common platform for advancement of water science. I understand that charity begins at home. Hence, using a community-based approach to raise awareness and utilize CUAHSI resources effectively will be a major goal in my leadership. My considerable experience in governance leadership role will help me in enhancing the sustainability of the organization working with and learning from my colleagues of CUAHSI.

Emilio Grande



Affiliation and Position: California State University East Bay, Assistant Professor

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I am interested in serving on the CUAHSI Board because I want to contribute to the hydrologic community as a researcher and educator. CUAHSI's cyberseminars, workshops, data resources, and educational programs create connections that universities cannot create on their own. As a student and instructor I have used CUAHSI cyberseminars and HydroLearn, and I appreciate the work required to maintain useful programs for students, instructors, and researchers across institutions.
I would like to help CUAHSI continue that work. I am particularly interested in making CUAHSI resources easier for students and faculty at public universities to find and use, and in strengthening connections with institutions and communities that may not have the same access to national networks or research infrastructure. I would also be glad to help with events and educational activities and, based on my experience developing proposals and securing external support, contribute to conversations about partnerships and sustainable funding.

My path through higher education was not entirely traditional, and I value organizations that make the water sciences more open and connected. Serving on the Board would be an opportunity to give back, listen to the community, and help CUAHSI remain useful to the next generation of water scientists.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
Since joining CSUEB in 2022, I have built a research program focused on how surface water and groundwater interact and moves through different landscapes, and how those processes affect water quality and ecosystems. I use environmental and isotope tracers, high-frequency sensors, quantitative analysis, and modeling. This work has resulted in several peer-reviewed publications and external funding from state, regional, and federal agencies, including a 2026 NSF award. I have collaborated with universities, national laboratories, the USGS, and international partners.

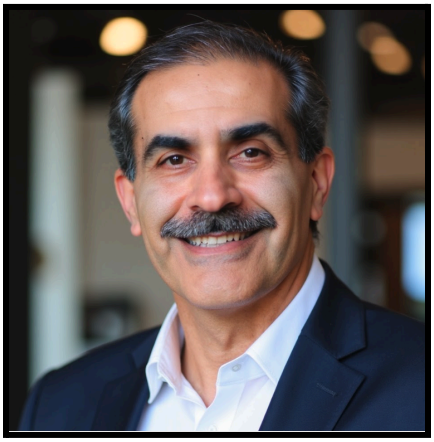
I have made student training central to my work. I developed CSUEB's hydrology courses, mentor undergraduate and graduate researchers, and involve students in field work, data analysis, conference presentations, and scientific writing. My first graduate student recently published as first author in the Journal of Hydrology.
My service includes reviewing manuscripts and federal proposals, helping organize an international conference on intermittency in headwater streams at the University of Bonn, and serving as a U.S. expert for the IAEA. I later participated in an IAEA mission in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. At

CSUEB, I have served as Graduate Coordinator, developed a FAST (4+1) pathway, and served as Summer Department Chair. These experiences prepare me to contribute to the scientific and organizational work of a national hydrology consortium.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
I would focus on two parts of CUAHSI's strategic plan: growing and diversifying the water community and creating infrastructure and resources that advance water science. As a Latinx CSUEB alumnus and faculty member, I have experienced the institution both as a student and as a place where students arrive with different academic preparation. My work with the GANAS program, mentoring students from historically underrepresented groups in STEM, graduate program leadership, and development of FAST pathways has reinforced my interest in creating clearer routes into hydrology and graduate education. On the Board, I would bring that perspective to efforts to connect CUAHSI with public universities and minority-serving institutions.

I would also support resources that make it easier for instructors, students, and researchers to learn from and contribute to shared water-science infrastructure. My water resources teaching and use of CUAHSI cyberseminars and HydroLearn have shown me the value of open, adaptable educational materials and accessible data-driven learning. I would be interested in helping CUAHSI identify how these resources could be made more visible and useful across institutions and career stages. More broadly, I would support inclusive interdisciplinary collaboration and help connect CUAHSI's research, education, and outreach activities.

Hamid Moradkhani



Affiliation and Position: Alton N. Scott Chair of Engineering, University of Alabama; Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Alabama

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I have been engaged with CUAHSI for nearly two decades, serving as Faculty Representative at Portland State University and currently the University of Alabama along with two other colleagues. As director of a multidisciplinary research center and engagement with federal partners and stakeholders, I have seen firsthand how community-driven infrastructure accelerates discovery and operational impacts of research.

