

## **Future Leader Handbook**

Future Leaders is a group within the ARMA community intended to provide an opportunity to young professionals in the Rock Mechanics community to practice leadership and get actively involved in ARMA's organization and leadership.

The Future Leader (FL) class includes approximately 30 members from all ARMA disciplines. The tenure of a FL is 3 years. Each year, a new class is selected by a committee of current FLs from a pool of nominated young professionals.

FLs meet during the FL luncheon at the annual ARMA symposium. The class is self-organized, and FLs are expected to reach out to each other and members of the ARMA Board, ARMA Fellows and ARMA Foundation with ideas for new initiatives or willingness to assist with ARMA operations.

The present handbook aims to summarize functions that are necessary for the continuation of the FL program (e.g., selection of the next class) as well as provide examples of activities that have been successful in the past.

## **A. Necessary activities/functions**

### **A1. Select the next class of Future Leaders (FL)**

*Volunteers:* One FL to lead the effort and 2-4 additional FLs to help with evaluation of applications.

*Guidelines:* Section C: for nominations.  
Section D: for the selection committee.

*Note:* Future Leaders can change these guidelines, but they have to get approval from the Board before applying any changes.

*Timeline:* The proposed class should be submitted to the Board before the 1<sup>st</sup> ARMA Board meeting of the year (usually, last week of January) for ratification by the Board. The deadline for application submission should be no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **A2. Select the Early Career keynote speaker for the Symposium**

*Volunteers:* One FL to lead the effort and 2-3 additional FLs to help with evaluation of applications.

*Guidelines:* Section E: for nominations  
Section F: for the selection committee

*Timeline:* Deadline for applications: December 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee should decide the speaker in early January and work with ARMA's Executive Director to invite the speaker to the Symposium.

## **B. Recommended activities/functions**

### **B1. Participate in ARMA Board meetings**

The Board requests a FL representative to participate in each Board meeting to maintain communication between the young members of ARMA and the Board.

### **B2. Activities during the Symposium**

Future Leaders are encouraged to organize activities during the Symposium. Over the years, great FL ideas have led to very successful events.

Below is a list of highly ranked Symposium activities:

- a) Student career reception and networking
- b) Workshop on giving effective presentations
- c) Workshop on technical writing
- d) No-judge Q&A about everything students would want to ask
- e) Student trivia / jeopardy

### **B3. Organize and monitor the online student forum**

A group of 2-3 volunteers is needed to monitor the online student forum.

### **B4. Future Leader profiles on ARMA website**

A volunteer is needed to work with ARMA's Executive Director to add photographs and profiles of new Future Leaders on the website and help maintain current FL profiles.

## C. Nomination Procedure for the ARMA Future Leaders

### **C1. Nomination**

- Any member of ARMA can nominate a candidate for Future Leader. Self-nominations are acceptable.
- The nomination package should include:
  - *from the candidate*:
    - a) a short curriculum vitae (up to two pages)
    - b) a personal statement (up to one page) describing:
      - 1) highlights of their technical achievements,
      - 2) past volunteering experiences including but not limited to involvement in ARMA as well as his/her motivation to become a Future Leader,
      - 3) the amount of time he/she is willing to commit to being a Future Leader of ARMA.
  - *from the nominator*: supporting statement on how the candidate can contribute to ARMA as a Future Leader.
- Winner of the Best Ph.D. Thesis Award (Cook Award) from the previous year and winners and runner-ups for the Rocha Medal, who are ARMA members or based in North America and are willing to join ARMA, are automatically invited to join the group of the Future Leaders.
- Nomination packages should be submitted by email to ARMA's Executive Director (Peter Smeallie; [peterhsmeallie@gmail.com](mailto:peterhsmeallie@gmail.com)).

### **C2. Eligibility**

The candidate is required to be an ARMA member regardless of country of origin.

### **C3. Deadline for applications: December 1**

### **C5. Final ratification**

- The slate of candidates will be ratified by the Board of ARMA.
- The candidates must attend the Future Leaders Luncheon at the ARMA Symposium that year.