CUAHSI is entering a pivotal era. The convergence of AI, high-performance computing, and unprecedented observational capacity — from current to next-generation sensor networks — is reshaping how we study and predict the water cycle. At the same time, the growing severity of

compound floods, persistent droughts, and cascading climate hazards demands that our community speak with a unified and compelling voice to funding agencies and decision-makers. I believe CUAHSI is uniquely positioned to lead this effort. If elected, I would work to deepen CUAHSI's partnerships with operational agencies, strengthen pathways for early-career scientists to engage with community resources, and help ensure that advances in data science and computational hydrology are accessible across the full breadth of our diverse community of hydrologic scientists and engineers.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
I am a Professor of Hydrology at the University of Alabama, holding appointments in departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Computer Science and have directed a research Center for over eight years. I received my Ph.D. in Hydrology and Water Resources from the University of California, Irvine, and have built a career centered on advancing hydrologic prediction through data assimilation, remote sensing, artificial intelligence and vulnerability and risk assessment accounting for uncertainties. My research spans from methodological innovation to societal impact, including food-energy-water nexus and linking hydroclimate extremes with infrastructure vulnerability and socio-economic risk to deliver science that informs resilient communities and water resources policy in a changing climate. My research has been supported through NSF, NOAA, DOE, NASA, DOD, and USDA among others and have resulted in 230+ peer-reviewed publications. Some of my services include serving variety of national and international panels, chairing the AGU Fall Meeting Program Committee, the AGU Hydrology Section Fellows Committee, chairing the Uncertainty Technical Committee, and serving as an editor for Water Resources Research, among others. I have also served on several international advisory boards such as Canada FloodNet and the GEWEX Global Flood Steering Committee and NOAA drought task force.

I have mentored 35 Ph.D. students, and 25 postdocs / research scientists — many of whom now hold tenure-track faculty positions, while others have gone on to careers in the technology sector, government agencies, and NGOs.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
CUAHSI's mission to empower the water community and advance science through collaboration, infrastructure, and education, and its vision of a thriving, integrated water community, align closely with my research, leadership, and service record. I am passionate about CUAHSI and its role in supporting the water science communities. I am very supportive of the DEI plan created at CUAHSI, and I would advance it by mentoring and recruiting early-career and underrepresented scientists into CUAHSI programs and championing equitable access to its community cyberinfrastructure and training resources. Drawing on my experience directing a multidisciplinary research center, and synergistic activities at national and international levels, I would advance CUAHSI's strategic goals in four ways: (1) strengthening cyberinfrastructure and data-science capacity by championing data science and physically-informed AI tools for hydrologic prediction and decision support; (2) deepening partnerships with operational agencies, building on my institution's co-location and relationship with the NOAA National Water Center and USGS Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility; (3) expanding education and workforce development, leveraging my record of mentoring large

number of students and scientists and international collaborations to grow pipelines for early-career and underrepresented scientists; and (4) fostering inclusive, collaborative science that advances an integrated understanding of water, earth, ecosystems, and society. Collectively, these contributions would help translate CUAHSI's strategic vision into tangible community impact and sustain its role as a unifying voice for the hydrologic sciences.

Jeremy Giovando



Affiliation and Position: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Senior scientist and team lead

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I'd like to offer my service to the CUAHSI Board and bring a practitioner's perspective to its work. At this point in my career, training the next generation of water resources engineers and scientists is a top priority. I've mentored undergraduate and graduate students and supervised postdoctoral researchers. It's been rewarding, and I now see it as the most important yet often under-emphasized part of the job for anyone working outside academia. As a Board member, I would help keep training new scientists and engineers a central focus for CUAHSI. I would also bring a unique perspective through my experience at federal laboratories. My goal is to promote continued effort to bridge research to operations activities.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
Technical Experience: During my career I've had the opportunity to study a variety of topic areas in water sciences ranging from water supply analysis to post-wildfire flood risk. I am very accustomed to operating in a multi-disciplinary team of hydrologists, engineers, earth scientists, and ecologists.

Research-to-practice translation: My civil engineering background has provided me with an excellent perspective on how research and operational needs of practitioners should be a continual feedback loop. I can help CUAHSI identify gaps and strengthen processes related to ensuring that tools and information are translated for practical use. I've often used HydroShare for storing project data and I think this is an excellent example of how CUAHSI can impact the pipeline of research-to-practice.

Grant and funding literacy: I have served on several grant funding review panels while working for federal laboratories. I've also written several proposals while at PNNL which gives me the unique perspective of how both sides of the funding equation. This perspective along with my career experience, allows me to provide constructive feedback for future CUAHSI grant proposals.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
My focus on the Board will be collaborative water science that is centered on promoting an inclusive community of water professionals, students, and academics. I will contribute directly to each of the four goals listed in the CUAHSI strategic plan. My experience will allow me to support targeted engagement with important societies and agencies (Goal 1 - Initiative 1). In addition, I've spent years creating collaborations on multidisciplinary teams of hydrologists, engineers, scientists, and ecologists to solve large, complex water issues (Goal 1 - Initiative 2). This knowledge and experience can be used as a Board member to further CUAHSI's vision of impactful collaborative water science. In addition, my experience on large infrastructure projects provides me with direct experience engaging key stakeholders to ensure outcomes meet their needs (Goal 2 - Initiative 3). I've used HydroShare for project data, and my practitioner view can help CUAHSI find gaps in its existing tools (Goal 3 - Initiative 4). Finally, I've served on grant review panels and written proposals during my career, which supports the plan's push for a sustainable funding model and responsive governance (Goal 4 - Initiative 5).

Noel Aloysius



Affiliation and Position: University of Missouri, Associate Professor

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I am interested in serving on the CUAHSI Board because I believe deeply in its mission to empower the water community and advance science through collaboration, infrastructure, and education. Throughout my career, I have seen that the most significant advances in water science occur when we connect people, disciplines, institutions, and ideas around shared challenges. CUAHSI is uniquely positioned to facilitate those connections and foster a thriving water community.

My career has spanned international collaboration, hydrologic research, environmental informatics, and engineering practice, giving me a broad perspective on both scientific and societal water challenges. Through research, teaching, mentoring, and professional service, I have sought to create opportunities for collaboration and workforce development that strengthen the water community.

Most recently, I partnered with CUAHSI to host the inaugural Water Science Exchange, bringing together researchers, students and practitioners to exchange ideas, build skills, and develop new collaborations.

Serving on the Board would provide an opportunity to contribute at a broader level by helping grow and diversify the water community, expand access to shared resources and educational opportunities, and advance innovative science that addresses society's most pressing water challenges.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
My qualifications combine research leadership, community building, teaching, mentorship, and professional service across academia, government, and international organizations.

I have more than two decades of experience in water resources science and management, beginning as a water resources engineer at the International Water Management Institute and continuing through research and academic appointments at Yale University, Princeton University, Ohio State University, and the University of Missouri. My work spans watershed hydrology, hydroinformatics, climate impacts, environmental monitoring, agricultural water management, and decision-support systems.

As a faculty member at the University of Missouri, I have developed and taught courses in hydrology, hydroinformatics, remote sensing and watershed modeling while mentoring a diverse group of students and scholars, including Fulbright Scholars, Borlaug Fellows, postdoctoral scholars, visiting researchers, and numerous undergraduate students.

I have led and contributed to multidisciplinary research programs supported by federal and state agencies and currently serve as the University's CUAHSI Institutional Representative. My professional service includes organizing AGU scientific sessions, participating on committees, reviewing proposals for NSF, NASA, and other agencies, and fostering collaborations across institutions and disciplines.

Together, these experiences have prepared me to contribute effectively to the strategic leadership and governance of CUAHSI.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
CUAHSI's strategic plan emphasizes growing the water community, advancing shared infrastructure and resources, expanding reach, and strengthening organizational sustainability. These priorities align closely with my professional experience and vision for the water sciences

First, I would contribute to efforts that strengthen connections among researchers, students, practitioners, agencies, and institutions. Through activities such as the inaugural CUAHSI Water Science Exchange and my experience convening scientific communities, I have seen the value of creating inclusive environments that foster collaboration and professional growth.