#### D. Guidelines for the selection of the next FL class

1. A selection committee consisting of current Future Leaders will evaluate the packages from the candidates.
2. The selection committee selects about 7-8 candidates each year. The total number of active FLs should be 30-35.
3. Evaluation criteria:
  - a. Technical qualification
  - b. Past participation in ARMA symposia
  - c. Past volunteer activities for ARMA (session organizer; reviewer; student volunteer; help with ARMA workshops, booths, technical tours etc)
  - d. Leadership or participation in ARMA student chapters
  - e. Non-ARMA volunteering
  - f. Strength of nomination letter
  - g. Motivation to actively participate in ARMA activities as expressed in the personal statement.
4. The new (incoming) class should be balanced in representation from all ARMA disciplines including civil, mining, petroleum and interdisciplinary related fields. The selection committee should seek assistance from the Board if such balance is not achieved with the available nominations.
5. The new (incoming) class should be balanced in gender representation. The selection committee should seek assistance from the Board if such balance is not achieved with the available nominations.
6. Timeline:
  - a. Future Leaders should form the selection committee no later than October 1.
  - b. The head of the committee will work with the Executive Director to send out a call for nominations to the ARMA community before October 15.
  - c. The deadline for nominations is December 1.
  - d. The committee will evaluate the nominations during the month of December and reach out to the Board if they need assistance satisfying (4) and (5) above.
  - e. The committee will finalize their selection by January 10.
  - f. Then the head of the committee invites the entire group of Future Leaders to vote to either approve or disapprove the slate of candidates selected by the selection committee according to a majority rule. Vote deadline: January 20.
  - g. The head of the committee should then prepare a brief report for the Board, that includes:
    - i. List of all candidates, with affiliation, discipline, nominator, contact information
    - ii. List of selected new class of Future Leaders
    - iii. Committee members
    - iv. Any additional reviewers
    - v. Evaluation criteria
    - vi. Selection process
    - vii. Cut-off threshold
    - viii. Future Leader Body vote
  - h. The Board then reviews the selected class for ratification during the 1st Board meeting of the year (usually late January or early February).

## E. Nomination Procedure for the ARMA Early Career Keynote

1. Annual ARMA award to acknowledge excellence in the field of Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics for ARMA members in early stages of their career, who have demonstrated contributions in topics of importance to the state-of-practice or state-of-science.
2. Award consists of invitation to deliver the Early Career Keynote during the annual symposium and waiving of conference registration fees.
3. Nominees must be active ARMA members at the time of nomination.
4. Nomination Package should include:
  - Two nomination letters introducing the nominee and the nominee's main accomplishments. Self-nominations are not accepted.
  - A statement of contributions prepared by the nominee (maximum 1000 words), summarizing three contributions that the nominee has made to the field of rock mechanics /geomechanics.
  - An abstract for the proposed keynote presentation (maximum 500 words), including a statement of the importance of the topic to the rock mechanics/geomechanics community.
  - The nominee's cv/resume including practical industry experience and academic contributions relevant to the topic.
  - Publication record.
5. Nomination Packages are due December 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. Nomination packages should be submitted by email to ARMA's Executive Director (Peter Smeallie; [peterhsmeallie@gmail.com](mailto:peterhsmeallie@gmail.com)).

## F. Guidelines for the selection of the Early Career Keynote

1. A selection committee consisting of the current Future Leaders will evaluate the packages from the candidates.
2. Evaluation criteria:
  - a. Originality of the nominee's contribution in the proposed Keynote topic
  - b. Value of Keynote topic to the field of rock mechanics/geomechanics
  - c. Strength of nomination letters
  - d. Contributions of the nominee to the field of rock mechanics/geomechanics.
3. Timeline:
  - a. Future Leaders should form the selection committee no later than October 1.
  - b. The head of the committee can work with the Executive Director to send out a call for nominations to the ARMA community before October 15.
  - c. The deadline for nominations is December 1.
  - d. The committee should evaluate the nominations during the month of December
  - e. The committee should finalize their selection by January 10.
  - f. The head of the committee should then work with the Executive Director to invite the selected candidate and ensure he/she is able to attend and deliver the keynote.
  - g. It is encouraged that the committee keeps the Symposium Chairs informed of the selection progress.