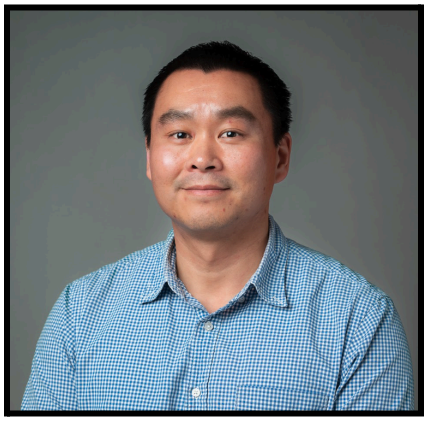
Second, I would advocate for innovative and accessible scientific infrastructure that enables end-to-end water research and education. My work in hydroinformatics, environmental monitoring, remote sensing, watershed modeling, and data-driven decision support has highlighted the importance

of integrating data, technology, and community needs to accelerate scientific discovery and practical applications.

Finally, I would help advance CUAHSI's vision of a thriving water community by expanding engagement opportunities for students and early-career scientists, strengthening partnerships across disciplines and sectors, and promoting the translation of scientific knowledge into solutions that benefit both society and the environment.

These responses read more like those of a prospective Board member and less like a faculty application, emphasizing leadership, service, community building, and strategic impact.

Dr. Reynold Chow



Affiliation and Position: Soil Physics and Land Management Group, Wageningen University – Assistant Professor

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I am interested in serving on the CUAHSI Board to help strengthen the international water science community and advance collaborative, interdisciplinary research. As a hydrogeologist at Wageningen University & Research, my work addresses groundwater sustainability, managed aquifer recharge, water quality, and climate resilience. These challenges require integration across disciplines, institutions, and geographic scales, supported by accessible data, shared tools, and strong research networks.

Having worked in Canada, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, and the Netherlands, I have experienced different research environments and the value of connecting communities across institutional and national boundaries. I would bring an international perspective and help broaden engagement, strengthen research networks, and ensure CUAHSI's resources remain responsive to researchers' and educators' evolving needs, including those of early-career scientists.

I am also keen to learn how community engagement, fairness, and inclusivity can be strengthened in practice. Discussions with community members and fellow Board members offer valuable opportunities to understand the current challenges facing our discipline, learn from different perspectives, and contribute to decisions that shape the wider water science community. I see Board service as both an opportunity to contribute and a chance to learn from others.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?

I am an Assistant Professor at Wageningen University & Research with over 18 years of experience in hydrogeological science, field investigations, and numerical modelling across academia and industry. My peer-reviewed publications include work in Water Resources Research, Water Research, Science of the Total Environment, Environmental Pollution, and Hydrogeology Journal, spanning groundwater–surface water interactions, contaminant transport, and water quality.

My service roles include Executive Board member of the Boussinesq Center for Hydrology, Vice-Chair of the Dutch Research Council's Earth and Environmental Sciences Research Community Committee, and Associate Editor of the Journal of Hydrology. I review manuscripts for journals including Water Resources Research, Hydrogeology Journal, Water Research, and Hydrology and Earth System Sciences.

I teach undergraduate and postgraduate courses in contaminant hydrogeology, groundwater modelling, hydrological systems analysis, and environmental soil hydrology, and supervise MSc and PhD research. I am also leading and coordinating the AquiCirc consortium proposal, awarded funding under the 2024 Water4All Joint Transnational Call. These experiences have developed my skills in scientific leadership, community building, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research coordination.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
I would contribute to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan by drawing on my experience in international research collaboration, education, and scientific leadership.

To help grow the hydro(geo)logical community and expand CUAHSI's reach, I would encourage stronger connections between North American and international research networks, including European and African hydrology communities. Such engagement could create new opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and broader participation.

To advance water science infrastructure, I would advocate for accessible, interoperable data resources, modelling tools, and training that support reproducible research and interdisciplinary integration of groundwater, surface water, ecosystems, and human activities. My experience with numerical groundwater modelling and international research consortia would help identify researchers' practical needs and opportunities for shared resources.

I would also support educational initiatives that equip students and early-career researchers with technical skills and collaborative experience. Finally, through my governance experience at the Boussinesq Center and the Dutch Research Council's Earth and Environmental Sciences Research Community Committee, I would contribute to strategic decision-making, stakeholder engagement, and organizational sustainability.
My overall aim would be to help CUAHSI remain an inclusive, innovative, and impactful organization that empowers the hydro(geo)logical community through collaboration, infrastructure, and education.

Sam Zipper



Affiliation and Position: Associate Scientist, Kansas Geological Survey + Associate Professor, Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment, University of Kansas

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
First, CUAHSI is an invaluable resource to the hydrology community and needs to exist for the long haul. The only way that happens is by creating an organization that is so thoroughly integrated into how we do hydrologic science that we collectively agree we can't imagine doing science without it. As described below, I've interacted with CUAHSI through enough different channels in my own work that I don't want to research or teach hydrologic science without it. I'm interested in serving on the board to help make that mindset more widespread.

Second, every year when I see the list of CUAHSI Board Members I'm amazed at all the renowned scientists volunteering their time to help lead the organization. I'm interested in joining the CUAHSI Board to learn more about scientific leadership and governance from this group of colleagues. I am sure that the experience of being a board member will provide valuable lessons I can use to be a better scientist and leader, both during and beyond my time on the CUAHSI board.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
I've been a long-time user of CUAHSI services. I've taught a CUAHSI Virtual University module three times, posted a bunch of resources to HydroShare, received a Hydroinformatics Innovation Fellowship, attended CUAHSI-organized conferences, and currently serve as a CUAHSI campus representative at the University of Kansas. From this variety of interactions, I have a good sense for what CUAHSI does (though I'm sure there is much more I have much to learn!), where it provides value to the research community, and ideas I can bring to the table for where it might be able to do better.

I also bring relevant leadership experience. I'm comfortable with collaborative, science-oriented groups as a long-time member and current chair of the AGU Ecohydrology Technical Committee. I also have relevant nonprofit board experience in non-academic contexts, including three years as the board secretary for a cooperative preschool and currently serving on the board for a local art-on-wheels parade. These roles have given me experience in the nuts and bolts of nonprofit management including fundraising, engaging with local communities, and bringing people together to form a collective vision and shared set of goals.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
While CUAHSI is defined as a "Consortium of Universities", the water community that it serves extends beyond the university environment. As a scientist at a state geological survey (75% of my job, along with 25% as a professor), I work frequently with the non-academic water community including state and federal agencies, NGOs, water managers, consultants, and farmers, to name a few. These collaborations give me the experience necessary to help meet existing 2023-2028 goals, including growing the water community, creating resources that advance both water research and applications, and expanding CUAHSI's prominence. Better serving these groups through tools and education will help CUAHSI expand its reach and value in the hydrology community.

Given the three-year term beginning in 2027, I also assume that incoming board members will help develop CUAHSI's next strategic plan. Making multi-year plans and figuring out how to achieve them is something I am oddly enthusiastic about, so I'd be excited to help with the 2029-2033 planning effort.

Dr. Steven T. Brantley



Affiliation and Position: The Jones Center at Ichauway, Associate Scientist, Ecohydrology

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I first became aware of CUAHSI in 2020 through a mentor who invited me to give a webinar hosted by the organization. I have followed the group since then and been impressed by CUAHSI's role in connecting researchers and practitioners across the hydrologic community. I am particularly interested in serving CUAHSI because it has a broad reach while maintaining a focus on water, a resource that affects every person on the planet. I am interested in serving on the CUAHSI Board of Directors because I value CUAHSI's mission and our community is at a crossroads. Major sectors of our community, especially government and research universities, are facing unprecedented challenges for support. I think CUAHSI sits in a unique place to help these sectors navigate these times and emerge leaner and more impactful. I see this as an important opportunity to increase the impact of the organization and provide support across sectors in these unprecedented times. With my interdisciplinary background and my experience working in the university, government, and non-profit sectors, I think that my skills could be applied to help the organization grow and fill the widening gaps between science, management, and policy.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?

My research career spans ~23 years and has included work at a major research university, the US Forest Service, and a private non-profit research and education center. For the past 12 years, I have served as the ecohydrologist at The Jones Center at Ichauway. My research and education program lies at the intersection of hydrology, ecology, forest management, and watershed management. I have worked extensively with university partners, graduate and undergraduate students, natural-resource professionals, private landowners, mission-driven agencies, and other stakeholders to inform management decisions with the latest advancements in hydrologic research. My experience at a mission-driven nonprofit has also provided me valuable insight into sustaining scientific organizations through external funding and collaborative partnerships. Since 2014, I have managed ~$1.2 million in internal funds and served as PI or co-PI on approximately $4.2 million in externally funded research. These experiences have strengthened my ability to align scientific priorities with funding opportunities and broader societal needs, and these experiences align well with the Board of Director's purpose. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute these experiences to CUAHSI's leadership and help advance CUAHSI's critical mission of advancing hydrologic science.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
If selected for a Board of Directors position, I would bring my experience in research, education, and strategic leadership to help CUAHSI meet its current strategic goals and grow into an even more impactful organization. I have addressed my experience with collaboration and education in the previous sections, but I am particularly interested in CUAHSI's strategic focus on infrastructure. I have been fortunate in my career to work with long-term data from the Coweeta Hydrologic Lab and in my current position at the Jones Center. I would not be where I am today without the foresight of the researchers who came before me and invested time and money in projects that would outlive them. Maintaining and expanding water monitoring infrastructure is even more important today as human populations grow and increasing living standards around the world put even more strain on our finite water resources. Even with the current challenges we face in supporting infrastructure, I see many opportunities to leverage emerging technologies in sensors and artificial intelligence to optimize our water monitoring efforts. We need a giant leap forward and I believe CUAHSI is the right position and has the right focus to be the leader in these efforts.

Sushant Mehan, Ph.D.



Affiliation and Position: South Dakota State University — Assistant Professor and SDSU Extension Water Resource Engineer Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

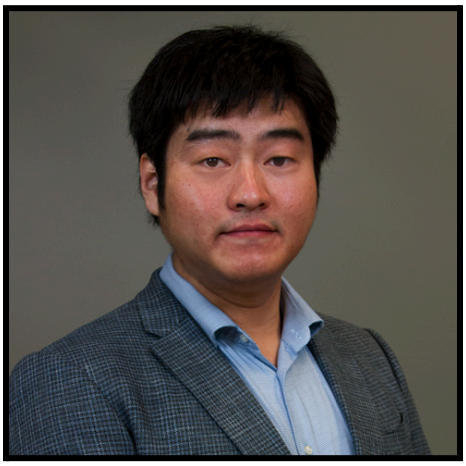
Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I want to serve because CUAHSI is one of the few organizations where water science, shared infrastructure, education, and community building are treated as parts of the same mission. My

work at South Dakota State University sits at this intersection: I develop hydrologic and AI-enabled tools, conduct field research with producers and agencies, mentor students, and translate science through Extension. As an early-career faculty member at a land-grant university in the Northern Great Plains, I also see how much value CUAHSI can create for researchers and institutions that may not always be centered in national conversations. I would bring a user- and community-focused perspective to the Board, asking not only whether a resource is scientifically strong, but whether students, faculty, practitioners, and partners can discover it, use it, trust it, and sustain it. I am especially interested in strengthening pathways from data and infrastructure to learning, collaboration, and real-world water decisions.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
My preparation combines research, Extension, teaching, and volunteer leadership. I am an Assistant Professor and SDSU Extension Water Resource Engineer Specialist, working in watershed hydrology, agricultural water management, water quality, remote sensing, hydroinformatics, and AI/ML. I lead and collaborate on field-to-watershed projects, mentor graduate and undergraduate researchers, and organize programs that connect scientists with producers, agencies, students, and practitioners. My direct CUAHSI engagement includes serving as a Theme Lead for the 2026 Summer Institute and discussing broader national service opportunities with CUAHSI. Beyond CUAHSI, I serve in leadership roles including Chair of the AGU Water Quality Technical Committee, Chair of ASABE NRES-21 Hydrology, elected member of the AMS Committee on Hydrology, Chair of NCERA-217, and incoming Chair of the S1089 multistate project. Organizing regional water conferences and facilitating national workshops has taught me to listen across disciplines, build partnerships, translate technical ideas, and turn collaborative plans into programs.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
CUAHSI's mission to empower the water community and advance science through collaboration, infrastructure, and education, and its vision of a thriving water community enabled by shared resources closely match how I approach water-resources work. I would contribute to all four strategic goals. To grow the water community, I would help strengthen participation by early-career scientists, land-grant universities, Extension professionals, students, and practitioners. For infrastructure and resources, I would advocate for open, reproducible, interoperable tools and training that connect hydrologic data, models, remote sensing, and responsible AI while incorporating end-user feedback. To expand CUAHSI's reach, I would connect its programs more intentionally with agricultural-water, water-quality, conservation, and regional professional networks where CUAHSI resources can have broader impact. For governance and sustainability, I would bring experience from scientific societies, multistate projects, and university committees to support transparent decision-making, measurable member value, and durable partnerships. My goal is to help CUAHSI remain scientifically ambitious while making its resources increasingly accessible, useful, and connected to the communities making water decisions.

Tiantian Yang



Affiliation and Position: Associate Professor, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Why are you interested in serving as an elected member of the CUAHSI Board of Directors?
I am interested in serving on the CUAHSI Board to help our community shape how emerging technologies (such as AI and big data) could advance hydrologic science and applications. My distinctive research expertise combines artificial intelligence, physical hydrologic modeling, and operational water resources management. I see an opportunity for CUAHSI to further help researchers and students use AI responsively to improve hydrological scientific understanding, prediction, and water decision-making across the nation.

My work lies at the intersection of AI, climate forecasts, flood prediction, reservoir operations, and surface water management. This unique experience has reinforced my belief that useful advances require strong connections and the importance of observations, hydrologic processes, computational methods, and practitioner needs. CUAHSI is an ideal place to build these connections through shared infrastructure, data hubs, community capacities, collaborative research, and education.
As a prospective Board member, I would advocate for responsive AI development, which is grounded in physical hydrological understanding, transparent evaluation, and explicit treatment of uncertainty. I also want students and researchers at institutions with different resources to participate in meaningful collaborations on these topics. Building on my past service as a CUAHSI institutional representative,

I would further connect emerging technical capabilities with the broader community's priorities, supporting both fundamental discoveries and practical responses to floods, droughts, and changing water availability.

What experience (e.g., research, service, teaching, and leadership) qualifies you for this position?
I bring expertise at the intersection of AI, hydrologic science, and water resources engineering, together with experience in academic leadership and operational applications. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, previously a faculty member at the University of Oklahoma and a Senior Research Scientist at Deltares. My research combines machine learning, physical models, and subseasonal-to-seasonal forecasts to improve hydrologic prediction and reservoir decisions.

My expertise includes deep learning, hybrid physics–AI modeling, explainable AI, and simulation and optimization of managed water systems. This combination enables me to connect methodological advances with scientific questions and operational requirements. My applied experience includes the National Weather Service's Community Hydrologic Prediction System and the Bonneville Power Administration's reservoir and hydropower modeling tools.

I have served as a current CUAHSI institutional representative for Michigan since 2026, and a past CUAHSI representative for Univ of Oklahoma since 2019, and previously as Associate Director for Oklahoma's Hydrology and Water Security online education program. I teach AI/ML and water systems modeling, mentor students and postdoctoral researchers, and hold editorial roles in several hydrology and environmental modeling journals. My work has received an NSF CAREER Award and the AGU Hydrologic Sciences Early Career Award.

As one of the elected Board of Directors, how would you foresee contributing to CUAHSI's 2023–2028 strategic plan, including its mission and vision?
My vision is for CUAHSI to help the water community turn advances in AI into reliable and responsive scientific capabilities that improve understanding of water systems and meet human and environmental needs. I would pursue this vision through the plan's four goals.

1. Connect hydrologists, AI researchers, operational forecasters, and water managers through collaborative research and training, with accessible pathways for students, early-career scientists, and institutions with limited computational resources.
2. Support shared datasets, reproducible workflows, and community benchmarks that build on HydroShare and other CUAHSI resources. I would encourage evaluation of AI and hybrid models for physical consistency, uncertainty, and performance across basins, extreme events, and changing conditions.
3. Promote demonstrations that connect new methods with scientific discovery and decisions in flood forecasting, drought preparedness, and reservoir management in operational sectors. My academic and agency networks could help build these collaborations and broaden adoption.
4. Help prioritize investments based on scientific value, community demand, and ongoing computing, maintenance, and training costs.

Across these efforts, I would strongly advocate for education and outreach that integrates AI and data skills with hydrologic reasoning, enabling researchers to understand when emerging methods are useful, trustworthy, and transferable.